

NUUs Letter

Volume 21, No. 4 - September 2019

Northwoods Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship

8625 Peggy's Lane, P.O. Box 1881,
Woodruff, WI 54568

715-356-3908 ~ www.nuuf.com



We are a Welcoming Congregation
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

Unitarian Universalists believe more than one thing. We think for ourselves, and reflect together, about Life's important questions.

.. Our beliefs are diverse and inclusive. We have no shared creed. Our shared covenant supports "the free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Though *Unitarianism* and *Universalism* were both liberal Christian traditions, this responsible search has led us to embrace diverse teachings from Eastern and Western religions and philosophies.



We light this chalice for
the light of truth.
We light this chalice for
the warmth of love.
We light this chalice for
the energy of action.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sept. 1, Laura Erickson

Sept. 15, Rev. Phil Sweet

**Sept. 29, Rev. Jennifer LaPorte, Hospice
chaplain**

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. alternating with our regular Sunday services

Sept. 8 and 22, Ancient Civilizations of North America: Start

of a new lecture series.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Men's Discussion Group meets on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 6 p.m. at the Fellowship

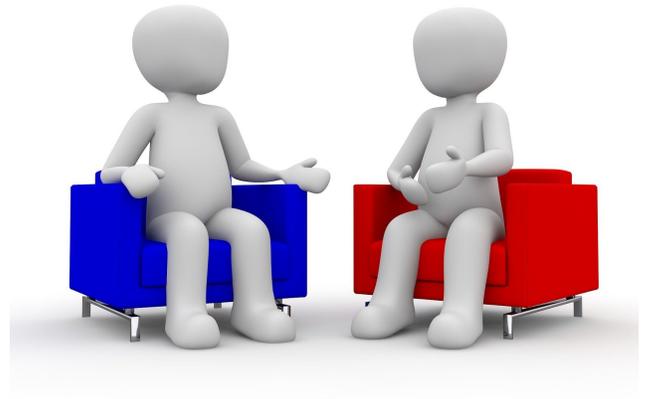
All men of the fellowship are invited to attend this potluck followed by discussion led by Frank Patin. Because of conflicts we have changed our September meeting from the second Tuesday of the month to the fourth Tuesday. Please bring a side dish to pass, main course is being provided. New members welcome. Contact Dick Fields, dmafields@yahoo.com, for more information or to bring the main course.

Women's Evening Discussion Group meets Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Fellowship in the Dr. Cline Room

All are invited to attend this discussion. No food is served. New members welcome. Contact Natalia Graf-Jones, for more information.

Daytime Women's Group meets the 4th Tuesday at 10am at NUUF.

The next meeting will be held Sept. 24. The topic for the meeting is to be decided. Many of us go out to lunch together after the meeting.



MILESTONES

Cara Hettich	09-01-
Sherry Zoars	09-01-
Tim Kratz	09-01-
Jonathon Beutler	09-01-
Jerry Collins	09-05-
Ruth Erbs	09-07-
Rev. Sydney Morris	09-07-
Briana Kubinek	09-08-
MacKenzie Reupert	09-08-

Mollie West	09-10-
Eileen Schultz	09-10-
Greg & Dawn Holt	09-10-

Sharon Reilly	09-11
Cathy & Dion Peterson	09-13-
Erick Boustead	09-16-
Patricia Stanley	09-15-
John Kuczowski & Mary Alice Forester	09-17
Don Roberts	09-27-
Betsy Schussler & Rick Foral	09-30-

