

Poverty is everyone's concern

Poverty is pervasive in the world, the United States, and Yavapai County. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the nation's official poverty rate continues to rise, while real median household income remains unchanged. Nationwide about 35.9 million people, including almost 13 million children, live in poverty.

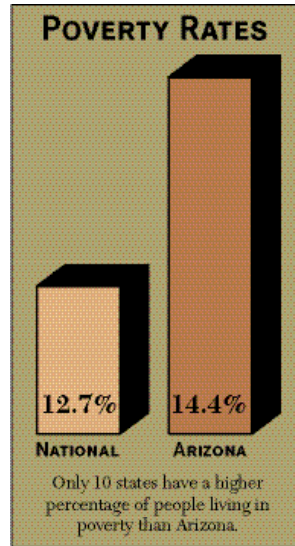
In Yavapai County, one in eight households is below the poverty level. The *Economic and Community Development*

Report Summary reports that 54.3 percent of the jobs in Yavapai County are low-paying sector employment. Child care costs account for 45 percent of a family's earnings at the poverty level.

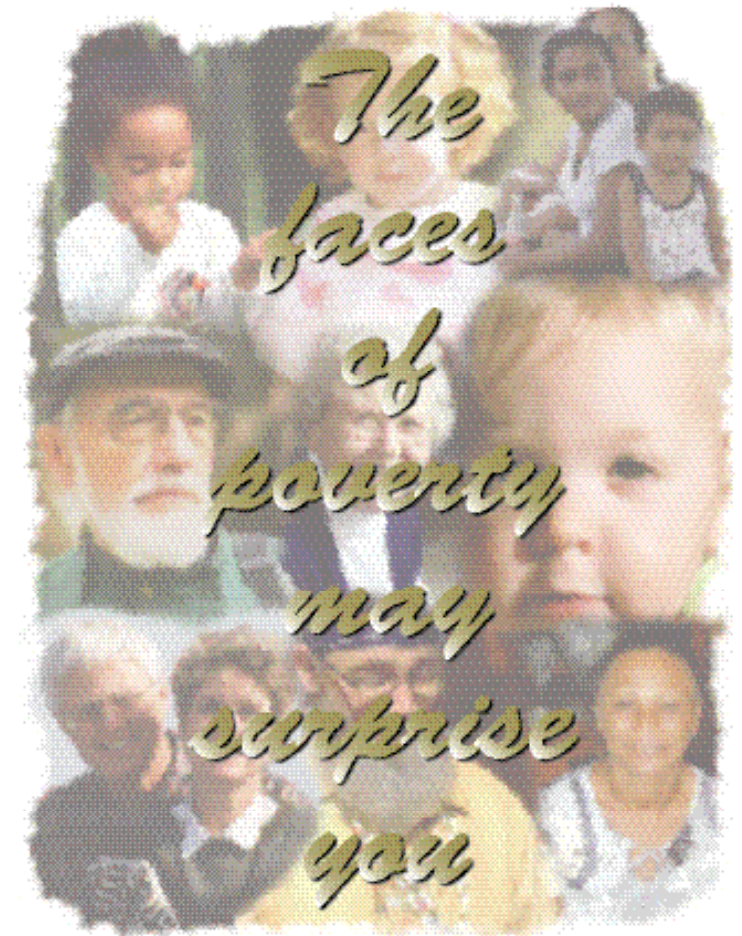
These statistics have human faces—and they illustrate that many people in Yavapai County live on the edge of economic stability. A family with two working parents can quickly find themselves needing assistance if one parent is sick and out of work for any length of time.

The Coalition for Compassion and Justice—a coalition of civic organizations, nonprofit social service agencies, congregations, and individuals—seeks to bring an end to poverty in Yavapai County. Goals include:

- Educating the community in areas of compassion and justice and gaining their involvement;
- Advocating for change;
- Building relationships with businesses and civic groups;
- Providing emergency services; and
- Optimizing resources toward alleviating poverty and homelessness.

