

Changing mindsets. Building bridges out of poverty.



A publication of
Unite Escambia's Poverty Solutions Team

CYCLING FOR CHANGE



On May 29, 2010, Ruhl and a team of up to fifteen thru-riders cyclists began their journey in Cape Flattery, Washington and ultimately end in Key West Florida. Last week the team arrived in Pensacola to a warm welcome of supporters.

Mayor Mike Wiggins declared Aug. 17 as "Poverty Solutions Day" at Plaza de Luna in downtown Pensacola. A similar proclamation was issued by Escambia County Commissioners.

Local cyclists participated in short- and long-ride segments with the team.

Participants of Catholic Charities' Bridges to Circles anti-poverty initiative greeted Ruhl and listened to stories of what he has seen around the country within other communities working to end poverty.

"America is a country of innovators, and if everyone worked together, poverty in this country would be wiped out," Ruhl said to a group of community members gathered at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart parish hall.

Mark Dufva, executive director of Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida, joined Ruhl and his team in Gulf Shores, Ala., and rode with them to Tallahassee.



"This ride is to make the statement that our level of poverty in Northwest Florida is simply unacceptable," Dufva said.

Get Involved

Bridges Out of Poverty

If you are looking to counter poverty or its impact on people and businesses in our community, explore the innovative concepts and training found in *Bridges out of Poverty* by Dr. Ruby Payne.

September 9, 2010 or October 14, 2010

Hands On Ally Training

This two hour session presents an overview of the Bridges to Circles poverty initiative and begins to equip the individual to serve as an ally for an individual moving from poverty to self-sufficiency.

September 23, 2010 or October 28, 2010

*All training is conducted from 6:00-8:00 pm, at the Catholic Charities Outreach Center
1815 N 6th Avenue, Pensacola*

*For more information contact Haley Richards
(850)429-7296, ext. 17 or email
richardsh@cc.ptdiocese.org*

POVERTY SIMULATION COMING

October 2010

The Poverty Simulation is an unique interactive experience that helps people begin to understand what life is like with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress. The simulation will also help move people to think about the harsh realities of poverty and to talk about how communities can address the problem. Most importantly, it will move participants to make a difference.

The simulation is a 2 hour experience that brings together social service providers, elected officials, clergy, educators, employers, and others to experience first hand what it is like in a typical month of living in poverty. Participants will be able to fully experience this through playing roles of family members struggling to meet basic needs without enough money.

Then, participants will come together to discuss how they felt and what they learned. Unite Escambia's Poverty Solutions Teams will be hosting a poverty simulation in October 2010. If you would like more information please contact Haley Richards, (850)429-7296, ext. 17 or email richardsh@cc.ptdiocese.org



HERE IS SOMETHING WE KNOW ABOUT CHANGE

FROM GETTING AHEAD WORKBOOK PAGE 70

Change is always going to happen. Some changes we have no control over. Some we do. Change is not always easy. It takes wisdom, courage, and motivation to change.

For more information about the Poverty Solutions Team, including our Mission, a Call to Action for both individuals and businesses, Definition of Terms, Team Descriptions / Contacts and Training Programs, visit www.uniteescambia.com.

Don't forget to tune in to **Bridges Out of Poverty** airing on WUWF-TV at various times each week. Call us for more information at 429-7296.

Together We Achieve More!

MILK PARTY

We've heard of Tea Party, now it's time to welcome the Milk Party. It's new, it's nutritious and it's coming to Pensacola.

The Milk Party rally to be held here on Labor Day, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Pensacola High School, is the first of 15 rallies to be held in September, from Pensacola to Key West, staged by the Children's Movement of Florida. You're invited! The Movement, co-chaired by noted children's advocate David Lawrence, went public on Aug. 9th after some 20 months of research and planning by a 27-member, non-political statewide steering committee.

The child-championing organization wants to educate Floridians on the need to improve the way our state tends to its children's health, education and welfare, saying children – not prisons, not bullet trains – need to be our priority. Among our current shortfalls: Florida regularly ranks in the bottom half of states in child health; nearly 800,000 children in Florida are not covered by health insurance, and the state's prekindergarten program does not meet most national standards.

More information on the Children's Movement of Florida can be found at

<http://childrensmovementflorida.org> .

See you at the rally!