

# Deepening economic crisis calls on us to respond

As the recession worsens, Anglicans are responding in faith to families and individuals in need, through our FaithWorks ministries, parish outreach, and community organizations.

We all have a role to play. Yet only government can launch the large-scale programs and policies essential for successful poverty reduction. That's why our vestry motion urges government to respond quickly to this crisis.

“We have several single moms whose husbands have left them, and who have lost their jobs. One lady with four children was let go from work and came to us for food. She hadn't been able to save any money, so she had nothing to fall back on when the final blow of unemployment hit her.”

*Joyce Hird, volunteer at James Place emergency help centre, Orillia*

“Our fears are that as the economy spirals into a downturn, the people who are just making ends meet will no longer be able to survive. Particularly heart-breaking are the situations where children are living in hunger. A rural family with five children greeted me with enthusiasm because I was able to supply a bag of potatoes. I cried when I got home, shocked that portions of rural Ontario have become like Third World countries.”

*Rev. Cathy Stone, executive director, Rural Outreach Centre, Buckhorn*

“Recently, the number of people to whom we serve lunch at St. Vincent's Soup Kitchen in Oshawa is growing by leaps and bounds.”

*Ted Glover, St. George, Oshawa*

“Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto me.”

*Jesus, in Matthew 25:40*

## Did you know?

- One Ontario child in nine – more than 300,000 children – is growing up in poverty.
- Poverty costs us all. In fact, it costs every household in Ontario at least \$2,300 per year in extra health care, lost tax revenues, legal and other hidden costs.
- Good News: the Ontario Government has pledged to lift 90,000 Ontario children up from poverty by 2013, through a Poverty Reduction Plan with targets and timelines.
- The 25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction coalition has mobilized thousands of people and organizations – including our diocesan Social Justice and Advocacy Committee – to push for strong action on poverty.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Make sure that the government's spring 2009 budget contains measures to help the poor. Please ensure that your parish vestry passes the following motion, as requested by Bishop Colin Johnson:**

*The vestry of (name of parish) commends the Government of Ontario for its commitment to a poverty reduction plan for Ontario, and urges that the government's 2009 budget contain specific anti-poverty measures so that substantial progress is made toward poverty reduction and in alleviating hardship among the poor during 2009.*

**Send a letter or email to your local MPP and to Premier Dalton McGuinty ([dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)) supporting the vestry motion's themes.**

## FIND OUT MORE

[www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac)  
[www.25in5.ca](http://www.25in5.ca)  
[www.ontario.ca/breakingthecycle](http://www.ontario.ca/breakingthecycle)



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