

Ebony Townsend

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Topic: What is your definition of poverty and if you had the opportunity to change the way poverty look in your community, what would you do and why?

The average American wakes up every morning between the hours of six and seven o'clock. We clean ourselves up, get dressed and head out the door to begin our daily routine. Some of us go to school and others to work. But what we don't realize is, that everyday, as we're driving around in our fancy cars and wearing our designer clothes, somebody didn't have a bed to sleep in the night before.

My definition of poverty is, the number of people living in an area that suffers daily struggles and hardships. You know, the people no one really pays attention to.

If I were to be given the opportunity to change the way poverty looks in my community, I'd first begin by getting an accurate count of the amount of homeless, poor, jobless, and starving people in my area. Then, I'd gather all of those people up and let them know what was about to happen and how their lives were about to change for the better. Finally, I'd gather up as many devoted friends and family members to help me with the rebuilding of our new community.

Counting the number of people suffering from everyday poverty would help me get closer to the real thing and give me a better understanding of the situation. I'd be able to understand the hardships

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that they face everyday as we go on with our lives, passing them by. Not knowing well that they're reaching out to us for help.

Then I'd gather up as many devoted family and friends to help me. Taking on a big responsibility such as this, requires hard work, teamwork, and of course lots of dedication. Being surrounded by people who want to and are willing to help would make this all a success.

Finally, I'd go around the community, letting everyone know what was about to happen and how life was about to change for them and us for the better. I'd give jobs to men, women, and teenagers who are eligible for them. Then I'd get everyone a doctor's appointment. Free of charge to them. Just to make sure that they were all healthy and happy. Once they've gotten their jobs and check-ups, I'd give housing first, to the women and children. The houses may not be somewhere they want to be, but better than where they are. I would do this because helping the people in my community will help me and the people who contributed and participated in cause feel better about ourselves and may be the beginning of something that could change the lives of people all over the world.

To conclude, my definition of poverty is the number of people living in an area that suffers daily struggles and hardships. And if I were given the opportunity to change the way it looked in my community, the possibilities and ideas would be endless.

Excellent YMB

Shedlyn Joseph

Hillsborough Community College

College fresh man

What is poverty? In my opinion poverty is when a person or a group of people lacks the necessary tools to live financially comfortable. Growing up in Immokalee I've watched both my parents and neighbors' work day and night trying to support their families with low paying jobs. If I was given the opportunity to change the way poverty looked in my community, I would create better paying jobs with more flexible hours, more local businesses and, more programs around the community to keep kids off the streets.

MY first action towards changing the look of poverty in my community is to create more programs around the community for the kids. Creating more programs for kids in my community is a vital part of changing how poverty looks in my community because it gets the kids to be more involved in the community while at the same time making them more aware of the resources around them that they usually wouldn't notice, like tutoring, scholarships and etcetera. Creating more programs in the community would not only get kids to be more involved in the community but it would also keep them off the streets and in a safe environment where trouble is out of reach.

A huge problem I notice in my community is the lack of small businesses and jobs. Immokalee is a small town with very little businesses, if someone wants to get something done they would usually have to get outside of Immokalee to get it done. Creating more local businesses would not only be great for Immokalee's growth but it would also create many job opportunities. More local businesses would lessen long unreasonable trips to Naples and Fort Myers. After I have established jobs in Immokalee I would help make sure that the jobs give out flexible hours for parents. Giving parents flexible working hours is important in changing the look of poverty in my community because it would give parents time to spend with their kids, and when parents spend time with their kid's homework gets done, the kids are better supervised and the kids come out smart and everyone ends up happy. In conclusion, I would change how poverty looked in my community by creating more programs for the kids, more

ESSAY ENTRY FORM

NAME: TIMARA HOWARD

SCHOOL: IMMOKALEE HIGH

GRADE LEVEL: 10TH

ESSAY TITLE: POVERTY

It's hard trying to accomplish thing when you live in certain parts of the world and don't have a lot of money. Poverty is all over the world but really hits home when I think about my hometown Immokalee. Poverty to me is when you can only afford the basic quality of merchandise, food, etc. If I had a chance to change some of the poverty in my hometown I would create housing, great paying jobs, and better education opportunities.

