



Voices of Poverty

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Gienia's Story



Alcoholism

Mental Illness

Homelessness

Isolation

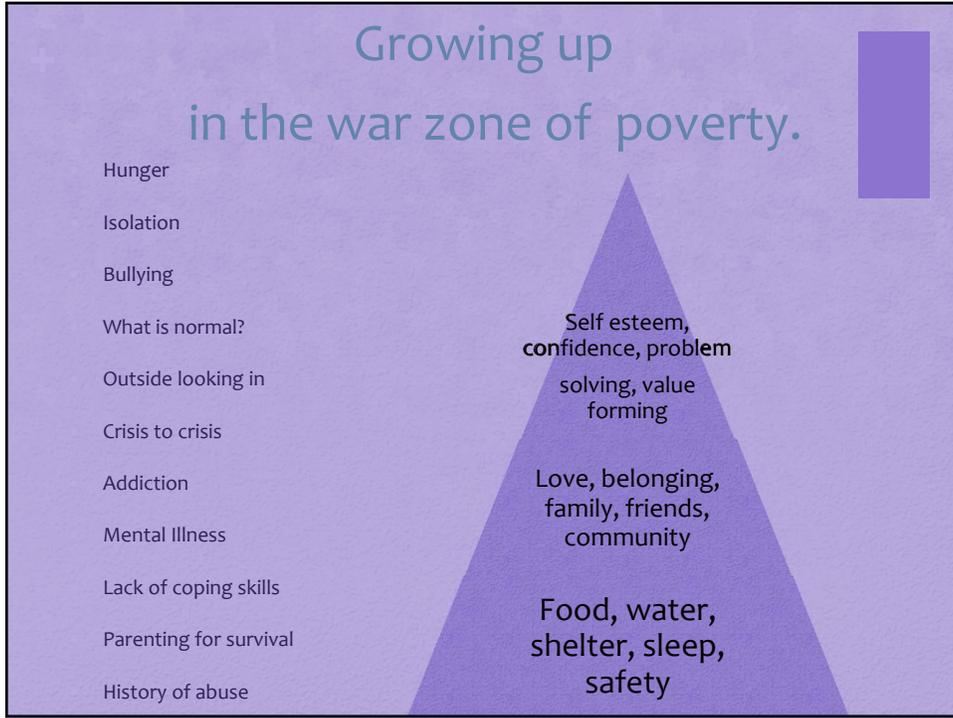
Fear

No Healthcare

Abuse and Neglect

Poverty

Starvation



Relationships Matter

Resiliency

- Friends
- Aunt Marie, Living on the other side of the tracks. SES
- Teachers that care
- My brother: abuser to mentor
- Mother learning how to show love
 - I love you is hard to say , Gienia the early therapist.

The Teen Years

- Love and acceptance
- 14: Gary Slover died at birth, Church Family
- 15: dropped out in the 8th grade, Pregnant with Rhea
- 16: Married, Abusive Relationship, Isolated
- 21: Divorced, had third child, Jacob
- 23: had fourth child, Joshua. Wanted a different life
- Didn't want my kids to ever know the pain I knew
- Trapped in poverty, no education or resources
- Started to dream of a better life, freedom from dictators

Welfare to Work

- “You people can't sit on your butts any longer and expect services.”
 - Based on fear factors: starve with my kids.
- A voice of hope. MOTIVATION!
- Worked 3 jobs, bought a home: joined the working poor.
- Went back to school, adoption and reality of poverty.

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Voices of Poverty

A Documentary of Interviews



■ Produced by Rhea Cramer

Rhea's Story



No Starvation

No Drug exposure

Poverty

No Abuse

Community of Mothers

Education

Low-Income Housing

Healthy Activities

Health Care Prenatal Care

Acted as Co-Parent

No Abuse

Early Intervention: Teen Parent Program, Head start

Culture & Communication

Communication with others: Oral vs. Print Culture (Ong, 1987)

Oral

- The natural human way to learn and communicate that we are all born with.
- Oral culture is linked to poverty

Print

- Print culture learning and communication styles develop when people read for their primary information
- Print culture is linked to middle class

* Each style brings rich opportunities for human growth and connections. A helping professional who is in touch with his or her natural oral communication and learning styles, as well as his or her learned print-culture style will have the most success in **breaking poverty barriers (Beegle, 2007)**

Activity

Class Continuum



What Poverty Teaches

- No one cares about me or my family
- I am alone
- I don't belong, I am not wanted
- I have nothing to offer
- I am not smart
- I am in a war zone and need to survive
- I have no control and neither do the adults in my world
- Things are taken away- don't care about or value personal objects
- Jobs can be menial and unfulfilling
- Education and learning have no place in the war zone of poverty. Education=Stress
- If you are silent or give off an aura of violence people might leave you alone
- You must do and say whatever it takes to survive

How do we advocate for children and support the entire family?...

- Families are often punished for not having skills that may have never been modeled to them.
 - Time management
 - House hold organization and cleanliness
 - Discipline
- Families may not have homes that meet “middle class standards” that we are more familiar with
 - Furniture (changing tables, beds for each person, dressers)
 - Multiple pets, stinky house, too many people

Should any of these result in a child being removed or not coming home?

What Works?

- Mentorship
 - Build on strengths, believe in people, trust/identification,
- Basic Needs/Access to Services
- Poverty Competency
 - What poverty teaches, what keeps people in poverty, oral/print culture
- Fight the poverty not the people!

Curious

By Donna Beegle

I find myself more late with every crisis
More angry with every injustice
More greedy with every deprivation
More rude with every judgment
More disorganized with every eviction
More negative with every untreated illness
More unstable with every insecurity.

I find myself more civil with every bite
More respectful with every kindness
More hopeful with every chance
More grateful with every opportunity
More ready to learn when I am safe
More motivated when there is hope
More happy when I am valued.

I find myself like the 37 million people in
poverty responding in a very human way to my
environment.