

Transcript of Terry Haven

Interviewer

Okay, so state your name and how you spell it.

Terry Haven

Terry Haven. T-E-R-R-Y, H-A-V-E-N.

Interviewer

And your title?

Terry Haven

I'm the Deputy Director for Voices for Utah Children.

Interviewer

You are the Kids Count data expert.

Terry Haven

Right, I run the Kids Count project for Voices for Utah Children. Kids Count is a national initiative that's funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. And the purpose of Kids Count really is to make sure that we have good data for policy makers to use to effect good policy change for kids.

Interviewer

Talk about the data for 2014 and how that has shifted from 2013-12?

Terry Haven

Sure. When I first came here in, about 18 years ago, Utah ranked in the top five, sometimes in the top three for child wellbeing -- second, third, you know, fifth. By 2009 we were down again to third. We went to fifth, we went to seventh, we went to eleventh. Last year we were fourteenth in the 2013 data book. And so this year we finally started making an upward trend to eleventh for 2014.

Interviewer

So what happened? Why did that trend go down and now it's up a little bit?

Terry Haven

I think part of the reason that our ranking kept going down was because we were stagnant. When you look at the data, we weren't really getting all that much worse. There was not a whole lot of change, but I think what was happening was other states were doing better. Other states were pushing new initiatives, pushing forward, making changes that really helped their data improve and their numbers go up. And so while we were kind of stagnant and doing nothing, other states were improving and doing better so it made our ranking drop. I think that's probably the biggest issue. When I talked to the states last year, because we had kept going down and we were one of the lowest rankings we've ever been at

14th, I called all the other states that were in the top five, I said, "What are you doing? What's going on in your state that's making you number one?" And without fail they mentioned policies like a state EITC or an earned income tax credit that helped working families but a little more money in their budget; having a home visitation program for new babies. One of the states had a program where every child in the state got a home visitation program by a nurse practitioner. We had universal preschool for everybody in the state if they wanted it in those states. And so there were programs going on in those states that were helping to lift families out of poverty, help those families who are in poverty to improve their lives. And I think that's what we were lacking at the time.

Interviewer

So what have we done? There are four areas of wellbeing, right? Health, education -- which would be preschool for this age -- community and safety and what's the other one? Economic wellbeing and poverty.

Terry Haven

We've done a lot of things that are improving over the last couple of decades. This year is the 25th anniversary for Kids Count. So they looked in this data book at what's going on over the last couple decades. One of the things that we know has improved greatly, we've dropped our child death rate by 40 percent. Those are things like motor vehicle accidents, bicycle accidents, you know, ATV accidents, drowning, those kinds of things. And we made some decisions over the last 20 years that were great decisions for kids. We had legislation that talked about booster seats for kids. That we instituted a graduated license bill. We did car seats. I mean a whole host of child safety measures that the legislature passed that we saw make a difference for kids and we saw that 40 percent decrease in child and teen death rates. I think that points exactly to why we want the data and why we should be using it is because we need to know what's happening with kids and if the programs that we're using are working and for that one area it was huge. The other thing that I think we've been doing most recently is working on preschool. We are below the national average in the number of three and four year olds who are attending preschool.

Interviewer

We have some noise interference. Could you say that again?

Terry Haven

We are below the national average for the number of three and four year olds who are attending preschool. And we know that there's an achievement gap for those low income families and their children. So that we've got a lot of low income families with children whose young children are hitting kindergarten not ready to learn. They're not at the same level as their peers. So we know from the research that involvement in a quality preschool program for those three and four year olds at risk is going to close that achievement gap, make them up with their peers when they hit kindergarten and make them ready to learn because we

know that when a child is ready to learn, they're going to do well. We know that children through grade three are learning to read. After grade three they're reading to learn. If they haven't learned to read by grade three they're gonna fall behind, they're gonna drop out, they're gonna have issues. So quality preschool programs for at-risk kids is one of the best ways that we can close that achievement gap and make those kids ready to learn and make sure that they're living up to their potential.

Interviewer

Can you talk about House Bill 96.

Terry Haven

House Bill 96 is going to help low income families who want preschool for their kids, get preschool for their kids. It's a pilot. It's not going to solve all the problems, it's not going to cover every child that wants to go to preschool but it did put some much needed monetary increase into their budget for preschool.

Interviewer

The Granite School District initiative with Goldman Sachs where it's a private, public. Talk about that.

