

Resources

- A Framework for Understanding Poverty by Ruby Payne
- Bread for the World <http://www.bread.org/>
- Bridges Out of Poverty by Philip E. Devol, Ruby Payne, Terie Dreussi Smith
- Dignity Serves Training by The Polis Institute, <http://dignityserves.org/>
- Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) <http://frac.org/>
- My Name Is Child of God... Not "Those People": A First Person Look at Poverty by Julia Dinsmore
- The Lupton Center, <http://www.luptoncenter.org/>
- The Lupton Center, Seeking Shalom, <http://www.luptoncenter.org/seekingshalom/>
- Toxic Charity by Robert Lupton
- When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself by Steve Corbett, Brian Fikkert, et. al.
- Why Don't They Just Get a Job? One Couple's Mission to End Poverty in Their Community by Liane Phillips & Echo Montgomery Garrett (Cincinnati Works)

THE OATH FOR COMPASSIONATE HELPERS

I will **NEVER DO** for others what they have the capacity to do for themselves.

I will **LIMIT** one-way giving to crises and seek always to find ways for legitimate exchange.

I will seek ways to **EMPOWER** by hiring, lending, and investing and offer gifts as incentives to celebrate achievements.

I will put the interests of those experiencing poverty **ABOVE MY OWN** even when it means setting aside my own agenda or the agenda of my organization.

I will **LISTEN CAREFULLY**, even to not what is being said knowing that unspoken feelings may contain essential clues to healthy engagement.

And, above all, to the best of my ability,

I WILL DO NO HARM.

Could You Survive in Poverty?

Put a check by each item you know how to do.

- 1. I know which churches and sections of town have the best rummage sales.
- 2. I know when Walmart, drug stores, and convenience stores throw away over-the-counter medicine with expired dates.
- 3. I know which pawn shops sell DVDs for \$1.
- 4. In my town in criminal courts, I know which judges are lenient, which ones are crooked, and which ones are fair.
- 5. I know how to physically fight and defend myself physically.
- 6. I know how to get a gun, even if I have a police record.
- 7. I know how to keep my clothes from being stolen at the Laundromat.
- 8. I know what problems to look for in a used car.
- 9. I/my family use a payday lender.
- 10. I know how to live without electricity and a phone.
- 11. I know how to use a knife as scissors.
- 12. I can entertain a group of friends with my personality and my stories.
- 13. I know which churches will provide assistance with food or shelter.
- 14. I know how to move in half a day.
- 15. I know how to get and use food stamps or an electronic card for benefits.
- 16. I know where the free medical clinics are.
- 17. I am very good at trading and bartering.
- 18. I can get by without a car.
- 19. I know how to hide my car so the repo man cannot find it.
- 20. We pay our cable-TV bill before we pay our rent.
- 21. I know which sections of town “belong” to which gangs.

Hidden Rules Among Classes

	POVERTY	MIDDLE CLASS	WEALTH
POSSESSIONS	People.	Things.	One-of -a-kind objects, legacies, pedigrees.
MONEY	To be used, spent.	To be managed.	To be conserved, invested.
PERSONALITY	Is for entertainment. Sense of humor is highly valued.	Is for acquisition and stability. Achievement is highly valued.	Is for connections. Financial, political, social connections are highly valued.
SOCIAL EMPHASIS	Social inclusion of people he/she likes.	Emphasis is on self-governance and self-sufficiency.	Emphasis is on social exclusion.
FOOD	Key question: Did you have enough? Quantity important.	Key question: Did you like it? Quality Important.	Key question: Was it presented well? Presentation important.
CLOTHING	Clothing valued for individual style and expression of personality.	Clothing valued for its quality and acceptance into norm of middle class. Label important.	Clothing valued for its artistic sense and expression. Designer important.
TIME	Present most important. Decisions made for moment based on feelings or survival.	Future most important. Decisions made against future ramifications;	Traditions and history, most important. Decisions mode partially on basis of tradition and decorum.
EDUCATION	Valued and revered as abstract but not as reality.	Crucial for climbing success ladder and making money.	Necessary tradition for making and maintaining connections.
DESTINY	Believes in fate. Cannot do much to mitigate chance.	Believes in choice. Can change future with good choices now.	Noblesse oblige.
LANGUAGE	Casual register. Language is about survival.	Formal register. Language is about negotiation.	Formal register. Language is about networking.
FAMILY STRUCTURE	Tends to be matriarchal.	Tends to be patriarchal.	Depends on who has money.
WORLD VIEW	Sees world in terms of local setting	Sees world in terms of notional setting.	Sees world in terms of international view.
LOVE	Love and acceptance conditional based upon whether individual is liked.	Love and acceptance conditional and based largely upon achievement.	Love and acceptance conditional and related to social standing and connections.
DRIVING FORCES	Survival, relationships, entertainment.	Work, achievement.	Financial, political, social connections.
HUMOR	About people and sex.	About situations.	About social faux pas.