Too Many Canadian Kids are Living in Poverty!

The Church calls us to help the poor and the vulnerable ... we help those suffering in countries all over the world. but what about those right in our own backyards? Campaign 2000 noted 1 out of every 10 Canadian children were living in families that were struggling to make ends meet. They need our help!

POVERTY AFFECTS 3 MILLION CANADIANS .... 1 OUT OF 5 OF THOSE ARE CHILDREN! COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES, CANADA IS BELOW THE WORLD AVERAGE !

Salvation Army (2011)

POVERTY IS VERY HARD ON FAMILIES. JUST LIKE IN "Tight Times" by Barbara Shook Hazen , LIVING IN POVERTY MEANS THAT THESE FAMILIES STRUGGLE WITH PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE, AND ARE VERY STRESSED AND WORRIED. KIDS ARE OFTEN LEFT ALONE WHILE THEIR PARENTS WORK OR TRY TO MAKE ENDS MEET.

MANY FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY HAVE PARENTS THAT WORK. IN 2011, 1/3 OF CANADIAN KIDS LIVING IN POVERTY HAD PARENTS WHO WORKED FULL TIME.

BUT EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE WORKING, THEY DON'T MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THEIR BILLS. SOMETIMES, THAT MEANS FAMILIES, JUST LIKE THE ONE IN "Fly Away Home," by Eve Bunting, WHO LIVED IN AN AIRPORT, LIVE SECRET LIVES. THEY WORK SO HARD, BUT STILL CAN NOT GET AHEAD. THE KIDS ARE OFTEN LEFT ALONE, AND THE PARENTS WORK JUST TO MAKE ENDS MEET.

SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO IT?

God created each one of us. We are not supposed to judge other people for being poor, but Jesus wants us to help them! As Jesus said, "How blessed are you who are poor: the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are hungry now: you shall have your fill." Luke 6:20-21

Let's act justly, show that we are all children of God, and work together to start a <u>FREE Before & After School Program</u> at our school. This program would provide students a safe place to be, so their parents don't have to worry about their kids and can focus on working and making the money they need to support their families. This will definitely reduce behaviour problems on the playgrounds and help these students to focus better at school.