



# ATD FOURTH WORLD

## STOP POVERTY 2017 NEWSLETTER



# Stop Poverty 2017 Campaign News



*"At a time of unprecedented challenges which demand collective action,  
we cannot accept the waste of human potential that poverty represents.  
Poverty is a form of violence. It leads to prejudice and humiliation and it silences people.  
It destroys lives and is a major obstacle to forging a sustainable and peaceful world."*

With these words, ATD Fourth World is launching the international STOP Poverty campaign, to renew its commitment to ending poverty and to mobilize new generations and new voices to leave no one behind.

**Join us and add your voice in our Call to Action here: <http://poverty-stop.org>**

Sixty years ago from a shanty area in France, Joseph Wresinski and the families living there forged a union and then a public, international movement to say that poverty does not have to exist and that together we can end it.

Since the 1960's call to overcome poverty in the United States, ATD Fourth World Movement has grounded itself with individuals and families in areas of significant poverty: with Hispanic and African American families in New York and New Orleans, with people of German, Irish, and Scot descent in the mountains of Appalachia, and with Native American people in New Mexico. And they are not alone in their resistance to poverty. This Movement belongs to so many workers, teachers, parents, academics, and people of different philosophies of life and religious convictions all over the United States. Together we have made progress.

- Visit [4thworldmovement.org](http://4thworldmovement.org)
- Sign up for our e-newsletter
- Like us on Facebook **ATD Fourth World USA**
- Write to us at PO Box 1787, Gallup NM 87305
- Or e-mail us at: [nationalCenter@4thworldmovement.org](mailto:nationalCenter@4thworldmovement.org)



## Stay in Touch

We need the patience and time to build trust with the individuals and families who have been left behind in our communities and to learn from them the path to follow. We all also need these times of strength, solidarity, and joy when we band together to support one another, to make our voices heard, and to renew our spirits.

Let's all find ways to put energy toward this today. Here's how:

**Sign and share with others the Call to Action: <http://poverty-stop.org>**



## Get a singing group or a choir together

to sing songs that have made this Movement strong over the years and that are still meaningful today (e.g. "This Land is Your Land," "We Shall Overcome," and other regional and international songs). Concerts are already taking place in New Orleans, California, and Boston to raise awareness and funds for music, culture, and art opportunities in under-resourced communities. Excerpts from recordings of these concerts and others around the world will be featured in United Nations Radio on October 17th, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Organize a concert in your area and let us know so we can share with the wider network! Keep it simple, make it meaningful, and make it known.

More information including song titles from around the world and communications materials here:  
<http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/stop-poverty/get-involved/joining-our-voices>



Photos from the Join Our Voices concert in New Orleans that marked the launch of the campaign, at Trinity Episcopal Church, February 12, 2017. Thanks to the many choirs and performers who contributed to the meaningful event!

## Write up or tell us stories of change

Send us a story that tells how poverty is not inevitable - when we're together it can be overcome. Stories like the one about a young boy who decided to sit next to and encourage another child in his class who was having a hard time in school. Or the story of the parent of a teenager killed in violent crossfire on his way home from school who formed a Peace Institute in his name. The Peace Institute comforts other victims of violence and the families of the perpetrators who are also facing great sadness and loss. Stories of Change will be published on the blog here: <https://storiesofchange.atd-fourthworld.org>

We need to make known these gestures toward peace and overcoming the violence of poverty. They exist. These people exist.



"The success of their IDEP (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty) speech made them feel like they had a voice and they could make positive changes," says Mark Fusco, a teacher at Hyde Leadership School in New York. Hyde students are now working to improve their neighborhood.



"The computer familiarization classes have turned over 500 people from 'technology-avoiders' into computer and technology literates - and hungry for more," say Barney and Vina Reilly, supporters of the ATD Fourth World Learning Co-op in Appalachia.



"One of my favorite things to do is helping others work together as a team and to learn to appreciate what they have," says John White, who works with groups of young people at Youth Conservation Corps and the University of New Mexico.

Joseph Wresinski created a movement in the belief that human beings created poverty and human beings can overcome it. Now is the time to reach out, bring our strengths together, and open the doors to new people who are searching for a way to put their convictions to work for ending poverty.

Call us, write us, and tell your friends! Let's see how we can support each other to make this 60th year of ATD Fourth World a launching pad for the new society we so want and need.

**Donate now using the enclosed card and envelope to support the campaign!**

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