

### What has the Southeast Working Class Task Force (SEW-CTF) been doing?

*SEW-CTF* has been invited to be a member of the city's Working Group on Education and Poverty facilitated by Mayor Joe Hogsett's Office of Education Innovation.

The main purpose of the group is to develop a city-wide framework that addresses barriers to learning for Indianapolis children living in poverty--recognizing that a child living in poverty has a 1 in 20 chance of exiting poverty.

The group's goal is to ensure schools within high-need areas have the on-site tools to provide adequate wraparound support to students and families living in poverty.

*SEW-CTF* joined over 400 attending the March 14 Faith & Action Project Spring Conference at the Christian Theological Seminary on the Butler College campus. The event featured veteran urban activist Robert Lupton and his book *Toxic Charity* which is based on the idea that when we do for those in need what they can do for themselves, we take away their power. Lupton talked about how to serve the poor in a way that leads to lasting, real-world change. "Generous hearts are not enough," he said. View more at "Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssuMALbhnwA>

Last summer, CTS announced a multiyear effort to identify new collaborative approaches to address what some have called a poverty "pandemic," particularly as it relates to children. "Poverty is corroding the foundations of our city," said CTS President Boulton, who is calling on people of faith to play a "galvanizing, sustaining role" in addressing the problem.

Indianapolis is uniquely positioned to find solutions because it is at the heart of a national crisis, Boulton noted. Statistics from the Polis Center at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, show a general poverty rate of 22% and a child poverty rate of 33% in the city — both above national averages. For more see:

<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/2017/02/20/toxic-charity-author-speak-indy/98136020/>

*SEW-CTF* members attended meetings held by the UNITE HERE Local 23 union to organize the Aramark food service workers at Eli Lilly. Because they could have lost their jobs or be disciplined, the Aramark workers had to organize themselves in secret. Aramark workers needed to know that various community persons/organizations like *SEW-CTF* supported them and "had their backs." It was announced in late March that Aramark decided to recognize the union. In fact, the story made the *Indy Star*. See: "How a group of food service workers formed a union underground."

<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/2017/03/30/how-group-food-service-workers-formed-union-underground/99499038/>

*SEW-CTF* attended the March meeting of the Education and Workforce Action Team of the Southside Quality of Life Plan. See: <http://soindy.org/education-workforce-development/>. *SEW-CTF* introduced a conversation around the concern: Need all Manual students be tracked to attend a university? *SEW-CTF* will be publishing a paper on this issue called, "A proposed compromise regarding the debate: 'College or die' vs. 'Not everyone needs to go to college.'"

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*SEW-CTF* meets the 3rd Wed. of the month at 901 Shelby St.