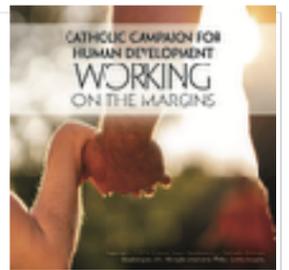


# CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING ON THE MARGINS



November 20th and 21st will be the annual special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Currently 38 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports those living in poverty across the country by funding programs that empower local communities to address the challenges they face. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect remain in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. By supporting this collection, you are giving those on the margins

*Below are highlights of the organizations within the Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau that receive funding from National CCHD Grants and are eligible for local grants:*

## Sitka Food Coop

**Our focus:** To improve the existing food, financial, and health insecurities within our community by making wholesome foods and products available as inexpensively as possible. By bringing “Good Food & Community Together” we can also serve as a center for activities and services that will enrich the life of our community.



**Benefits of CCHD grant:** We are able to expand services. The grant allows us to increase our outreach and educational programs, which in turn increases our membership and the overall savings to people’s food budgets. The grant continues to empower our Board of Directors to obtain the needed administrative and financial skill sets to manage and oversee a growing organization through access to workshops.

**Our shared mission with CCHD:** We return any profits made back to the community by helping members stretch their food budgets and by providing food and financial support to food banks. We are a community owned and operated organization. Many members of our local parish are members of our cooperative and are involved in volunteering throughout the year. When the Covid pandemic began, our organization needed to find a new location and thankfully, the St. Gregory Nazianzen Catholic Church in Sitka assisted us, so we could safely distribute over seven tons of food to our members.



## National Alliance On Mental Illness (NAMI)

**Our focus:** NAMI’s mission is to help individuals impacted by mental health conditions build better lives through education, advocacy, support, and public awareness. NAMI Alaska plays an essential role in educating and assisting individuals and families dealing with mental illness, working to reduce stigma by promoting stories of recovery and resiliency, while identifying and nurturing peer leaders who can then address mental health disparities in their own communities. The mentally ill are among the poorest, most marginalized, and under-served population in the United States. In Alaska, especially in rural communities, access to mental health services is severely limited due to access, isolation from other communities and infrastructures, and high rates of poverty. NAMI Alaska advocates for systemic change around this issue.

**Benefits of CCHD grant:** CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty, and NAMI Alaska is very grateful for the support provided to assist us in our mission as we reach out to rural Alaska. We are very blessed to be collaborating with the CCHD, The Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau and the Diocese of Fairbanks’ leaders who are offering resources and connections to individuals who may be willing to assist us in this effort.



**Shared mission with CCHD:** Like CCHD, we are steadfast in our commitment to raising awareness and building a community of hope for all those in need. NAMI Alaska is working towards a time where all people affected by mental illness in our state are able to live healthy fulfilling lives supported by their families, their cultures, and a caring community.



## Valley Interfaith Action (VIA) and Anchorage Faith And Action Congregations Together



**Our Focus:** VIA’s mission is to address quality of life issues for all residents of the Mat-Su Borough, utilizing the faith values of our members, developing community-wide interests and mobilization for change.

**Benefit of CCHD grant:** Through training, leaders address community problems by providing forums for discussion, researching alternative solutions, and working as facilitators with residents and leaders for institutional change.

### Shared mission with CCHD:

Human Dignity is VIA’s shared organizational value with CCHD. VIA members have worked on funding at the Pioneer Homes, housing and transportation issues in the valley, and pedestrian safety on city streets. Without CCHD funding, this work would have been almost impossible to accomplish. VIA’s structure calls forth those in poverty, as well as others to participate in decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities. Organizing provides the training and the structure that these leaders use to be effective in making positive changes in their communities.



**Our Focus:** To mobilize local faith organizations to build community and improve lives.

**Benefit of CCHD grant:** CCHD grants allow AFACT’ to have staff who spend every day working with ordinary people of faith who want to put their values into action.

**Shared mission with CCHD:** AFACT runs on the principle that we should never do for others what they can do for themselves. Instead, we see the potential in everyone to act, and we invite those most directly affected by issues in our community to be agents of change. In practice, what this means is that AFACT works to ensure that people who need housing assistance, who have histories of substance abuse, who have experienced homelessness, who need affordable childcare — anyone with direct experience of the issues in our community — are all at the table with people in power.