Terry Haven

That was something that we put together with United Way and Goldman Sachs. Basically we tried to push House Bill, what became House Bill 96 in 2012 and it did not pass. But it caught the attention of enough people that thought oh, that's going to work, we want to see it work, we're going to make it happen regardless. And we got some money from the United Way and from Goldman Sachs and we started a pilot project at Granite School District that funded about 600 children to get quality preschool through Granite School District. And we've seen -- the program has been going on for about five years. We've looked at test scores and interviewed those kids and talked to them and when most of them, when they came into preschool at Granite School District, many of them were testing at below special ed level. So that meant without that intervention, without that opportunity to get quality preschool, they were going to enter kindergarten not ready to learn, at a special ed level, be put in special ed classes which costs more money and probably stay there for much of their school career. Because of the Granite School program, we're seeing those children now in fifth grade, fourth grade, fifth grade, who are testing with their peers in math and science. When we interviewed them a couple of years ago they were so excited about showing us their school work and what their favorite books were and what they were going to be when they grew up. And without fail, if you asked them if they're going to college they all said yes. And you know, that's a turn around, that's a life turn around for some of those kids who coming into preschool were testing at special ed levels and now they're not. You know, every child should have that kind of opportunity, we need to make sure that every child in Utah has the kind of opportunities that my child and your child and everybody's child has.

Interviewer

So is that Goldman Sachs/United Way program a model for HB96?

Terry Haven

Yes, House Bill 96 was modeled after that kind of program that we already had in place. Provides more money. More opportunities, more spaces for children to have that quality preschool experience.

Interviewer

So, as advocates for that bill, you will do anything to keep that bill going, right?

Terry Haven

We'd love to see more money, more spots. Right now we don't have the infrastructure I don't think to offer preschool to every child that wants it. But it's a start and it's a place that we can grow from and go from there.

Interviewer

Those are good things in the education area. How about health?

Terry Haven

We're doing better in health. One of the areas that we have, we have a higher number of kids who are uninsured in this state than the nation as a whole. An issue that I think we can work with around more outreach, making sure that children know about CHIP and Medicaid, those kinds of issues. One of the things we'd like to see happen which technically doesn't involve children but we'd love to see Medicaid expansion in this state in whatever form that presents itself whether it's the Governor's Healthy Utah plan or straight Medicaid expansion. What we know is that children are more apt to be insured when their parents are insured. And so by insuring more adults we know we'll insure more kids. But that's an issue that we really need to make sure that we have every child who is eligible for CHIP and Medicaid, on CHIP and Medicaid. So again, one of the areas that we're not as good as the nation. Most are health indicators, we are up there right better or right at the same as the nation. Our low birth weight babies has dropped and continues to drop and that's a national trend. We've also seen our teen birth rates drop which is great. It's a national trend as well. But over the last two decades we've seen almost a 50 percent drop in our teen pregnancy rates. So we know that means a better start for those kids, it's a better start for the moms or the teens who are not getting pregnant. It's also a better start for those babies who are not born to teens. I mean we know that the outcomes for both of those populations is not good.

Interviewer

So let's go to economic wellbeing and we'll talk about family and community, but poverty. You once said that poverty affects everything you're doing at Voices.

Terry Haven

The economic development or economic wellbeing section of the Kids Count book has been a disappointment to say the least. We look at four indicators in that domain and every single one of them we've worsened. Especially in child poverty we've seen -- The economic domain has been one that's troubling for us. We've seen all the four indicators that we look at in that domain worsen over the last ten years. The most troublesome probably is the percentage of children in poverty. We've seen an increase -- over 25 percent increase in the percent of children in poverty. That is worrisome for us because we know that poverty affects everything else that we look at. Every indicator that we look at that we look at in terms of how is a child going to develop and how is he going to reach his potential, all of it is affected by poverty. So when we see child poverty go up, it's a huge issue because we know all the other indicators are going to suffer because of it.

Interviewer

And those indicators are? Give me an example.

