



Society for the Propagation of the Faith / St. Paul and Minneapolis

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Inspired

Stories of encountering Christ in global mission

Fall 2019

"There is another kind of giving in which we help by making it possible for them to help themselves. This gift will keep on giving long after the donation."

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Explained

Urban Roots

Urban Roots Youth and Alumni



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Fall 2019

Stories of encountering Christ in global mission



Mission on the Margins

By Deacon Mickey Friesen
Director, Center for Mission



There is an old saying: "Give a man a fish and you will feed him for the day. Teach him how to fish and you will feed him for a lifetime." Jesus said his mission was to

"bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind and liberty to captives." There are times we are able to help those in need by giving the necessities of life. There is another kind of giving in which we help by making it possible for them to help themselves. This gift will keep on giving long after the donation.

Our Center for Mission office offers opportunities for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis to experience encounters of Christ in Mission, to share our joys, struggles and resources with others on the margins. These mission encounters are not only overseas, they are national and even in our own neighborhoods.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is one way to support organizations locally and nationally who engage in mission on the margins, who Work on the Margins.

Each year we have the opportunity to participate in this kind of giving through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Through CCHD, we can share in the Church's social mission by helping to remove

the obstacles that keep people from lifting themselves out of poverty. CCHD reaches out across the country and reaches into our very own neighborhoods and cities of the Archdiocese. Together, we give the gift that keeps on giving and that can last for a lifetime. In this newsletter, we highlight the various ways that the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is "Working on the Margins" by focusing on one particular organization supported by CCHD funding.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

By Adam Fitzpatrick
Coordinator, Social Mission Outreach



Adam is the Social Mission Outreach Coordinator for the Center for Mission, which includes the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) was founded in 1970 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as their

domestic anti-poverty program. With the objective of creating

sustainable systems, CCHD supports community and economic development programs across the U.S. and locally that help poor and marginalized people come together to make decisions, seek solutions and find ways to improve their lives.

Local grants are given to organizations,

aligned with Catholic principles, who provide anti-poverty programs that empower individuals by enhancing self-reliance and personal growth.

Through CCHD, low-income people have been able to find better housing, create effective community



involvement, and encourage youth to gain work skills they need to move out of poverty.

The theme for this year's CCHD collection is "Working on the Margins," focusing on organizations that serve the poor and marginalized who find themselves on the fringes and who desire ways to help themselves.

As an example, one of the organizations receiving grants in the Archdiocese is Urban Roots.

Urban Roots fights poverty by providing "intern" positions to low-income youth in three areas: cooking, gardening and environmental conservation. They learn entrepreneurship, healthy eating, self-confidence and personal responsibility.

Urban Roots has been very effective developing community leaders and empowering youth to find opportunities for growth. They are a good example of "Working on the Margins." Discover more in this newsletter.



Urban Roots

By Patsy Noble
Executive Director



Patsy Noble has worked at Urban Roots for over 20 years and now serves as Executive Director. She has a experience in community work focusing on food access, conservation, gardening and youth mentorship.

Urban Roots has been active in St. Paul since 1997. The organization was once known as the Community Design Center which was founded in 1969. 2019 is the 50th Anniversary of the Community Design Center whose work was guided by deep roots in the community and a philosophy of collaboration and partnership. Their mission was to cultivate and empower youth through nature, healthy food and community. They have weathered the changing non-profit landscape by adapting to the shifting funding environment, aligning resources with their many partners, maintaining an entrepreneurial spirit, and continually sharpening their lens to confront social, economic and racial disparities.

Since 1997, the newly named Urban Roots has provided internships to low-income, under-resourced youth on St. Paul's East Side. Youth interns develop leadership, entrepreneurial and life skills through three specific programs: Market Garden, Conservation and Cook Fresh.

Market Garden

In this program, youth interns operate all facets of an urban farm business including growing and distributing produce they harvest. Organizations that received produce include Community Supported Agriculture

shares, farmers' markets, wholesale markets and hunger relief efforts. Interns can also bring food home for their families.

Conservation

Interns advocate for urban green spaces throughout the East Side of St. Paul by supporting and improving them. They also participate in the restoration of local parks by removal of invasive species, native seed collection and planting, and installing rain and



pollinator gardens. They also engage in citizen science projects like insect surveys, water sampling and forest inventories.

Cook Fresh

Youth engaged with Cook Fresh learn about the food they grow and how to prepare it, creating self-led



affordable and healthy meals. Youth and staff teach community cooking classes and create small-batch food products from excess product to sell at markets, products like salsas and chutneys.

All programs include wellness, active learning and enrichment experiences. Urban Roots connects a diverse array of cultures with equity at the forefront of

all their work.

With the help of grants from organizations like the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, we have been able to offer internships to 60 diverse and under-served youth a year. All interns are eligible for free or reduced school meals and are employed to help with family income. Many interns participate in a multi-tiered program, advancing with each year in the number of hours worked, leadership opportunities and exposure to a variety of career options.

For example, there are currently five intern alumni who are now employed as summer staff.

For questions or more information, go to www.urbanrootsmn.org.

Urban Roots Youth/Alumni

By Tajah

Tajah was an Urban Roots intern who advanced after three years to alumni staff. She worked the 2019 summer program as a lead in the Cook Fresh Program.

Tajah notes, "the Urban Roots youth internship program was a gain for me because it really showed me how to step up to the plate and be a leader. I never really saw myself as much of a leader before working here. I thought I was quiet and just wasn't creative enough. But my work made me really come out of my shell and gain a new confidence in myself. I have learned that I am able to be a group leader and how to teach teams that cooking is so much more than it seems.



I have learned that I'm pretty great at speaking with all kinds of people and talking in front of an audience, none of which I would have discovered without participating in the Cook Fresh youth internship program."

Conservation Program



Cook Fresh Program



Market Garden Program

Conservation Program



Conservation Program



Cook Fresh Program



Conservation Program



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