

Workshops Focused on Poverty Alleviation

Below you will find sessions dispersed throughout NACSW's workshop schedule that focus on the topic of poverty alleviation. They appear on the schedule in a variety of tracks because this important topic cuts across many different types of social work practice and methods. You will be able to find the specific times and locations for each of these workshops by referencing the workshop schedule.

Workshop Title: Engaging Congregations in the Work of Preventing and Ending Homelessness

Workshop Presenters: Lauren Baker, MSW; Raechel Wrona

Workshop Abstract: The Congregational Partnership Program was started in 2007 for congregations to participate in the work of ending homelessness. The program educates and engages congregations in best practices of ending homelessness for families through prevention and rapid rehousing services. Congregations participate in providing rental assistance and relational support in a housing-first, strength-based approach.

Workshop Title: How Poverty in America Affects Us All & What We Can Do about It

Workshop Presenters: Jean Beil, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: The great American myth is that if you work hard you can make a better life for yourself and your family, but the reality is that over 10 million individuals employed for at least 27 weeks annually in the U.S. live their lives below the federal poverty line. How does this affect those of us who are able to make ends meet, and more importantly, what can we, motivated by Christian and social work values, do about it?

Workshop Title: Seeking the Shalom of New Orleans: 47 Years of Urban Community Building

Workshop Presenters: Kevin Brown, MSW, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: Jeremiah 29:7 calls God's people to "Seek the Shalom of the City." Since 1967 Trinity Christian Community has been doing this by building community in New Orleans. In 2005 this work took on a powerful new direction in the post-Katrina aftermath. Focusing on one at-risk community, the Hollygrove Neighborhood, amazing best practices emerged in a highly unlikely context. This award-winning community has seen a remarkable transformation.

Workshop Title: Daytona SSVF, a Working Model of Community Capacity Building and CQI

Workshop Presenters: Joni Casillas, BA, BFA

Workshop Abstract: This presentation will provide the basic principles of Community Capacity Building and Continuous Quality Improvement and how they were engaged to lay the groundwork to develop the successful Salvation Army Supportive Services for Veteran Families in Daytona Beach, a mentorship program for the Veterans Administration. It will explain how the community partners came together to develop a working model to serve homeless and at risk Veterans.

Workshop Title: Disability, Poverty and the Bible: Implications for Christian Social Work

Workshop Presenters: Amber Davis, MSW

Workshop Abstract: This session will cover social work domains for interfacing with persons with disabilities who qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Biblical principles will be tied to into the discussion as tenets of Christian social work and application for working effectively with neuro-diverse populations.

Workshop Title: Taking It to the Streets: Engaging in Radical Hospitality

Workshop Presenters: Joyce Litten, EdD, LISW-S

Workshop Abstract: Radical hospitality is a transformative model of social justice in action. Outreach or charity can maintain the unjust distribution of power and resources; radical hospitality is an exercise in social justice. This presentation focuses on a project "Food for Thought" that serves and engages "the stranger" through radical hospitality.

Workshop Title: Faith Based support for Traumatized Immigrant Families Living in Poverty

Workshop Presenters: Linda Openshaw, DSW, LCSW; Andrew McLane BS, MS; Chase Court

Workshop Abstract: Many immigrants and undocumented families in the United States lack basic necessities. Social workers must consider how trauma, poverty, and limited support has impacted immigrant children and families. By developing partnerships with faith based organizations, social workers can begin to build a supportive, therapeutic, and collaborative environment.

Workshop Title: Christian Social Work Practice with People Living in Rural Poverty

Workshop Presenters: Eric Saunders, MSW, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: 19.3% of the population of the United States lives in rural areas. Those who live in rural areas, however, face significantly higher rates of poverty, especially children. New definitions of poverty, such as extreme poverty, show even higher impact in rural communities. Jesus gave the example of seeking out suffering people with no status and loving them. Lack of services in many communities means the church is their best hope.

Other workshops to consider adding to the list (suggested as more indirectly related to this topic):

- Pope Francis and the Church of Mercy
- Korean American Christian Coalition for Urban Ministry/Ex-Offender Reentry
- A History of Charity: The Church's Role in Social Service Provision.