Terry Haven

So we look at percentage of children in poverty which again is about 15 percent for Utah which translates to 132,000 children. So we have 132,000 children in this state who may be going to bed hungry, who may be, you know, living with parents who are trying to make decisions about which kid they buy medicine for. If they buy medicine or buy food. Those kinds of issues, which you know, no child should have to worry about. We don't want that for our child, why does it make it okay for other children? So that's a huge issue. We look at the percentage of kids who are living in families where they're spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing. That's risen by 40 percent over the last decade. And that's a huge issue because we know that if a family is spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing, there's not a whole lot left over for food and child care and health insurance and any of those kinds of things. Everything else that we spend our budget on, they have to spend their budget on as well, but it's a shrinking budget. So that's an issue. We also look at the number of teens who are employed, that's seen a decrease. So a lot of issues. We look at the number of children whose families are working. If they have an unemployment problem, that's worsened over the last several years. It's worrisome when we see every single indicator in a domain worsen because it's kind of a calling card or kind of a, you know, what do we do next?

Interviewer

So what do you say to people who have this really hard core stigma about others in poverty or others who can't lift themselves out? Who think they're not trying hard enough, they're stuck in this intergenerational poverty loop, whatever.

Terry Haven

So we have you know over 50,000 children whose parents lived on work support

systems like TANF and food stamps who now as adults are using those programs and now they have children who are using those programs. And one of the things that we see as a positive is we're now starting to look at those children, we're starting to track those children, we're starting to look at what do they look like, what's happening in their families and what can we do to intercede and make those issues kind of go away. So we're starting to look at two generational strategies that look at how do we help parents? How do we help parents be the best they can be? How do we help raise them out of poverty which involves things like parent, you know, nurse practitioner or home visitation programs, making sure they're trained, they get education, they get training for jobs. That they're getting good jobs. That they're not getting minimum wage jobs which keep them in poverty. That maybe we want a, you know, pie in the sky, raise the minimum wage so that if you're working and you're doing all the things you're supposed to, you're still not living in poverty. So working with those parents and helping them help their families at the same time looking at strategies to help those children like preschool, have a better life and reach their full potential and have the same kind of opportunities that all of us have. So that two-generational approach we think is what's going to help us make a difference in those numbers.

Interviewer

You lift the parents or caregivers up, the child follows.

Terry Haven

Right. We know that children do better in families that are economically secure. It just makes sense. So anything that we do to help the parents is going to help the child. And as we're helping those parents, if we're helping the child to develop and to reach his full potential, it's a win/win situation.

Interviewer

Back to the original question, why would we care?

Terry Haven

I think, you know, it's easy to say it's not our kid. But the reality is they're all our children. Beyond the moral issue that you know, you're supposed to take care of your neighbor, I think there's an issue that if we don't help these children we'll pay for them later. We pay for them now or we pay for them later. You know, children who are in school and doing well and progressing are not going to be as involved with the juvenile justice system and not going to be in those costly programs that we pay for. When we help a child stay healthy, when we help a child go to well child visits and get his immunizations and get treated for his asthma and his diabetes in a medical home instead of going to the emergency room, we're saving money. So you know, above and beyond a moral obligation to help our children, it's an economic issue as well.

Interviewer

Will you say that last statement?

Terry Haven

So beyond what I think is a moral obligation to help our children, to help all children, there's an economic issue as well. I mean we're paying for it one way or another, so why not help them on the front end and not have to help them on the back end. I think that our state has kind of a -- you know, we'd like to think we know what's going on with kids, but the good thing about the data, the nice thing about the data is it really helps us look at our children and say how are the children? What's happening with them? What's going on? And if it's not all good, what do we do to make that better? I mean that's the bottom line.

Interviewer

What can communities do to help children and children in poverty?

Terry Haven

I mean there are all kinds of direct service kind of programs that help children and we certainly need them. We need those kinds of programs that are there on the front line and help feed kids and help keep track of them after school and do all of the kinds of things that children need. What I would like to see communities do is become advocates. We need those stories, we need people to become involved in the political process and tell our legislatures what's happening in their communities. I think sometimes legislators don't understand what's happening in the communities. And they're very accessible, they're very easy to reach. They're willing to listen, but they have to have somebody who is willing to speak up. And we need people to write letters to the editor, we need people to call their legislators and say, you know, "I have a neighbor who can't get insurance and they're dying and I need you to do something about it." Or "I have a neighbor whose child was having trouble learning and they had this great program and it made a difference." I mean we need people to say they want what's best for kids because I think legislators get tired of listening to us. They get tired of hearing from the experts who know what we're talking about. I mean there's no doubt that we have the data, we know what we're talking about, but we need Joe citizen and Jane citizen to call their legislator and say, "We need you to do this. This is important for kids. It's important for all kids."

