



# SISTERS OF CHARITY ACTION NETWORK

**Let justice flow like a river and integrity like a steady stream. Amos 5:4**

January 2011

David Hilfiker, MD, has made it his mission in life to end poverty. His writings give us a perspective on the head and heart change that working for SYSTEMIC CHANGE demands. This is an excerpt from an article entitled “When Charity Impedes Justice”.

At another level, the fundamental problem for the poor in our country is not homelessness or AIDS or hunger or the like—or even any combination of these. They are just symptoms; the *problem* is injustice... this can lead to subtle impressions that if we just distribute enough food, or create enough bed space, or find enough homes—that is, if we just treat the symptoms—we will have solved “the problem.” Injustice, however, is more deep-seated. It is the inevitable result of the structures of our society—economic, governmental, social, and religious—that undergird inequality. The way things stand now, poverty is built into these systems.

1. This Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a symbolic vote by the House of Representatives to repeal the Health Care Reform Act passed in March. If you believe that this would not benefit the common good, you might want to go on the record about your position. Yesterday on a conference call sponsored by Faithful Reform in Health a recommendation was made to sign a petition To find out more about this organization and to take a stand, go to <http://www.faithfulreform.org/> (point to website, press ctrl and click)and simply read the petition that supports affordable, accessible, accountable and inclusive healthcare in the US and sign your name if you agree.

If you want more background watch **Healthcare Reform Meets Main Street**. Know the facts. A nine minute animated explanation of the main points related to this issue, produced by the Henry Kaiser Family Foundation.

[Health Reform Hits Main Street](#)

2. **Immigration and Detention** - Check IRATE and First Friends Website:

[www.irate-firstfriends.org/](http://www.irate-firstfriends.org/)

to see a recent comment posted about their reaction to the plan to double the size of the Detention Center in Elizabeth, NJ!

3. **Trafficking** - [Human Trafficking Awareness Resources](#)

From Washington, Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center(IPJC) has gathered resources to help individuals and communities observe Human Trafficking Awareness Day (January 11th) and National Slavery Human Trafficking Prevention Month (January).

[Prayer Service for Human Trafficking Awareness Day](#)

## [Annotated Human Trafficking Resources](#)

Save the Date In NY, a possibility for a Safe House for victims of trafficking is now within reach. On January 29 from 10:30am -12:30pm at the Ursuline Provinciate, New Rochelle, NY there will be an Information Session for sisters who have some interest in becoming a community member or in volunteering for periodic coverage in the LifeWay Network (LWN) Safe House. If you are interested in knowing more, call Mary Ellen OBoyle, SCNY at 718-879-5277 for a copy of the letter of invitation. All of us are asked to keep this work in prayer.

### **4. Racism**

Martin Luther King Day January Prayer Service <http://www.paxchristiusa.org/MLKJr.pdf>  
Resource from Catholic Charities USA. Poverty and Racism CCUSA's "E Pluribus Unum" parish dialogue program aims to educate and to form enlightened consciences on the connection between poverty and racism. The outcome of these spiritual exercises is to raise up voices which will advocate for programs and policies that promote the Common Good through the elimination of racism and the reduction of poverty in our nation.

### **5. From Cj Willie-NGO at the UN**

The United Nations and You February 1-7, The UN has passed a resolution to recognize World Interfaith Harmony Week annually during the first week in February...What can you do?1-Write a personal email or letter of support for this initiative and post it at the following website [www.worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com](http://www.worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com). 2-Bring together those of different faiths to share prayers, meditations, intentions or music from different spiritual traditions. The goal of this program is to recognize and to create greater understanding and cooperation between those practicing the many forms of human faith around the world. The full text of Cj's communication can be found at [www.sisters-of-charity-federation.org](http://www.sisters-of-charity-federation.org)

### **6. Earthquake in Haiti-First Anniversary**

Partners in Health ([www.pih.org](http://www.pih.org)) is a website that includes ways to remember and network for this struggling recovery.

Becoming an activist for social justice and health care can be one of the most powerful ways to help PIH. One person at a time, one community at a time, we can build a movement together. Here are some places to start.

- [www.zafen.org](http://www.zafen.org)
- [Join an activist organization](#)
- [Resources](#)

If you know of resources or events that would be of interest to those reading this paper either for information, participation or prayer, please email me at [mkhamm@scny.org](mailto:mkhamm@scny.org) or [mkhamm@scnj.org](mailto:mkhamm@scnj.org). Thank you. Kati Hamm SC