Illini Union Office of Volunteer Programs

Issues

Poverty:

- Almost half the world — over 3 billion people — live on less than $2.50 a day.
- In Champaign County, 32,601 people live below the poverty line, a poverty rate of 18.8%.
- Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names.
- Less than one per cent of what the world spent every year on weapons was needed to put every child into school by the year 2000 and yet it didn’t happen.
- Children are particularly vulnerable to poverty. 1 billion children live in poverty (1 in 2 children in the world). 640 million live without adequate shelter, 400 million have no access to safe water, 270 million have no access to health services. 10.6 million died in 2003 before they reached the age of 5 (or roughly 29,000 children per day).
- 7,032 children live below the poverty line in Champaign County, a child poverty rate of 18.7%. The child poverty rate has risen from 15.9% in 2006* and has risen from 11.8% in 2000.

Sources:

http://www.globalissues.org/issue/2/causes-of-poverty

http://www.champaign.org/statistics_reports/poverty.html

What is Poverty?

Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being, and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one’s life.

Source: http://web.worldbank.org/poverty

Poverty is defined by the federal government using food cost as a basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Family Unit</th>
<th>The Poverty Line</th>
<th>Half the Poverty Line</th>
<th>Twice the Poverty Line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$10,210</td>
<td>$5,105</td>
<td>$20,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$13,690</td>
<td>$6,845</td>
<td>$27,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$17,170</td>
<td>$8,585</td>
<td>$34,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$20,650</td>
<td>$10,325</td>
<td>$41,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
However, experts agree that the current poverty line fails to give an accurate picture of what families need to achieve a decent, though modest, standard of living. Estimates that take into account the local cost of living reveal that it takes $43,577 for a family of four to make ends meet in Champaign County. Source: U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey and from the 2000 Decennial Census. www.census.gov/acs/www/.

Local and National Poverty Agencies

Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois
Community Action is a private, non-profit organization that administers federal, state and local programs in order to provide necessary services to low-income and senior individuals in our service area. Community Action currently provides services in DeWitt, Mason, Menard, Fulton, Logan and Piatt counties.