Interviewer

Sixty percent of kids are not attending preschool and then 52 percent of the kids' parents are in the workforce so what do they do with their children?

Terry Haven

So we have 60 percent of our kids who are not attending preschool which is much higher than the national average. Nationally 54 percent of three and four year olds attend preschool. Here in Utah it's only at 60 percent. And that's really a crucial issue because we know that parents are working. We know here in Utah that parents of children under six, over 50 percent of them are in the

workforce. So they need a place to put their kids. We need places in the evening because these are not traditional jobs some of them. We need places on the weekends, we need places where children can go and be safe and can learn because their parents are working. And we're asking their parents to work. We require their parents to work. So we need to make sure that we're supporting those parents when they go to work. I think that quality preschool is a huge issue. Quality daycare is a huge issue. We need to make sure those especially single moms who are working have a place that they know is safe for their kids. That means they can go to their job.

So we know that parents are working and we know they need places to send their kids. And so it's really imperative that they have a place that's safe, that they feel comfortable with, that they know is there, so that they can go off and be good employees. It's in the employer's best interest to make sure that their employees have a place for their kids to go which means we need to start looking at parent leave practices, you know, family leave policies, making sure that if a woman takes off for having a sick kid she's not going to lose her job. What we have now is in many areas is --

Terry Haven

So we need to start looking at policies. Part of the two generational strategies that I think we need to look at are family leave policies. Are we making sure that a mom who has a sick kid isn't going to get in trouble and lose her job if she stays home with a sick child? We need to make sure that there are places that they're safe and know that they're well taken care of. What we do know is those kinds of policies, again, two generational, are going to affect the child. When we see children who are chronically absent which means they're absent for ten or more days during a term, they're not going to learn. They fall behind. They don't exceed their expectations, they don't move forward. Chronic absence is a huge issue for some of our students and sometimes that's a problem because what's happening is parents are afraid to take off to take care of the sick child so that their older child takes off from school to take care of that kid. That shouldn't be happening. We should be able to do better than that. And to look at those kinds of policies that again, help the parent, help the parent excel, they're going to help the child excel as well.

Interviewer

So how are you pushing the legislature for those two generational mechanisms?

Terry Haven

Well the last two years, in 2012 we passed an intergenerational poverty bill that started looking at the data basically. Senator Reid pushed a bill that basically told the Department of Workforce Services, we need to start looking at these people, we need to see who they are, we need to know where they are, what's happening with them, what they look like. And then the next year we put together a bill that looked at let's create a commission, an intergenerational

poverty commission that's made up of all the heads of these departments that deal with all of these people. The Department of Workforce Services, Department of Health, human services, the courts, all of those, you know, Office of Education -- the main people who can make policy decisions and make policy choices -- let's put them together and say how can we talk about these two generational strategies? And it also created an intergenerational advisory committee that's made up of businesses and faith leaders and advocates like us that kind of help them come up with those strategies. And so we look at that and say what's working out there with the rest of the states? What do we need to do to make life better for our children and our families? And so we have, I think a great system in place now where we're starting to look at the data, the data is improving, we get better data, we know what's happening, we can create policy decisions based on that. We've got the people together in a room who can talk about how do we make that happen. And change happens. And I think it will be for the better. So we're really excited about the whole intergenerational poverty.

Interviewer

Talk about how you're excited about intergenerational policy programs, but maybe segue to why certain people don't believe preschool is even necessary. They think that kids should be at home.

Terry Haven

So we're real excited about the whole concept of this two generational strategies. We just received a grant from the Aspen Ascend Fund. We're part of a network now of states who are looking at this two generational strategies. And part of what we'll be doing over the next year is looking at creating issue briefs that look at what can we do to help families, parents, families, children -- all together. So that's part of what we're going to be doing for the next year. But the whole system that we've put in place around intergenerational poverty and the legislation that's happened and the commission and the advisory committee are players in a system that is now poised to make change.

Interviewer

And so what are the attitudes out there that would prevent change?

