



Community Conversations Summary

This is a summary of community meetings facilitated by the GHPFA with members of the community about how poverty impacts housing, youth, employment, education, health, and food.

Housing

- “Affordable Housing” isn’t affordable
- Need for safe and supportive communities to live in
- Rent takes up majority of income
- Landlords should be held accountable
- Housing for seniors should be a higher priority

Youth

- Need affordable enrichment opportunities
- Need financial literacy education starting at a young age
- Need nutrition education from a young age
- Need safe childcare
- Need parental education for young parents
- Need pre-parental education

Employment

- Lack of preparedness for applicants
- Lack of information on job availability
- Lack of stability in jobs (Temporary jobs being available more often)
- Application process and technology
- Lack of benefits

Health

- Cost of medication resulting in people skipping their medication
- Health issues more common in pandemic
- Access to healthy nutrition to prevent doctor visits
- Lack of information on how healthcare plans work
- Need care that does not depend on income
- Income often determines the compassion and quality of healthcare delivered

“It’s hard to support your community when you’re just trying to survive.”
- Burns Hill Community Member

“Everyone was so aggressive to get into the communities for the ‘jobs’ – I wish they were as aggressive to bring food, medicine, and information into the community as well.”

- Burns Hill Community Member

Education

Cost of tuition

4/5 year olds lack of accessibility to affordable childcare

Pre-K income guidelines restrict eligibility

Lack of information about GED programs for older population

Lack of knowledge on use of technology for older generations

Limited internet access

Educational pressure often results in toxic stress for students

Poverty impacts education

Food

Transportation and bus routes limiting access to get to the store

Lack of nearby grocery stores

Cycle of how and where to cook for the homeless

Pride preventing from asking for help

Fear of absence of food, what happens if I run out and where do I go?

Lack of availability or access to healthy foods

Lack of nutrition education and food preparation skills

Common Themes

Lack of shared information of available resources within community

More involvement from faith communities

Lights, sidewalks, transportation effecting both food access and employability

Financial literacy

The GHPFA Food Summit planning team would like to thank everyone who participated in our community meetings in Burns Hill, Washington Street, and neighborhood leaders.

“There is a difference in being poor and poverty; with poverty there is often no hope – it is a state of mind.”

- Washington Street Community Member