Do you see a mistake that can be corrected? If so, please contact Candy Sorensen at (715) 892-2997 or sorencan@yahoo.com Thanks!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For distribution of announcements between newsletters or email/address corrections, contact Candy Sorensen at sorencan@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Frederick Place in Rhinelander has a sizeable number of dates open for meals. If you can help out with one of these dates you can either call Frederick Place at 715-369-9777 or email Tammy Modic at tammymodic.frederickplace@gmail.com
- The next **Fair Trade day** at NUUF is Sunday, Sept. 1. If you want to pre-order coffee or chocolate in quantity (such as a box or case), please email me by this Sunday evening Sunday, Aug. 25, at david.barnhill.925@gmail.com so we can send in the order. Orders for chocolate will not be available until October.
 NOTES: >> Be sure to specify ground/drip or whole bean.
 >> Note the difference between a BOX of six 10-12 oz. bags, and a CASE of five 2 pound bags.
 Send check made out to NUUF, to David Barnhill, 7164 Clawson Drive, Hazelhurst, WI 54531, 920-745-0842, david.barnhill.925@gmail.com.
 Remember, please send me the order by this Sunday evening June 30. A sampling of coffee and chocolate will be available on July 7. Thanks for supporting Fair Trade for small farmers.

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- The **Social Justice Committee** will meet after the service on Sept. 15th. Anyone is welcome to attend. We welcome new members.
 - "A hearty THANKYOU to all those who helped clean up our berm area on Aug. 17. Lots of hard work was done with rakes, trowels, and chainsaws and it looks great!"
- The Memorial Garden Committee
 - **UU Hospitality Committee Provides or Supports the following activities:**
 - Coordinates after-service coffee hour. Members are encouraged to sign up to provide snacks, but if no one volunteers Hospitality provides donuts/cookies.
 - Keeps the kitchen stocked with needed supplies.
 - Coordinates a light luncheon after the annual meeting.
 - Assists with set-up and clean-up for any potlucks and/or picnics.
 - Hosts the Community Table with the Evangelical Free Church 3 times a year.
 - Hosts a movie night monthly.
 - Coordinates a social hour and potluck with the Holiday Service.

The committee welcomes suggestions for other activities. For example, Joan Hauer and Doris Eberlein have agreed to organize a lunch and trip to the Leigh, Yawkey, Woodson Fall Bird Exhibit.

In addition, our annual auction provides many events and activities for our members, such as game nights, dinners, garden tours, yard games and picnics, hike/pizza parties, pontoon cruises, cooking and craft classes, kayaking, guided fish trips, movie nights, musical evenings, health classes, etc. (Many thanks to those who provide these opportunities.)

If anyone has additional suggestions or would like to organize an activity, please attend the Hospitality Committee Meeting on September 29th. All are Welcome!! -[Hospitality Committee](#)

Hospice Education Program: Making Every Moment Matter

Are you planning to care for a loved one in the future?
Would you like to make a difference in the life of a family during the end-of-life process?
Interested in volunteering for hospice?

This 4-week course provides a wealth of end-of-life information. Free and open to the public, this course is facilitated by professionals from the Ascension at Home Hospice team, who will share their experiences and expertise in a dynamic, interactive format.

9 a.m. - Noon Wednesdays
Beginning September 18, 2019

Ascension at Home

1571 N. Hwy 51, Suite C, Arbor Vitae, WI 54568

If interested in an evening class, please call for availability.

The curriculum will provide a foundation of end-of-life information, including:

- Death awareness
- Communications
- Family dynamics
- Terminal diseases
- The dying process
- Pain and symptom management
- Medical ethics
- End-of-life decisions
- Spirituality
- Grief
- Post-death rituals
- Self-care for caregivers

This class provides valuable information for people who may be faced with caring for a loved one in the future, healthcare professionals, employers, college students or anyone who is interested in exploring becoming a hospice volunteer.

Those who complete the 4-week course may choose to continue with additional sessions that would provide them with the specific information needed to serve as a hospice volunteer.

The class is free to attend, but space is limited.
Pre-registration is required (by September 11).