Terry Haven

Well I think we just, we need to make sure that legislatures understand the importance of helping adults while helping children. Most everybody wants to help kids but we need to really push that notion and the understanding that when we help parents and we help parents succeed, we help children. That children who are living in families who are economically secure, that are stress free that have, you know, not those choices that children in poverty have to make -- everybody's going to benefit, including all of us. So I think that's an education piece to make sure that they understand we can help children. Part of helping children is helping parents be better parents. We had, I mean there's issues for example, of preschool. We need to make sure they understand that

preschool, we're not trying to force preschool down anybody's throat. We're not saying that every child has to go to preschool. Children living in -- I mean parents make that decision themselves. If they think that it's a positive thing for their kids, it ought to be available. Initially we had some feedback around you know, parents didn't want their kids in preschool and we shouldn't force them to send their kids to preschool. And number one, that's not what we were doing. And we agree. Children who don't need to go to preschool don't need to go to preschool. But it needs to be available for those children who would benefit from them.

Interviewer
Quality preschool.

Terry Haven
Quality preschool.

Interviewer
Talk about that.

Terry Haven
Well our best ranking overall for the Kids Count book is in family and communities where we rank second in the nation. So part of that domain area, one of the indicators is single parent families. Right now we have about 20 percent of our families that are single parent families. The majority of those are single-mother-headed families. It's better than the nation. 35 percent nationally are single parent families. We have 20 percent.

Interviewer
Single parent families.

Terry Haven
So 20 percent of our families are single parent families compared to 35 percent nationally. We know that there's special issues for single parents. We know that everything is exacerbated when you're a single parent. When you have a sick child there's no one to help you take care of it; when you have one income instead of two. If you're working a job that doesn't have insurance you have no spouse who does have a job with insurance. I mean everything is a little harder for single parent families. We know that the poverty rate for single families is much higher than for families as a whole. So that indicator has been rising over the last several years, we've seen it rise which is, again, it's happening nationally, but happening here as well. The indicators for -- there's several indicators in that domain. One is around parents who have no high school diploma. Ten percent of our kids in this state have parents with no high school diploma. So if we want to look at how do we help families, we might want to look at how do we help families get GED's and start onto that educational process. So again, it's an area where we do much better than the national average as a whole, but there's room

for improvement.

Interviewer

And if you're doing comparative ranking, we're doing okay. We're doing eleventh now. We're doing great in family and community. So why does it matter?

Terry Haven

I think it matters. For us it matters because every child matters. Every child deserves the same opportunity as mine. Every child matters and deserves the kind of opportunities that we would like to give our own children. So to make sure that every child gets those opportunities, the opportunity for a good education, the opportunity to make sure they're healthy, the opportunity to make sure that they're living in secure families who are free of economic worries -- all children deserve that. And I think that the data helps us get to where we need to be. We know that children who live in economically secure families are doing better. We know that children who are doing better in school and graduating and going on to secondary education have a better chance of succeeding. We know that teenagers who don't get pregnant have a better chance of not being in poverty when they get to be adults. So we know the answers, we know the kinds of programs that work, we know what happens when children succeed. What we don't know is if we have the political will to get there. We know the programs nationwide that have worked elsewhere. We need to make sure that we are open to doing what it takes to make sure our children are on the right path.

Interviewer

Because in 20 years --

Terry Haven

They're going to be paying for us, right? [Laugh]

Interviewer

Yeah, there's that and the population, the census data, can you refer to that, our future.

Terry Haven

Well we know, I mean the population is rising. And so we know there's going to be more children, there's going to be more issues. Right now one of the good things about living in Utah is that while we have some problems, they're not insurmountable. We have 132,000 children living in poverty. But compared to some states that have 400,000 children living in poverty, we could do some stuff. We could do things that will help improve those children. And we know that if we lift 18,000 children out of poverty, we could be the best in the nation in the percentage of children in poverty. It's not insurmountable, it's doable. And I think when we start looking at programs like making sure children are getting quality preschool if they want it, helping them do better in school, making sure that parents are better parents by doing home visitation programs and making sure

that families are knowing that we should be reading to our kids and what are the best ways to talk to our children, even when they're babies. If we make sure that they have those support --

Interviewer

Reading to kids. Go ahead.

Terry Haven

We need to make sure parents have possibly home visitation programs, teach them how to be better parents, teach them how to read to their kids. Even as babies, how do we talk to them that make a difference. How do we make sure that parents have those economic support programs that help families like a state earned income tax credit or training programs and education programs that help them get a GED. All those kinds of programs that are gonna help parents and families and children could help that poverty rate. And we know what works, we know it's doable, we just have to make that commitment.

