

“Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.”

Mother Teresa

## Poverty

### General Demographics

1. The average family income in your school community is between:
  - Under \$30,000.00
  - \$30,000.00 to \$60,000.00
  - \$60,000.00 to 80,000.00z
  - \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00
  - Over \$100,000.00
  
2. What would you estimate the average monthly rent for a modest:
  - 1-bedroom apartment:
    - \$450
    - \$600
    - \$800
    - \$1000
  
  - 2-bedroom apartment:
    - \$600
    - \$800
    - \$1000
    - \$1200
  
3. What do you estimate is the cost of a monthly food budget for a family of 4?
  - \$200
  - \$300
  - \$400
  - \$500 or over
  
4. What is the percentage of single parent families?
  - 10% or less
  - Between 10 % to 15%
  - Between 15% to 20%
  - Over 20%

“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them  
except in the form of bread.”

Mahatma Gandhi

5. Do you have any students living on his/her own? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What percentage of your school community:
- Has immediate support of extended family (they see their grandparents, uncle or aunts a minimum of once a week): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Both parents work: \_\_\_\_\_
  - After School the student go home to an empty house: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Speak a language other than English in the home: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Parents were educated in another country: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Parents have limited or no formal Education: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Family comes from a war-torn country: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Have multiple families living in the same house: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Diakonia (Service)**

7. Does your school have a Social Justice Focus: (looking at root causes of poverty and the need for social change) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Does your school have a Charity Focus: (bringing relief to those in need)  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Does your school include a prayer for the poor during the prayers of the faithful at your school masses: \_\_\_\_\_

“When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint.  
When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.”  
*Hélder Câmara, Dom Helder Camara: Essential Writings*

10. What organizations are present for the poor in your community:

- St. Vincent de Paul
- A Parish Program
- Catholic Children’s Aid
- Catholic Family Services
- Soup Kitchen
- Food Bank
- Government organization
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

11. What is your working relationship with the local parish in terms of outreach to the poor?

12. How do you identify students who are in poverty?

- It is part of our registration process
- The Office monitors absenteeism
- Individual Teachers are attentive to signs of poverty
- Outside agencies inform you
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

13. What activities has your school community initiated for people in situations of poverty:

- Food Drive
- Christmas Baskets
- Clothes collection
- Breakfast club
- Bus passes
- Fund Raise (what was the purpose) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

“Every life deserves a certain amount of dignity,  
no matter how poor or damaged the shell that carries it.”

Rick Bragg, *All Over But the Shoutin'*

14. Has your school community undertaken a special project for individual families such as:

- Made dinners for families
- Paid for field trips
- Provided clothing
- Provided food vouchers
- Provided housing (rent)
- Provided school supplies
- Waived school fees
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

15. What type of Poverty exists in your school community:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Children lacking intimate relationships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Extended Family          | <input type="checkbox"/> Children with mental health issues      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children lacking adult attention | <input type="checkbox"/> Students whom are poor in spirit        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational support              | <input type="checkbox"/> Families with mental health issues      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Generational                     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Situational                      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Immigrants                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal/First Nations         |  |

16. A) Do you have a process for accessing extra resources for struggling families with regards to:

- Registration fees
- Field trip costs
- Extracurricular Sports
- Extracurricular clubs
- Uniforms
- School Supplies
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

B) Describe the Process:

17. Have you or any of your teachers ever been in-serviced on Catholic Social Teaching?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ If you answered yes to the above question; what aspects were covered?
- Jesus's teaching on the poor and Social Justice
  - The principles of Catholic Social Teaching
  - Local responses to the poor
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

18. Do you look at your home-school communication from the lens of poverty?

- ✓ If you answered yes to the above question; what method does your school use?
- Written
  - Verbal
  - Outreach
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

19. What procedures has your school implemented to facilitate a welcoming environment for parents and adults to your school?

- Developed a welcome protocol for school office use
- Trained student office helpers
- Created clear signage
- Developed a welcome package
- Established a clear protocol for disseminating information
- Have a protocol for dealing with difficult situations out of sight of the public
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

20. What challenges arise in our rural school communities?

- Lack of anonymity
- Lack of services
- Challenge in accessing services
- Distance and cost accessing services.
- Housing limitations
- Other \_\_\_\_\_