

FIFTY YEARS – CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

ALSO KNOWN AS CCHD - - MY NAME IS GLYN BAILEY

During the fall of 1969, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops held their annual Meeting. One of the items on their agenda was the fact that the Catholic Church was not doing enough to help the poor.

As a result of the discussions about that topic at their meeting, the bishops proposed and passed a program to be known as the “Campaign for Human Development”. It was not known as the “Catholic Campaign for Human Development” until several years later.

Supported by a special annual collection in Catholic Parishes across the United States, mostly the weekend prior to Thanksgiving, for over 50 years the Campaign has supported poor and working people organized to seek justice. Workers’ centers, community-based organizations, workers’ cooperatives, living wage campaigns and the Catholic Labor Network – have enjoyed the support of CCHD through grants and guidance.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development has a tiny staff in Washington DC but a national reach. The tremendous good work of promoting justice is accomplished by having people in every diocese identify grassroots organizations whose goals and values coincide with CCHD’s. They are the local CCHD committees, which bring community groups to the attention of their bishops and to CCHD for potential funding. The committees build and maintain close relationships with funded groups as they grow and expand their mission.

Vatican II called for the laity to create a more just community; local CCHD committees help to fulfill this mandate. The local committees function as the eyes and ears of CCHD in cities and towns throughout the country. They understand the unique local needs, and they know which groups fully represent low-income people and can help them organize to identify and meet their needs.

One such local CCHD committee in the Archdiocese of Baltimore was formed in 1972 by the appointment of Fr. William Burke as director and Glyn Bailey as chairman along with his wife Jeanne and about 10 other members. Over the years, Fr. Burke and members of the local CCHD committee have met with many, many small groups committed to helping people help themselves by bringing about institutional changes. The committee also keeps a watchful eye on funded groups to ensure that they use CCHD grants in service of our common Gospel-driven goals.

The local CCHD committee of Baltimore was given the 2015 Sister Margaret Cafferty Development for Peoples Award at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, DC. The annual CCHD award recognizes a group or individual working on the margins that has demonstrated outstanding witness to the gospel values and action on behalf of justice. Glyn Bailey accepted the award on behalf of the local committee.

Several such groups funded by CCHD in the Archdiocese of Baltimore come to mind:

“People Lacking Ample Shelter and Employment” known as Project PLASE. After initially receiving local and national grants many years ago, PLASE has continued to mobilize against injustice, especially in the ongoing efforts to provide residents adequate, safe and inclusive housing for poverty-level folks in Baltimore. A recent purchase of the old Monastery Parochial School building in the Irvington area of Baltimore has indeed helped to provide not only housing but also skills-training for the poor and homeless.

Another group is the:

United Workers Association of Baltimore. They build on an outstanding record of promoting worker justice and living wages. United Worker's Association applies the granted funds toward addressing, through leadership training, the systemic problems of affordable housing and the possible rehab of the 16,000 vacant houses in Baltimore city.

They also offer technical assistance to start-up anti-poverty groups and others requiring this assistance. CCHD provides local funding to pay for technical assistance when appropriate, for possible national funding of groups in the future.

Just a few years ago, United Workers Association of Baltimore was honored for obtaining fair wages and working conditions for those that clean Oriole Park and the Raven's stadiums before and after ball games.

AND FINALLY - Baltimoreans' United in Leadership Development, known as BUILD, has received many CCHD grants over the years. They are noted for restructuring a leadership team with a majority of poverty-level income members. BUILD will continue its mission to train leaders within its member organizations. Economic development, immigration justice, adequate and fair housing opportunities, make up BUILD's ongoing agenda.

These are just a sampling of the many groups funded by CCHD over the past 50 years. Based on information provided by the National CCHD Office in Washington, DC, the total number of national grants during the past 50 years in the Archdiocese of Baltimore was 239 in the amount of \$7,553,793 dollars awarded to 74 organizations.

In addition to the national grants, the local CCHD committee awarded local grants to many organizations during the past 50 years. A recent record of local grants indicated a total of 14 were made during the past 7 years totaling \$205,000 dollars.

This is a great record of helping the poor overcome the root causes of poverty in the Archdiocese of Baltimore during the past 50 years!

There is a separate committee under CCHD, known as the Social Ministry Convocation Planning Committee. It is the educational arm of CCHD. This committee has been organizing the annual convocation since 1978. This year the Social Ministry Convocation is scheduled to be held virtually on March 26th. Every convocation includes a well-known keynote speaker, this year, our own Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, C.Ss.R, **auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore**, and various workshops on social justice and practical advice conducting social ministry in parishes.

THANK YOU!