



December 12, 2008 Poverty Summit Attendees' Feedback Summary

What is the most critical challenge people living in poverty face?

- 1) Making a living wage - especially for unskilled employment
- 2) Quality childcare
- 3) Affordable transportation
- 4) Affordable housing
- 5) Lack of employment opportunities
- 6) Lack of educational opportunities
- 7) Limited healthcare access
- 8) Homelessness
- 9) Access to mental health services
- 10) Alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) issues
- 11) Overall quality of life issues (few outlets for affordable social, cultural, entertainment and/or recreational opportunities)

What do you think needs to happen in Brown County to get at the root causes of poverty?

The most frequent response was a lack of emotional support and a sense of hopelessness among those in poverty. Participants suggested a need for encouraging self-sufficiency and gaining self-confidence. Another popular response was a need for community awareness, especially among the business and health care communities. Respondents would like to see more involvement from the community at-large and an emphasis placed on addressing barriers and stigmas.

Participant answers to this question also focused on gender roles and a greater need for involvement by fathers in their children's lives. Additional suggestions included financial and budgeting education, connecting service providers, rehabilitation for offenders and early childhood development.

What topics are you interested in learning more about at future Community Summits?

- Issues faced by youth
- Prevention programs
- Mental health services
- AODA (impact on the community)
- Services for men/addressing male involvement
- Educational opportunities
- Diversity in the Green Bay area
- Services for those with criminal backgrounds
- Immigration reform/issues

Nearly 300 people from all walks of life attended the Poverty Summit. The above is a summary gleaned from those who completed feedback forms provided on the day of the event.