



On Myths and Narratives

As the year comes to a close, I would like to address three harmful narratives that still persist around poverty. Perhaps the most dangerous is that poverty is about idleness or a lack of drive. When we point the finger at what we believe to be individual failings, we make it easy to ignore the suffering of those who have less than us, and we absolve ourselves of any responsibility for that suffering.

I learned early working in communities where poverty runs high that the number one cause of poverty is birth. Warren Buffet referred to this as losing the ovarian lottery. When I reflect on poverty in this country and those whom I have had the honor of meeting, I realize that many of the hardest-working people I know are stuck in a cycle of poverty.

However you choose to look at it, to blame someone for the poverty they are in is like crediting a five-year old in a high-income neighborhood for the wealth of their parents. That five-year-old is likely to enjoy a similar economic status as their parents throughout their lifetime, just as the five-year-old born into poverty is likely to experience a similar economic status as their parents. More so, the former is also likely to live 10 - 20 years longer than the latter, but that's another discussion.

The key is not to bring down anyone, nor to "blame" people for having economic success and stability. Rather, it is to remove the obstacles facing those born to and living in poverty.

"The ignorant cast blame. The wise seek solutions." --Lao Tsu

Let's Seek Solutions. In 2023, The Shared Humanity Project will confront this false narrative head-on and work tirelessly to remove the "stigma" associated with poverty. Specifically, we will connect communities and sectors through a series of forums. We will use social media, podcasts, conference presentations, and targeted op-eds to

reach a broad audience with our message and to continue to promulgate our plan. We are also working on developing a regional and local volunteer corps that will help us connect more directly throughout the country. Most importantly, we will elevate the voices of families struggling in poverty in each of these activities

Support The Shared Humanity Project Today

I hope you will consider a financial donation to The Shared Humanity Project today to support us in our mission to promote social and economic change, together. We cannot do it without you.



*You will hear from me twice more this month as I address two other prevalent myths about poverty.

**The Shared
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The Shared Humanity Project, 9804 Ashburton Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20817 United States
Federal Tax ID: 85-3803944

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