To register, contact Mary Ellen at 800-234-3542 or maryellen.kaminski@ahah.net



Ascension at Home

ascensionathome.com

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- Reminder: this Thursday is the **monthly meeting of Our Wisconsin - Northwoods** (agenda attached). 6:00-7:30 pm, Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, www.nuuf.com/directions.
Next Tuesday, Sept. 10, 4:00-5:30, at the Eagle River public library, there will be a presentation about the recent surge in climate activism, led primarily by youth. I will cover several major groups, and we'll have time to discuss their different approaches. **Please spread the word.** This rise in activism is inspiring! -David
 - **COMMUNITY TABLE:** Our membership is asked to bring main dishes and salads to St. Matthias by 4:00. If you are working please feel free to leave your contribution in the refrigerator or on the counter. We also need 2 people for set-up and later help clean-up. Faith Evangelical Free Church is a partner and very pleasant to work with.
Let me know what you can contribute. We are asked to participate 3 times a year. Please show your support. Hospitality Committee
 - A must-read book for UU's. **ENLIGHTENMENT NOW: The Case For Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress, by Stephen Pinker**, 2018, 576 pages (but easy and exciting to read; a page-turner). No. 1 on New York Times bestseller list. Bill Gates said it is the best book he has read in 10 years, and it is currently his favorite book. Yuval Harari, author of *Sapiens*, etc., says, "extols the amazing achievements of modernity, and demonstrates that humankind has never been so peaceful, healthy, and prosperous." Richard Dawkins says, "Steven Pinker's mind bristles with pure, crystalline intelligence, deep knowledge, and human sympathy. And he writes as he thinks, with a sinewy mot-justery of language which I find irresistible." Stephen Pinker is the Johnstone Family Prof. of Psychology at Harvard, where he conducts research on cognition, language and social relations. He has written many prize-winning books, and has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, and has won many prizes for his teaching and research. The author shows, "... that the current bleak assessment of the state of the world is wrong," and presents, "a different understanding of the world, grounded in fact and inspired by the ideas of the enlightenment: reason, science, humanism, and progress, ideals which are timeless and have never been more relevant than they are now." Available from Amazon for Kindle (\$13.99), paperback (\$10.49), and audiobook. Recommended by Ed Stoeber
 - Sasquatch Sip & Stroll at the Lakeland Discovery Center Sept. 15, contact Candy Sorenson at sorencan@yahoo.com.
 - For the current and future health of our community, we invite you to become more involved. To that end, please consider participating in one or more of an

upcoming trio of workshops to be held at the Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Woodruff.

In September we will begin a short series of sessions titled "Who Are YouUU?" and sponsored by the UUA. These will culminate with a Retreat on October 5th.

The first session will be held on Thursday, September 19th, from 6-7:45pm. We will clarify and share our personal journeys of becoming a UU.

The second session will be held on Thursday, September 26th, from 6-7:45pm. We will become more informed about the UU denomination.

Please email Mary Beth at mboholloran@yahoo.com if you wish to attend either of the above sessions, to help us plan ahead. But join us even if you can't make both sessions, or haven't told us in advance.

The culminating session will be a Fellowship Retreat from 9/9:30am-2pm, and provides historical information and current operations and information specific to the NUUF. This session also includes a lunch provided by Subway. RSVP to Toni at skipols@newnorth.net by September 30th if you plan to attend the retreat.

- **Are you aware of Nicolet College's Learning in Retirement (LIR) program?** It's a great opportunity. They offer LOTS of courses – all different kinds – both fall and spring. For just \$45, you can attend any or all of the courses! You can review all the fall courses online. I thought I would point out one course, "The Climate Crisis," which I will be teaching. It will take place on four successive Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00: Sept 12, Sept 19, Sept 26, Oct 3. That course will be held at the Minocqua Public Library. Other courses are at a variety of locations. I encourage you to check out all the courses. I bet you'll find some that interest you, and you'll recognize some of the teachers. You can register for the program at www.nicoletcollege.edu/lir. - David Barnhill
- Ascension Koller Behavioral Health will be offering **Mental Health First Aid training** at Saint Mary's Hospital on November 18, 2019. This groundbreaking eight-hour training course gives people the tools to identify when someone might be struggling with a mental health or substance use problem and to connect them with appropriate support and resources when necessary. For more information or to participate in a Mental Health First Aid training in Rhinelander, visit www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org or contact Angela Kirkham, RN at 715-361-4876 or angela.kirkham@ascension.org
- **Free Screening of *Suicide - The Ripple Effect* and Mental Health Resources Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 5:30 p.m.** Located at the Nicolet College Lakeside Center, 5364 College Drive, Rhinelander.