Interviewer

Anything I have overlooked that you want to talk about?

Terry Haven

I think we're good.

Interviewer

Are we good in family and community because it is such a -- is this a religious component? Why are we good in family and community?

Terry Haven

I wish I knew. I mean... I don't... I mean we have an educational value here. I mean education is valued so that's part of the family and community. You know, I mean single parenthood is -- we actually have a higher divorce rate than the national average but we have a high percentage of blended families. So while there might be some divorce in the family, then there's remarriage and so you know, it doesn't continue in terms of that. But that's something that's not really well known is that our divorce rate is just a little bit higher. Not much. Tenth of a percent. But we're not what people would think to be, you know, there's no divorce and no issues.

Interviewer

I guess they don't understand the different pieces within the domain of family and community. So you're looking at single moms.

Terry Haven

Percent of kids in households where the parent doesn't have a high school education. Teen pregnancy which we're better than the national average. And the percent of kids who are living in high poverty areas. So only four percent of

our kids are living in areas that are considered high poverty which means everybody around them is also living in poverty... which is kind of an issue when we start looking at you know, what are the expectations that a child grows up with? If everybody in your community doesn't go to college and nobody in your neighborhood thinks that college is important and you know, you see everything else kind of in a negative light that's going on in your community, you don't really have as much drive or ambition to do anything different. And luckily only about four percent of our kids are living in those kinds of communities where everybody is just not doing well.

Interviewer

In closing, I just read that the Paiute's have the highest poverty rates for children in the nation. From the satellite, there's a little red dot in that county.

Terry Haven

Yeah. One of the issues around poverty that we haven't talked about is this notion that -- I mean many of our rural counties have the highest poverty rates. And that's a much bigger issue to be poor in a rural area than it is to be poor in an urban area. Because you know, poor families, poor children in Salt Lake City have the 4th Street Clinic, they have, you know, the food banks, they have, you know, public transportation that can get them to job interviews, those kinds of things. Children in rural areas, the access issue is huge. So on top of the poor issue, you've got access issues, service issues, a whole host of problems that are just exacerbated.

Interviewer

Once again, tell me your name and your title and where you work.

Terry Haven

I'm Terry Haven. Do you want me to spell it again? T-E-R-R-Y, H-A-V-E-N. And I'm the Deputy Director for Voices for Utah Children and in charge of the Kids Count project.

Interviewer

And the Kids Count project is?

Terry Haven

The Kids Count project is a project that's funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation out of Baltimore. There's a Kids Count project in every state. And the basic premise of Kids Count is that in order to effect good policy change for kids, we have to have good data. That we need to make sure that we're tracking what's happening with kids, that we know what's happening with programs that we're implementing and if it's having a change in the data. We want to make sure that policy makers are creating policy and enacting policy that's really helping children that's based on the data that we have on children.

Interviewer

Talk about Utah's change in the ranking.

Terry Haven

So over the years we've seen our ranking drop tremendously. We used to be second. We used to be third. We used to be seventh. We used to be ninth. Last year we were fourteenth. And this year, finally, we've seen a little bit of increase and we're back up to eleventh which is encouraging. We'll see if the trend continues. I think what it means, what we talked about before was this notion that while we haven't really gotten a lot worse in terms of our indicators, what's happening is the other states have gotten better. So the other states have been very intentional about creating policies around children and families that they know are going to improve their life. Things like an earned income tax credit which puts money back into working poor families, things like home visitation programs which allow parents to become better parents. Things like training programs for single moms that allow them to go back to school, those kinds of things. While in Utah we weren't making strides in those areas. So while we were kind of stagnant and not doing a whole lot, the other states were really being very aggressive in terms of great programs and great policy choices. And so they were improving which made us drop in rank even though we weren't getting all that much worse.

Terry Haven

We do do really well compared to the rest of the nation in most of our indicators. One of the issues that we look at that concerns us the most is the percentage of children in poverty. Over the years that's risen quite a bit. We've seen about a 25 percent increase in the number of children in poverty over the years. Right now we have about 15 percent of our kids who are living in poverty which translates to 132,000 kids. So those are 132,000 children who may be going to bed hungry, who are living in situations and homes where parents are having to make decisions about which kid they buy medicine for. Or if they buy medicine for one child and food, or you know, the kinds of things that parents shouldn't have to make decisions about and we need to make sure that they don't have to make those decisions.