

Did you know that in 2005 19% of the world population was living under the international poverty line of \$1 per day? That is 1.2 billion people.

What does that mean? It means hunger, illiteracy, disease and death. It means that over 1.2 billion people do not have access to clean water, 3 billion do not have access to sanitation, 2 billion do not have electricity, and each day 30,000 children die due to poverty. It means that while we, in the U.S., consume 30% of the world's resources, nearly half of the global population, surviving on less than \$2 per day, suffer needlessly.

It is common to hear people remark that poverty is the result of laziness, a lack of motivation, or other individual vice. This is not true. The difference between wealth and extreme poverty is luck. Luck at being born into a society with access to social services, such as education, that allow for social mobility.

In many countries such support services do not exist: the poor do not have access to education because they cannot pay for it; they do not have sufficient food because they cannot afford it; and they cannot find work because they are weak or ill from hunger. These conditions form a burdening cycle of poverty: there is no way out without intervention.

Do we care? The answer is: not enough. Most international aid and media attention is focused on natural disasters and short-term relief, but to change the face of global poverty we need to look for sustainable, long-term aid programs.

Changing the focus of global aid requires a joint effort but it can and is being done. On September 28th, Freedom from Hunger, a pioneering nonprofit organization that promotes sustainable development and is successfully empowering families around the world to lift themselves out of poverty, is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Please join me in the fight to end extreme poverty by educating yourself, your family and your friends.

To find out more about Freedom from Hunger, visit www.freefromhunger.org.