Suicide - The Ripple Effect focuses on devastating effects of suicide and the positive ripple effects of advocacy, inspiration and hope that are helping millions

of people heal and stay alive. The film highlight's Kevin Hines' journey, who at age 19, attempted to take his life by jumping from the golden gate bridge. This film is appropriate for 10 years and above.

This event includes a Mental Health Resource Fair. They are looking for organizations, businesses and coalitions to put together resource tables at this event. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Courtney Weber at Courtney.weber@ascension.org. This would include being available before and after the film screening to answer any questions people may have.

For general information regarding this event contact Heidi Pritzl, Ascension Koller Behavioral Health at 715-477-3062.

- **Caritas** is an ecumenical/interfaith group that meets Thursdays 9am – noon to listen to the stories of people who have needs in Oneida and Vilas Counties and offer help when possible.
If you can be an empathic listener and want to make a difference in our community and the lives of our residents, this may be the volunteer opportunity for you! If interested, please contact our director, Beth Jacobson at bjgraphic2@gmail.com. **And check out the article about Caritas on page 11!**

Our NUUF Community

If you know someone who is interested in joining the *Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*, please contact Candy Sorensen at sorencan@yahoo.com or call 715-892-2997.

Check out our website <http://nuuf.com>. Also take time to "LIKE" us on Facebook. Click here on [Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship](#) for direct access if you already have a Facebook account. We're posting pics, reminders about events and more.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Newsletter

Hello everyone, I will be compiling the newsletter for the foreseeable future! Please send announcements and updates to me, Carly Ratliff, at carly.j.ratliff@gmail.com or to Candy Sorensen at sorencan@yahoo.com by Sept. 28 for the September newsletter. It is very helpful if your copy is written exactly the way you want it to read so that it can be copied and pasted. Thank you!

NUUF Committees need new members!

BOARD of DIRECTORS (2019-2020)

	President	Randy Wendt (2018-2020)
	Secretary	Pam Thul-Immler (2019-2021)
Treasurer	Kate Rahimzadeh (2019-2021)	
Directors at Large	Constance Downey (2018-2020)	
Directors at Large	Connie Lefebvre (2019-2021)	

STANDING COMMITTEES: These committees are created by the By-laws of the Fellowship.

Finance Committee This committee aids the treasurer in monitoring incomes, expenses, cash flow, assets and financial record keeping of the fellowship, makes recommendations on investments and payments of long term debts, directs the annual budget process, sends periodic pledge statements to members and oversees the annual canvass.

Terry Hoyt - Chair, Kate Rahimzadeh - Treasurer, Alan VanRaalte, Don Roberts, and Randy Wendt, President.

Spirituality (Program) Committee The Spirituality (Program) Committee facilitates Sunday programming, including both fellowship and outside presentations; serves as a resource for program ideas and formats; selects and arranges dates for visiting ministers/speakers; seating arrangements, recording of the service and other supplies and items needed for the Sunday program; and coordinates with the treasurer the payment of the speakers and with the Publicity Committee to publicize the program, and arranging housing for visiting ministers and speakers. The committee works to develop the musical portion of worship services. It is responsible for the tuning and repairing the piano and organ. It also reviews and acquires sheet music including hymnal supplements.

Dick Fields - Chair, Patty Buehler - Vice-Chair, Terry Hoyt, Bob Hanson, Alan VanRaalte, Sharon VanRaalte, Jana Mirs, and Mary Beth O'Halloran.

Religious Education Committee (Adult and Children) this committee is responsible for setting up programs to help the children of the fellowship to develop their own spiritual beliefs and ethics. The committee recruits teachers, adopts curricula, budgets and orders supplies and equipment for classrooms and coordinates childcare for religious services. The committee is also responsible for the adult religious education program that runs on the alternate Sundays from our regular services. Terry Hoyt, Barbara Beutler, Candy Sorensen, and Dick Fields.

