



Ridgemont Local Schools
Professional Development Session

Building "R" Future
March 26, 2014

Envisioning Goals:

1. Service-learning and project based learning which addresses real world problems for real world audiences
2. Customized student learning based on student need and readiness which uses technology as a primary tool
3. Deeper, amplified learning which makes Numbers 1 and 2 purposeful and meaningful to students

Essential/Driving Question: *How can we design/create highly engaging work (learning experiences) that our students cannot resist? What would this work/these experiences look like?*

Highlights from Recent Conferences/Workshops

Project Plans and Progress: Emerging Trends, Topics, and Needs

Sample Topic of Interest and Related New Resources

"Staggering Statistics" Activity

Video Clips and Implementation Guide from Youth Service America

Planning/Collaboration Time

Staggering Statistics: The Scope of the Problem

Sources: UNICEF, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Youth Service America, Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Mid-Ohio Foodbank, and Community Shelter Board

What Does Poverty Look Like in America?

Poverty is a complicated issue with root causes that require complex and comprehensive solutions. For 2013, the **Federal Poverty Level (FPL)** for a family of four was an annual income of **\$23,550**. Nearly **50 million Americans** are currently living in poverty; a comparable number live in **food insecure households**.

Extreme or Deep Poverty was defined as half the FPL, or less than **\$11,775** annually for a family of four. More than 14,400 children younger than age 6 lived in extreme poverty in Columbus in 2010.

Research suggests that families actually need an income about twice the FPL in order to meet their basic needs. Families earning between 100% and 200% of the FPL are considered **low income** or **economically disadvantaged** and face similar hardships, such as eviction or foreclosure, electricity/gas shutoffs, insufficient access to health care, unstable child care arrangements and food insecurity.

For a family of four this would be **less than \$47,100 annually**. These families struggle daily to meet their basic needs of housing, shelter, utilities, food, material goods and transportation. When parents are making difficult financial decisions about paying their rent or adequately feeding their children, it's impossible for them to plan and work for a better future.

An estimated **5.4 million American households face worst-case housing situations**. Receiving little or no government housing assistance, these families are unable to find a decent place to live at a price they can afford to pay. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, families across the country would need to earn a **"housing wage" of \$15.37 an hour**, roughly twice the minimum wage, to afford a two-bedroom apartment at the average fair market rent.

In the U.S., more than **3.5 million people experience homelessness** each year. Families with children comprise more than 35% of the homeless population.

Nearly **16 million** children in America—1 in 5—live in households that struggle to put food on the table. Although **9.8 million children** get free or reduced price school breakfast on an average day, **10 million eligible children go without**.

What Does Poverty Look Like in Central Ohio?

Did you know that **Columbus ranks #1 in poverty** when compared to 15 similar metropolitan areas across the country? In Franklin County more than **200,000 people live in poverty**. Another **500,000 people struggle daily** to meet their basic needs. That's more than 700,000 people—**SEVEN** full Ohio Stadiums—striving to get by and adequately care for their families. They're our neighbors, co-workers and friends, and include people of all ages, races and household types. And throughout our state, almost **2 million people are living below the poverty level, and several million others have great difficulty making ends meet.**

Poverty's reach is expanding across central Ohio. Last year, a record **9,163 people slept in homeless shelters**, a **13% increase** from the previous year. **2,258 of them were children**, and the youngest of these was just several weeks old. Over a two-year period, **family homelessness increased by a staggering 52%.**

Recent statistics show that even suburban communities are feeling the effects. **Suburban poverty has increased more than 64%** over the past decade nationally, and our region is no exception.

For example, in just two years, a Worthington food pantry went from serving an average **20 families a month to 300 families a month**. In 2013, visits to the pantry increased nearly 80% over the previous year.

More than **248,000 individuals, including 86,975 children, receive emergency food each year through the Mid-Ohio Foodbank**. These findings represent a **28% increase since 2006**. In any given week, more than **40,000 people** receive emergency food assistance from a food pantry, soup kitchen, or emergency shelter served by the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. **35%** of those served are children under 18.

One out of five clients are homeowners, and only **5%** are homeless. **71%** of all clients finished high school, and **23%** have some college or a two-year degree. More than **5%** have completed college or beyond.

What Does Poverty Look Like in the World?

Poverty is an especially daunting challenge when viewed globally. The following statistics will serve as dramatic examples:

At least **80%** of humanity lives on less than **\$10 a day**. In fact, **hundreds of millions** of people live on less than **\$1 a day**. (Some estimates actually exceed 1 billion.)

According to UNICEF, **1 billion children** (nearly half the world total) live in poverty. **22,000** of these children die each day of causes related to poverty.

Lack of clean water and sanitation claim the lives of more than **1.8 million** young children every year.

Worldwide, someone dies of hunger every **3.6 seconds**.

It is estimated that some **800 million** people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition, about 100 times as many as those who actually die from these causes each year.

Worldwide, some **827.6 million** people live in urban slums. By 2020, it is estimated that the world slum population will reach almost **1 billion**.