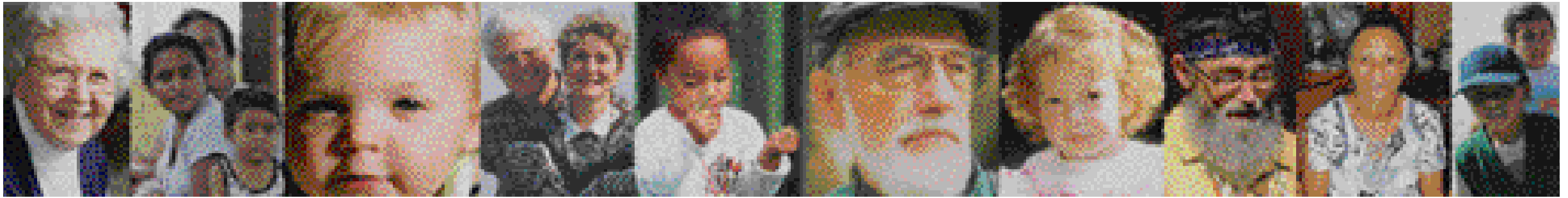


COALITION FOR COMPASSION AND JUSTICE



COALITION FOR COMPASSION AND JUSTICE

CCJ is a community organization committed to meeting immediate needs, empowering people toward self-sufficiency, and advocating for systemic change impacting the health and well-being of people in Yavapai County.



CCJ's Guiding Principles

- Serve with compassion and seek justice.
- Exhibit honesty and integrity in all that we do.
- Affirm the uniqueness, worth, and dignity of each person regardless of present circumstances.
- Use the gifts and assets of all.
- Accomplish our mission through collaborative community efforts.

CCJ recognizes that basic needs of each individual must be met. We advocate for systemic change of the conditions that lead to poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

CCJ envisions a compassionate and just community that meets the health and well-being needs among people of Yavapai County and believes that everyone has a right to a decent standard of living, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care. These needs are addressed through three outreach programs: Open Door, Home Repair, and Circles of Support.

Open Door

Open Door provides meals, clothing, showers, bedding, and vouchers for basic needs to homeless and low-income people. Open Door feeds 75 to 100 people three days a week, and also provides commodities and pantry food, work clothing, diapers, vouchers for gasoline, housing and shelter costs, and agency referrals.

In a typical month, Open Door helps more than 1,200 clients, about half of whom are children. Many families have avoided homelessness because of Open Door.

Always needed are donations of food, especially whole meals in a can (soups, stews, chili), dry soup, cans of refried beans, meat, fish, tuna, or sausage, frozen hamburger and other meats, chicken broth, diced tomatoes, rice, olives, evaporated milk, mayonnaise, large amounts of gravy mix, soy sauce, dry mix salad dressings, salad greens, fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, cheese, milk, tortillas, and baked goods.

Other high-demand items include diapers, warm winter coats, sweaters, hats, scarves, and gloves. Also needed are men's work boots, jeans, t-shirts, large work shirts, and socks, men's and women's hygiene products, laundry soap, and chap stick. Donations of sleeping bags, blankets, and tents are also greatly appreciated.

Donations are tax-deductible and can be dropped off at the United Methodist Church office, 505 W. Gurley, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Home Repair

Our volunteers assist low-income homeowners living in substandard conditions by using donated funds, materials, and services to perform needed health and safety related repairs. Home Repair was established in 2001 and completed two projects that year. In 2005, Home Repair completed 47 projects at an average cost of

\$168 per project. Thirty-six volunteers spent more than 700 hours on Home Repair projects.

Costs of materials and contracted services are paid with funds contributed by individuals, supporting organizations, and foundations. Businesses also contribute through discounts and gifts in-kind. Homeowners are not expected to provide funds, although any contributions are gratefully accepted.

Home Repair projects differ in the amount of time needed, degree of difficulty, and required expertise, but all projects allow the homeowner to live more comfortably and safely in their homes.

Circles of Support

Circles of Support is CCJ's newest program. First introduced in Ames, Iowa, Circles of Support is a proven model for lifting families out of poverty. The program assists and trains community members to form Circles of Support that befriend motivated families and provide them the help and guidance they need to step up and out of poverty.

To help us help our neighbors,

or for more information, call (928) 445-8382 or visit the Web site at www.yavapaiCCJ.net. Volunteers are needed to help at Open Door, with Home Repair, or to join a Circle. Donations are always appreciated. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.