



My Observations on Joining the Effort to Eradicate Poverty

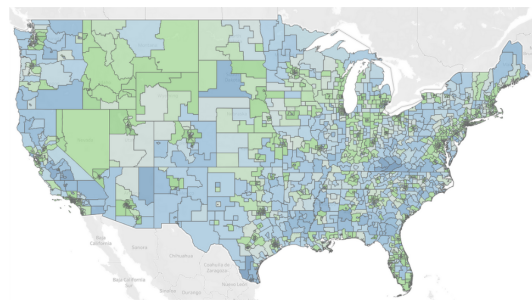
This November marks the **three-year anniversary** of The Shared Humanity Project's founding. As a new member of the team, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to support the organization's urgent work to change our country's approach to solving poverty. Indeed, a new method is imperative; **we cannot wait one more day.**

Nearly six decades after President Johnson launched America's "unconditional war on poverty," little has changed for the increasing millions of individuals who are impoverished and who suffer among us every day throughout the U.S.

I know that I am not alone in my astonishment of what has been accomplished through the collective efforts of The Shared Humanity Project in this short period of time. The creation of a long-overdue National Plan to End Poverty provides a powerful resource. Included in the Plan is a new way to measure and understand poverty, and it represents **a monumental first step** in the process of ensuring greater economic stability for our neighbors.

The National Plan replaces the one-size-fits-all approach

The National Plan replaces the one-size-fits-all approach of the federal government's poverty thresholds with the National Poverty Plan Standards (NPPS) – a new measurement based on 50% of local median income. This measure considers local costs of living and more accurately captures economic needs than the federal government's standard.



The Plan also identifies the greatest needs in every county in the U.S, allowing users to not just "do something," but to **do what is most needed in their respective communities.**

With this crucial tool in place, attention has now turned to aggressive implementation of the National Plan. One such effort is our Poverty Forums, and to

date forums have been held in Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD. Next up is a poverty forum at the University of North Carolina in February.

These forums bring together people across sectors in partnership with those who have experienced living in poverty to collaborate through ongoing Working Groups focused on solving the most pressing local issues.



My experience at the recent Baltimore Forum -- spending time with numerous folks (ages 13 to seniors) -- left me with an indelible sense of how effective this work is and will continue to be; importantly, it also strengthened my belief in the process that undergirds The Shared Humanity Project's innovative approach to ending poverty.

I came on board because I believe the solution is here

As we pass through this three-year anniversary and ready ourselves in 2024 to pass the 60th anniversary of the War on Poverty, pervasive poverty continues unabated. **It is clear that a new approach is imperative.**

I came on board because I believe the solution is here, with The Shared Humanity Project and our National Plan to End Poverty. It is a plan that gives each of us the knowledge and the guidance to play a meaningful role in rooting out poverty in our communities. We need your full support of our efforts – through your direct community engagement via the [National Plan](#) and your [financial contribution](#) to grow this movement.

We must refuse to accept the status quo. In a country characterized by great innovation and technological advances in every sector, it feels **outrageous that 1 in 4 Americans live in poverty.** And make no mistake, poverty affects all of us. Beyond the tragedy of such human deprivation, repercussions of not changing course from “managing” poverty will only result in heightened violence and declining public safety, rising trends in homelessness, and the substantial costs of educational failings and lost economic opportunity. Truly, we cannot wait another day.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katie".

Katherine Griffin Hand
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National Plan to
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