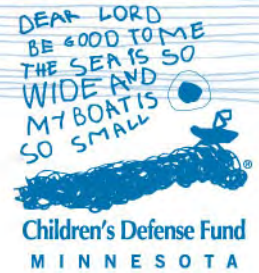


10-10-10 March for Children and Youth Because *All Children and Youth Need Economic Security*



Household income is directly related to a child's healthy development.

Low-income working families must often choose between such basic needs as paying for medical attention, food, heat, clothing or rent.

When families experience the stress of these choices and the daily challenge of making ends meet, children's needs may go unmet.

- 11% of Minnesota children (140,000) live in poverty.
- Federal Poverty Level for a family of four in 2009 was \$22,050 annual income.
- Low-income level for a family of four in 2009 was 200% of poverty, or \$44,100/yr.
- 29% of Minnesota's children (359,000) are considered low-income.
- Minnesota has the 10th highest poverty rate among Black children in the nation.

Childhood poverty generates long-term economic costs for society.

- \$5.7 billion is lost each year in Minnesota due to child poverty, measured by lost productivity, poor health, and criminal justice costs.
- Children who spend half of their childhood in poverty, earn on average 39% less than the median income as adults.

Childhood poverty has increased by a third since 2000 and remains high.

The fastest growing homeless population in Minnesota is families with children as is the fastest growing population using food shelves. Nearly half of children living in poverty live in rural areas. Children of color are more likely to live in poverty than their white counterparts in Minnesota.

Eliminating Child Poverty in Minnesota is Possible.

With a strong public commitment to invest in poverty-fighting programs and services that support children and families, child poverty can be reduced.

Questions for Candidates:

What is your strategy for reducing child poverty in Minnesota?

What will be your first step, if elected, towards implementing your strategy?