

# HOW CAN WE HELP FIGHT POVERTY?



Children gradually become aware that some people have more material wealth than others, but it's important to emphasize that the world is not divided into givers and receivers. Rather, all of us have something to give, and all of us need help at times. Chat about how others have helped you in times of need, and also the ways your family has helped others. As your children get older, think about challenging your family to move beyond charity to a focus on advocacy and social change.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Twenty-two percent of all children in the United States—that's more than 1 in 5—live in poverty.

### The impact of poverty on children:

- Increased likelihood of poor health in adolescence and adulthood
- Increased risk of social, behavioral and mental difficulties
- More likely to have an unstable home environment
- More likely to have poor cognitive and emotional development
- More likely to drop out of school

[http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub\\_1145.html](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_1145.html)

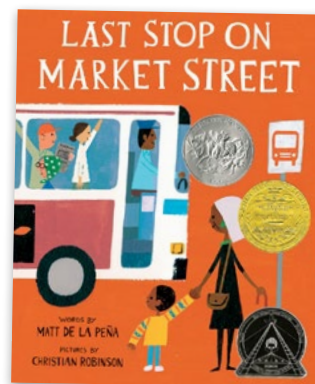
“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of **charity**. It is the **protection** of a fundamental human **right**, the right to **dignity** and a decent life.”

—Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa

## READ WITH ME

*Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña tells the seemingly simple story of a boy riding a bus with his grandmother. CJ's observations and ultimate destination will inspire your family to volunteer.

- What is Nana's attitude about life? How do her words show this?
- What kinds of things does CJ see on his trip?
- How do the illustrations make this story stand out?
- How does the book's conclusion make you feel? How does it make CJ feel? And Nana?



## LET'S TALK

At mealtime or bedtime, or when you're on the way to help out, bring up these questions.

- What do you think the words "poor" or "homeless" mean?
- People living in poverty must be very careful about spending money. Which of our possessions would we not have if our family lived in poverty? How would that feel?
- Everybody needs help sometimes. Think about a time when someone helped you. What did they do for you? How did that make you feel?

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE!

DGT™ will use your story to...

- Inspire others to make a difference!
- Make giving back seem doable.
- Lighten hearts and open minds on social media.
- Build excitement for more big-hearted good deeds!

SUBMIT YOUR GOOD STORIES TO:

[www.doinggoodtogether.org/good-stories/](http://www.doinggoodtogether.org/good-stories/)

## MORE SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP FIGHT POVERTY:

Create Back to School Kits

Launch a Drive for the Pajama Program

Feed Hungry Minds

Read More Stories About Families Struggling with Poverty

DOING  
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