

HOPE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SEEKING THE PEACE OF THE CITY

Hope CCF Assets Exceed \$70 Million

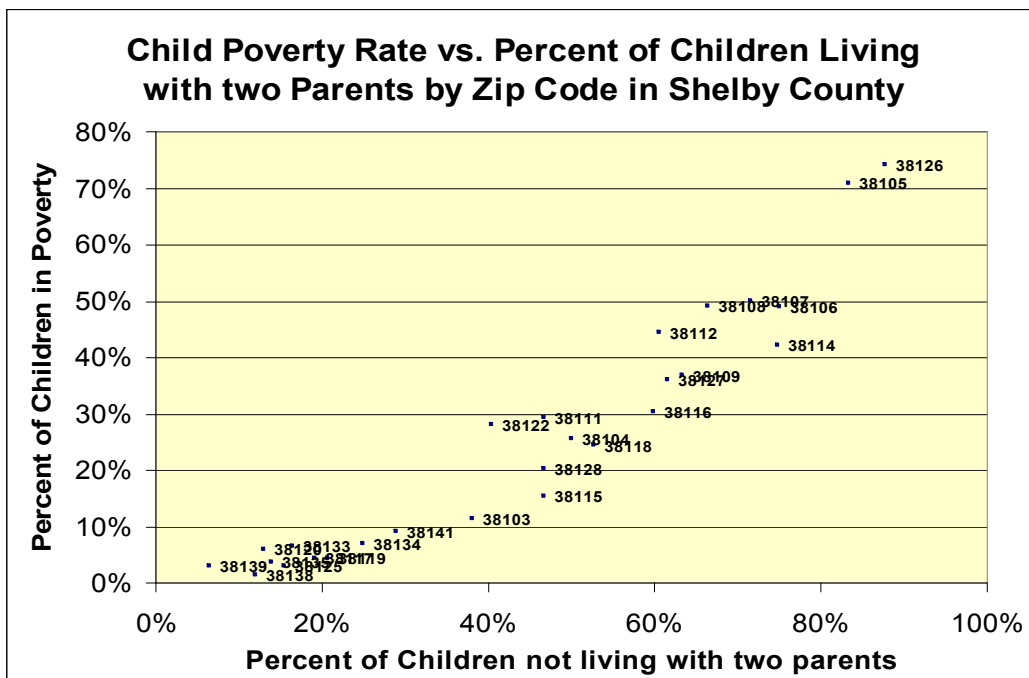
Generous giving by Hope donors in the month of December resulted in an increase in our assets of more than 40% to over \$70 million. This includes about \$11 million contained in funds we administer for 15 faith based non-profits in the City with the balance in more than 220 donor advised funds which we manage for individuals, families and companies.

Cumulative grants made on behalf of our donors since our founding total almost \$70 million. Thus, total gifts made to or through Hope CCF since 1998 are over \$130 million.

Single Mother Births: Primary Underlying Cause of Poverty Among Children in Memphis

In their study, The State of Children in Memphis, The Urban Child Institute reports that of the 53,000 children living in poverty in Memphis, 43,000 are living in single mother families. Their conclusion: Single mother births are "the primary underlying cause" of poverty and related ills of children in Memphis.

Out of the total of almost 150,000 children in Memphis, only 39% live with both parents. In other words, about one-third of Memphis children live in poverty and 81% of those have a single mother. This chart shows this strong correlation by plotting poverty rates vs. the percent of children with a single parent by zip codes in Shelby County:



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Hope CCF exists to serve donors & ministries in the Mid-South in order to facilitate the building of God's kingdom in our community and throughout the world

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There are about 14,000 births in Shelby County each year (and more than 4,000 abortions). More than one-half of these births are to single mothers and almost 40% to teenage mothers. The number of unmarried mother births in Shelby County has been constant for the last five years.

The following summarizes the conclusions of a book, Promises I Can Keep – Why Poor Women put Motherhood before Marriage which was published in 2005 and based on a study of women in Philadelphia in the early 2000s.

- A general re-definition of marriage such that it is not the cultural imperative that it once was.
- While the practical significance of marriage has diminished, it remains highly valued. The poor don't want to get married when conditions of economic distress would put the marriage at risk.
- The poor view childlessness as one of the greatest tragedies of life and would not risk waiting to get married and then having children. The poor place a higher social value on children for two reasons:
 - (1) There are fewer foregone opportunities-while there are costs to early child bearing, the perceived costs are low and the opportunity costs are low. Their circumstances have already diminished their life chances so much that an early birth does little to reduce them further.
 - (2) Motherhood is highly valued by the poor and is a main source of identity and self-esteem. Alternative opportunities (career, higher education) available to the affluent are out of reach to the poor.

- The pool of marriageable men (stably employed) is relatively small.
- The poor and the middle class have different standards of childrearing norms. Middle class mothers measure

their success by their children's achievements. The poor mother's job is to provide the essential elements: a roof over his head, food in his stomach, clean and pressed clothing, a rudimentary knowledge of "numbers" and "letters"; but the rest is up to the child.

- While marriage will probably never regain its status as a universal cultural characteristic, the acute vulnerability of poor parents demands a targeted response: while having children early may not affect a young mother's life chances much, it will likely diminish the life chances of her children. These costs are not evident to these mothers.

2006 Servant Leader Awards

On November 7th, 2006, Hope Christian Community Foundation announced the winners of its seventh-annual Servant Leader Awards at a luncheon held at Second Presbyterian Church. The awards are made annually to three individuals for their contributions as volunteers to Christian charitable organizations in the Mid-South.

Receiving the awards were Randy and Tricia Lillard, volunteers with AGAPE Child and Family Services, Marlon Brown with Memphis Union Mission, and Richard Kuenzinger, a volunteer with JIFF (Juvenile Intervention & Faith-based Follow-up). In addition to the awards, grants of \$3,000 were made by Hope Christian Community Foundation to each organization. Dr. John Perkins, noted expert and pioneer in Christian Community Development, was keynote speaker for the event.

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