It wouldn't be an easy job, but with a lot of helping hands I would build nice brick homes for each family that cannot afford it. The family would have to only do community service in their part of the city to qualify for a home. The homes would give a little secure to people so they wouldn't have to worry about eviction and living on the street. That will be a start on some of the poverty in Immokalee.

Furthermore I would create some great paying jobs so the people would be able to provide more for their family. Most jobs will provide workers with on-site training and promotions. Also the jobs will provide benefits to all workers not just the top people. The jobs would also push the workers to further their education to take on high positions in the field their working in.

In fact I would provide different education building throughout Immokalee so the people would have the ability to go and wouldn't have to worry about a waiting list. The education building will have everything a person may need to prepare them succeed such as instructor that will provide one on one training, and daycare so they can go to school. The people would be able to fix their schedule that is best for them.

Unfortunately poverty will never cease in my hometown. Therefore with my creation of homes, jobs, and education it will eliminate some of the poverty and that will give the people more to look forward to.

Change In My Community

"Poverty" ! My definition of the word POVERTY in my community would be. The lack of the basics required for quality of life. These basics begin with food, clothing, shelter, and clean drinking water. Poverty can lead up to a lot of things some people wouldn't like. Especially DEATH!!

A couple ways I could change poverty in my community is to start some programs which involve both the residents and community. For example I could start something called a community house where people have safe, space to gather, to share meals, clothing, first aid, and great healthcare. By starting such a program the community can support each other in finding housing and jobs.

People who are living on the streets or have no one to turn to, can come live until they have permanent housing. That will be a huge change in poverty. They will honor each other in a setting of mutuality and respect. They all can become friends and associates and leave all their problems on the outside, or just forget about them permanently.

I can also help change poverty by letting the people of my community show their talent whether its cooking a meal, caring for our elderly neighbors, who are poor. Giving out free haircuts, and etc. Its also good to make signs for a public demonstration that concern them as poor and homeless people.

In the future I hope all the poverty in my Community is gone away for good. Because together were making a difference and inspiring everyone to do something because we all can. There is no reason why no one can not help out their community. Its always good to give back to your village and us people are the Village!!

By: Alfreda Murphy

PS: Thanks for the help Front Porch Greeters!!!

Marie Jean

The Webster dictionary describes poverty as the state or condition of having little or no money. Well see, the definition of poverty to me is personal. Poverty is waking up to find the same things you found the day before nothing, no food, no money, no income; and I guess I take poverty personally because of where I come from. In Haiti, 90% of all the people are in poverty. I personally believe that in the world that God created people shouldn't be worried about his intentions were to be caring free and poverty wouldn't be an issue.

Unfortunately, that isn't the way it is, the ideal of life shouldn't be no human suffering, and no violence. But to life we're living now should have basic health and education.

If I had the opportunity to change the poverty in my community, first of all, I would try to create more jobs so the unemployment rate can go down. The unemployment is the number one problem in this community since the recession; lots of our town resident had lost their jobs. I know how this feels because it happened to my brother and uncle who were contributing to our bills and other expenses things they had to take care of.

Second, I will lower the housing rate; therefore having a home is more affordable. I would help the residents in the community with their mortgage so they don't end up losing their home; which was a serious problem in ft Myers. I make sure that doesn't happen to our local community by not letting the housing rate go down.

Lastly, I will create shelters and distribution centers to give out meals to the homeless people and also give homeless to stay. I would also try to give these people an education, that way they can get job

opportunities, and make something better of themselves.

In conclusion, poverty is something that I can have personally seen and experienced. As a young Haitian girl, growing up in a community in Immokalee, I wish to help out my community by getting an education so that I can come back and do something for my community. Building and doing more basic things that my community couldn't afford.