

Strategies for Faith Communities

Building Resources to stand in the Gap to Address Poverty



I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. **I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall**, but I found no one

Ezekiel 22.30

Who am I and why do I choose to stand in the gap?

- Small town girl
- Grew up watching my parents and grandparents stand in the gap
- I don't have a choice- It is my calling
- Quality of life for everyone has always been important
- 30 years in long term care
- 12 years at Village of Hope
- Husband and 2 children
- To whom much is given much is required (Luke)
- My faith helps me do hard things

Standing in the Gap

Why do people have gaps?

*Hard to rebuild a wall while you're fighting the things that caused your wall to crumble

*Addition

*Poverty

*Lack of Education

*Homeless as a child

*Job Loss

*Domestic Violence

Why is it important that we stand in the gap?

What does it mean for christians?

God uses people all the time to accomplish his purposes

God is moved when his people act

II Corinthis 8:13

Provides a reference for us when standing in a gap

"Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality"

How can we address the needs of the under-resourced without negatively impacting the resourced or hurting the people we want to help?

God does not want us to build another's wall to our own detriment!

Addressing Needs

What do we all need to know about Poverty?

- Poverty is complicated
- Poverty is hard to get out of
- Poverty challenges our executive functioning skills
- Trauma affects our brains
- We can all make a difference!
- **We can't do it to or for people.....we must do it WITH**



The path from poverty to resources depends on access to 10 resources

Financial: having the money to purchase goods/services	Physical: Physical health and mobility
Emotional: Choose and control responses without engaging in self-destructive behavior	Support Systems: Friends, family and backup resources available
Mental: Abilities and acquired skills to deal with daily life	Relationships/Role Models: Frequent access to adults who are appropriate, are nurturing and don't engage in self destructive behavior
Spiritual: Believing in a divine purpose and guidance	Knowledge of hidden rules: knowing unspoken cues and habits of groups
Motivation: Believing in the power of self and others to create a better future	Integrity: Believing in worthiness of self and actions- understanding consequences

What strategies change thinking and builds resources?

Relationships with people different from you (connections)

Emotional personal experiences(I can trust people)

Education (life development skills and practical work skills)

Spiritual awakening (being introduced to christ)

Employment (Job mentors, learning circles, transportation to jobs, confidence to apply to a job and keep a job)



How can we start to build relationships?



Standing in the gap by being the church

- Join others doing the work
- Believe and have faith in human potential as children of God



Characteristics of Human Capacity Development

1. Focuses on knowledge, thinking and understanding	6. Provides tools to move away from crisis (Social events, job training, learning circles, support groups)
2. Interactive that building on 1 to 1 relationships of mutual respect with people different from you	7. Allows for personal choice
3. Assigns a language to talk about experience	8. Always has a future story at an individual level
4. Tells what why and how	9. It results in the development of resources
5. It relates to and reframes the individuals personal life	** Bridges out of Poverty Training

Why does it work?

When human capacity is increased, people have the ability to:

1. Create/enhance own resource base/be self-sustaining
2. Make choices that promote dignity, well-being and continued development
3. Give back to others
4. To negotiate almost any environment
5. To grow spiritually



Jesus provided us the Human Capacity Development Model

Jesus went to the people!

"Love your neighbor as yourself" Mark 12:31

- Knowledge, thinking and understanding- based on relationships
- Connections

Galatians 6:2

Carry each other's burdens and this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

*Sometimes we need to carry the burden

*Sometimes we need to teach each other how to carry the burden

Focuses on knowledge, understanding, reframing the person's life

Luke 11:9

"Ask and it shall be given you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you"

- 1-1 relationships of mutual respect with people different
- Disciples were very different
- Jesus make connections with everyone he met

John 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world that we gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him."

Isaiah 6:8

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

- Spiritual awakening

Deuteronomy 16:17

"All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God."

- Financial blessings
- Teaching people how to be able

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- Support
- Encouragement
- Relationships

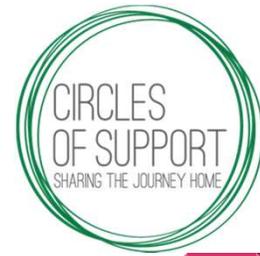
Galations 6:9

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

- Emotional
- Support
- Mental

Now What?

- Circle of Intimacy
- Circle of Friendship
- Circle of Participation
- Circle of Exchange
- Circle of Support



Now What?

When helping hurts:

- Poverty is rooted in people's broken relationships with God, self, others, and the rest of creation.
- These relationships are broken due to a complex combination of the individual's own sin, exploitive systemic injustice, and demonic forces.
- There is a lot more going on than meets the eye, so the solutions need to move well beyond ladling soup, dispensing clothing, and handing out food stamps.



Important things to know

- Work **With** not for or to
- People in poverty are the experts in their lives- they generally know what to do, they just don't have the resources to do it
- Judgement will stop the process, of yourself and of others
- Everyone is just doing the best they can
- Lasting change takes TIME



Am I a good fit to stand in the gap?

- Am I able to understand another point of view without judgement?
- Am I able to keep the focus and interests on the family or individual?
- Am I excited about building community support with the family or individual?
- Do I have time to assist a community or individual with 4 hours/mo?
- Am I able to keep everything I see and hear confidential?
- Barring any personal issues, I am able to commit
- I am willing to stick with people, even when they make mistakes



Does standing in the gap work?

Increase income by 39% after 6 month and 54% more after one year and 75% after 18 month

13% increase in part time employment and 49 % increase in full tine employment

22% increase in housing 35% decrease in shelter

18% increase in transportation after 6 months, 27% after 12 months, 36% increase after 18 months



Standing in the Gap

→ Join a local group working in the Gap

- a) Village of Hope
- b) Rotary- Ridgeway Project
- c) St. Vincent DePaul
- d) Churches United
- e) Food Shelf



Standing in the Gap

Rotary Ridgeway Neighborhood Project

- Formed after the Alina/ Philips Neighborhood Project
- Do Not need to be a rotarian to participate
- Violence is making it hard for people to get ahead
- Working at Ridgeway for 1 year- building relationships
- Sanford has rented an apartment to bring resources onsite



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Ezekiel 22.30

Together we can stand in the gap