Systemic Change
Why is it important?
How do you talk about it?

Sunnie Lain, St. Vincent de Paul-Cincinnati
Tom Mulloy, National Director, Poverty Programs
Jack Murphy, National Chair, Advocacy & Systemic Change
Prayer for Systemic Change

We praise and thank you, O God, Creator of the Universe. You have made all things good and have given us the earth to cultivate. Grant that we may always use created things gratefully, and share them generously with those in need. Give us creativity in helping the poor meet their basic human needs. Open our minds and hearts so that we might stand at their side and assist them to change whatever unjust structures keep them poor. Enable us to be brothers and sisters to them, friends who walk with them in their struggle for fundamental human rights. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  (from the Letter of Superior General on theme of annual Vincentian Day of Prayer 2008)
Systemic Change
Background & Approach

Jack Murphy, National Chair, Advocacy & Systemic Change
2012 Strategic Plan

VISION
END POVERTY
THROUGH
SYSTEMIC CHANGE

....One Community
One Neighborhood
One Person at a time
Since 2011, assistance value has grown 80%. There are still 43 million people in poverty.
“Systemic Change among those living in poverty aims beyond providing food, clothing, shelter and alleviating immediate needs. It enables people themselves to engage in the identification of the root causes of their poverty and to create strategies, including advocacy, to change those structures which keep them in poverty. Systemic Change requires transforming attitudes.” (2011)
“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

Attributed to St. Francis
Systemic Change Success Strategies

1. Involve people with lived experience from the start
2. Have a holistic vision
3. Particular emphasis on self-help and self-sustaining programs
4. Foster transparency
5. Construct a shared vision with diverse stakeholders

https://famvin.org/toolkits/systemic-change-english-kit/
Have a Holistic Vision

Traditional view of the “cycle of poverty.”
Have a Holistic Vision

A “Systems View” of Poverty

Well Being
- Food
- Health

Financial Stability
- Income
- Expenses

Self Sufficiency
Vincentian Service Continuum

Independence

Doing To Someone

Doing For Someone

Doing With Someone

Empowering & Equipping Someone

Dependence

Interdependence
Phases of Systemic Change

1. Systemically Changing Ourselves
   - Poverty Awareness & Education
   - More detailed home visit
   - More awareness of resources

2. Systemically Changing Our Conference Work
   - Mentoring
   - Microloans
   - Financial Skills
   - Getting Ahead / Dr. Donna Beegle
   - Local Advocacy

3. Community Wide Systemic Change
   - Neighborhoods of Hope
Introducing Systemic Change in a Council Using a Formational Approach

Sunnie Lain
St. Vincent de Paul-Cincinnati
Where we Started

2014:

• First round of Conference Assessments conducted based on National Standards of Excellence

• Data gathered during these assessments led to creation of a Council Formation Plan with specific goals tied to formation around Systemic Change concepts
Year One: 2015

• Revitalized practice of **Ozanam Orientation** (Participant Guide)
• Created curriculum for education about poverty concepts and Systemic Change
  • Exploring Poverty workshop (consider using **Dr. Beegle**)
  • First Friday Formation offered
  • **Bridges out of Poverty** book group
• First Council-wide Systemic Change workshop included:
  • **Allsup--SSDI**
  • **Caresource Life Services** (local Medicaid HMO’s Systemic Change program)
  • **Ohio Benefits Bank** (OBB) --two OBB trainings
Year Two: 2016

- Voice of the Poor study group
- First Getting Ahead (GA) session
  - Five Conferences co-sponsored
  - Council staff and a Conference President facilitated
  - Seven graduates—mentoring program
- Next level Poverty training offered—“Helping our Neighbors More Effectively”
Year Three: 2017

- GA for veterans
- Urban Outreach Center planning
- First Friday Formation Session on Catholic Social Teaching (consider using Serving in Hope IV)
- Four-week Goal Setting group
- Second round of Conference Assessments
- Establishment of Council VOP Committee
Year Four: 2018

- **Getting Ahead**
- Urban Outreach Center rollout
- First Friday Formation session on “Two Feet of Love in Action”
- Transition of GA from a Council initiative to a Conference-based initiative
- **Serving in Hope Module VII** offered at Council level
Systemic Change Resources

Tom Mulloy, National Director, Poverty Programs
http://www.svdpusa.org/vop
Q & A?
Help Us Build Communities in God's Vision of Justice

Holy Spirit,
   We praise and thank you!

You anoint us to
   bring glad tidings to the poor
   proclaim liberty to captives
   recover sight for the blind
   free the oppressed
   and build communities in keeping
   with God's vision of justice.

Show us how to be
   light of the world
   salt of the earth
   seeds that sprout love
   and leaven that infuses humanity
   with the desire to promote
   human dignity and solidarity.

Help us to listen so that
   those in poverty can lead our efforts to
   proclaim a more hopeful vision
   liberate captives from injustice
   heal the blindness of the powerful
   free us all from self-centeredness
   and build community to overcome poverty.

wearesaltandlight.org/

Amen.
Contacts

- Sunnie Lain, slain@svdpcincinnati.org
- Tom Mulloy, tmulloy@svdpusa.org
- Jack Murphy, jack.murphy@att.net