Membership Committee This committee welcomes newcomers and visitors, providing them with information on the fellowship and Unitarian-Universalism. The committee also provides new member orientation, maintains the stock of literature and name tags, and maintains the visitor's book and fellowship member's book. It is also responsible for updating the membership and friend's list. This committee has now also taken over the duties of what had been the Publicity Committee. This committee produces the fellowship newsletter and disseminates fellowship news and announcements to members and friends, provides local newspapers with timely articles about the fellowship and its activities, develops and implements an annual advertising campaign, and maintains the fellowship website.

Cheryl Hanson - Chair, Candy Sorensen, Constance Downey, Joan Hauer, Patty Buehler, Terry Hoyt and Barb Kane

Social Justice Committee This committee provides leadership in the membership in expressing liberal religious ethics in action. The committee promotes community action on social issues to help support the principles, purposes and resolutions of Unitarian-Universalism makes information available to the fellowship and surrounding community about social justice issues, and encourages social action at local, state, national and international levels.

Nancy Junkerman - Chair, Cheryl Hanson, Ginny Metzdorf, Brianna Kubinek, Connie Lefebvre and Catherine Joppa.

OTHER COMMITTEES CREATED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD.

Building and Grounds This committee oversees the basic upkeep and repair of the fellowship building and exterior property, including landscaping, snow plowing, cleaning, painting and minor equipment repairs, and maintains cleaning supplies.

Terry Hoyt - Chair, Ann Sorensen, Walt Jones, Mike Haasl, Cara Hettich, Sharon Riley and Marjorie Scaffidi.

Aesthetics and Gifts Committee This committee provides thoughtful coordination and/or facilitation of all changes that affect the appearance and ambience of the building and its grounds. Its primary goals are to create a welcoming, comfortable

and safe environment; collaborate on any material changes with the Building and Grounds Committee and the Board when needed; receive and archive material gifts.

Jana Mirs - Chair, Cara Hettich – Liaison with the Building and Grounds Committee, Toni Lieppert Polfus, and Pam Thul-Immler.

Care Committee This committee provides support and comfort to members and friends during times of bereavement, provides support to people who are ill or disabled and, as appropriate, alerts the fellowship to services that might be needed by others and arrange for them to be performed.

Joan Hauer - Co-Chair, Mary Beth O'Halloran - Co-Chair, Toni Lieppert Polfus, Pam Thul-Immler, Mary Ann Fields, Frank Patin, Judi Maloney and Connie Lefebvre

Hospitality Committee This committee is responsible for Sunday coffee hour, volunteer sign ups, coffee hour supplies, coordination of the potluck at the annual meeting, other fellowship pot-lucks. This committee also initiates and arranges indoor and outdoor social events for the membership.

Candy Sorensen - Chair, Terry Hoyt, Nancy Johnson, Janice Reed, and Suzy Foster.

Memorial Garden Committee This committee is responsible for the maintenance of the Memorial Garden. The committee develops landscaping, prepares a budget, maintains the records of the garden, and coordinates arrangements for the memorial plaques.

Bob Hanson - Chair, Barb Mochon, Teress Toigo, Kate Rahimzadeh and Judi Maloney.

COMMITTEES CREATED BY CONGREGATIONAL VOTE

Endowment Funds Committee This committee makes recommendations for expenditure of endowment funds in accordance with guidelines approved by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting or Special Congregational Meeting. This committee shall consist of three elected members serving staggered three-year terms. The President, Randy Wendt, and Treasurer, Kate Rahimzadeh, shall serve as voting ex-officio members. The committee shall elect its own chair.

Elected members are Judi Maloney, (2020), Barb Mochon (2022), and Bob Hanson (2021).

Investment Committee This committee is responsible for the safekeeping, investment and reinvestment of all endowment funds. Its authority is specifically set out in Article X. of the Fellowship By-laws. This committee shall consist of three members selected by the Board, serving staggered three year terms, and two voting ex-officio members, the Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair. Kate Rahimzadeh (Treasurer), Terry Hoyt (Finance Committee Chair), Faye Calvey (2020), Mel Hoff (2021), and Bev Strauss (2019).

Nomination Committee This committee of three members is selected at the annual meeting and is responsible for finding candidates for Board and certain committee positions at the following year's meeting. 2020 members are Dick Fields, Joan Hauer, and Sharon VanRaalte

Time for Caritas

by Meghan Combs

In our community, there is a largely diverse economical imbalance amongst its residents. Many who fall into the less than desirable, lower end of the ladder face an enormous variety of obstacles. *Caritas* derived from the Latin word “charity,” a non-profit organization in Minocqua, WI, eagerly striven to assist with the most urgent needs of those who are struggling by ways of money, knowledge and referrals. Being a small organization that attempts to assist Minocqua and all its neighboring districts, *Caritas* needs the donations, time, and attention from the willing, able-bodied community to focus on helping lower income families trapped within the tire-spinning cycle of poverty. Despite the common misconception that giving to the poor only makes them poorer; working with *Caritas* can help those individuals by providing crucial tools and resources they may use to get the upper hand and break the cycle.

Often times, poverty within the working-class results from single or separated parents. In Wisconsin, 56% (264,134) of children in low-income families live with a single parent (National Center for Children in Poverty). In Oneida county alone, over 800 adult parents and over 2,000 of their children meet the poverty requirements for BadgerCare Insurance in 2019 (BadgerCare Plus Enrollment Date). Many families are stuck in less than mediocre income situations and have never learned the tools or steps to change their circumstances. *Caritas*, an incredibly unique organization differs greatly from many local or global charities who don’t focus on the bigger picture. *Caritas* pools together money from churches in the area to provide one single location to go to for someone who is requesting assistance. Some local lawyers and dentists have even agreed to help as well as mechanics have given discounts for auto repairs. Unfortunately, there is a struggle to maintain enough *Caritas* volunteers; for each client, two volunteers are needed to delicately conduct an interview in order to establish a plan for action on a case by case basis. *Caritas* not only assists with urgent financial situations; it has made the biggest impact by helping people work through their current problems and sometimes connecting them with their numerous off-site recourses.

This organization is all about trying to help someone get a leg up in their life; providing the tools and guidance they need stand back up and reach for that end goal by, “Giving them confidence and a little bit of their dignity back” (*Caritas*). *Caritas* may also offer through one of their resources; temporary housing, vouchers for used clothing and bedding stores, vouchers for utilities, gas, bills or driver’s license renewal; food assistance, nutrition services, medical services, drug rehab, and prescriptions. A volunteer shared, “The goal is to help them get on their feet, so we bought one man a lawn mower so he could earn money on his own” (*Caritas*). A frequently told story embodies *Caritas*’ essence:

“May I ask what it is that you are doing?”

The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As

it met the water, he said,
"It made a difference for that one." (*Eiseley*)

Caritas is empathetic to all who walk through their door; however, they remain mindful of those who do try to work the system by keeping up to date documentation for all the donations and assistance they have given out and to whom. *Caritas* maintains a firm stance on how they are willing to help people by making it known, "We can't help them support themselves, but we can connect them with [Nicolet Area Technical College] or jobs by just making them aware of how to go about it," adding that, "Sometimes they just don't know how to talk in a way of self-advocacy" (*Caritas*).

We may not be able to solve economic challenges and indifferences on a grand scale, but we can make a difference for the ones we cross paths with. Whether it be volunteering your time, offering your knowledge or trade skills, becoming another resource contact, donating money or other household goods; every kind act is a step in the right direction to help unify and strengthen the community. Giving your attention to *Caritas* can be good for business owners as well; a study shows that 91% of consumers expect businesses to care about more than just their profit margins, they believe businesses should be active in addressing social and environmental issues (Global CSR Study). Together, giving our time for *Caritas*, we can end the cycle of poverty one starfish at a time.

Works Cited

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- “Wisconsin Demographics of Low-Income Children.” *National Center for Children in Poverty*, NCCP, www.nccp.org/profiles/WI_profile_6.html.