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Kentucky kids count

Assessing the well-being of children in our community:

The 2013 Kids Count Report

Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) recently released the 23rd annual Kentucky KIDS COUNT Data Book. The report assesses the well-being of children in Kentucky and the 120 counties across the commonwealth.

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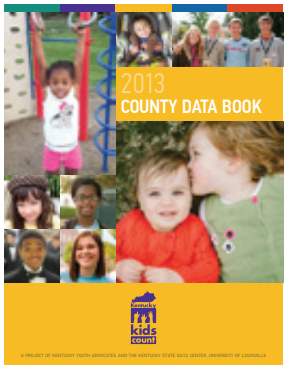
Assessing the well-being of children in our community:

The 2013 Kids Count Report

Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) recently released the 23rd annual Kentucky KIDS COUNT Data Book. The report assesses the well-being of children in Kentucky and the 120 counties across the commonwealth.

The project is a nationwide initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. KYA works with partners across the state to collect and analyze the data. Partners include the University of Louisville Kentucky State Data Center and more than 20 state government offices, agencies, councils, boards, cabinets, departments and divisions.

The report includes information and comparisons based on 16 indicators across four domains of child well-being: economic security, education, health, and family and community.



This report presents data on a county-by-county basis and not by school district. It does not include private schools. For each of the 16 indicators, we present and compare the Daviess County ranking, the highest and lowest in the state, and the state average.

16 KEY FINDINGS

As the report relates to Owensboro-Daviess County

Economic Security

In Owensboro-Daviess County…

1. 21.1% of children live in poverty.
This is better than the state average of 25.1 %.
Range: Oldham Co. (7.9%) to Wolfe Co. (58.1%).

2. Seven percent of teens are not in school and not working.
This is better than the state average of 9.4%.
Range: Woodford Co. (1.4%) to Union Co. (45.3%)

3. 4.9% of at least one parent is unemployed.
This is better that the state average of 6.3 percent.
Range: Livingston Co. (1.3%) to Fulton Co. (18.9%)

4. 55% of families carry a burden of high rental costs.
This is worse than the state average of 54%.
Range: Washington Co. (39%) to Wolfe Co. (89%).

Education

In Owensboro-Daviess County…

5. 47.6% of children are not attending preschool.
This is better than the state average of 56%.
Range: Robertson Co. (16.9%) to Butler Co. (91.2%).

6. 47.2% of fourth graders are not proficient in reading.
This is better than the state average of 51.2%.
Range: Marshall Co. (36.5%) to Owsley Co. (70.6%).

7. 46% of eighth graders are not proficient in math.
This is better than the state average of 54.9%.
Range: Lyon Co. (27.1%) to Robertson Co. (90.0%).

8. 9.4% of high school students are not graduating on time.
This is better than the state average of 13.9%.
Range: Hopkins Co. (0%) to Trimble Co. (25.4%).

Health

In Owensboro-Daviess County…

9. 22.3% of pregnant women smoke during pregnancy.

This is better than the state average of 26.4%.

Range: Oldham Co. (13.7%) to Owsley Co. (45.0%)

10. Eight percent of births are of low-birthweight.

This is better than the state average of 8.9%

Range: LaRue Co. (4.8%) to Martin Co. (16.8%)

11. 8 children per thousand are hospitalized for asthma.

This is better than the state average of 10.5.

Range: Campbell Co. (.8) to Fulton Co. (135.2).

12. 53.6 births per thousand are to teens.

This is worse than the state average of 45.6

Range: Oldham Co. (12.7) to McCreary Co. (86.4)

Family and Community

In Owensboro-Daviess County…

13. 15% of births are to mothers without a high school degree.

This is better than the state average of 19.2%.

Range: Spencer Co. (9.6%) to Hart Co. (40.2%).

14. 17.6% of children live in high poverty areas.

This is better than the state average of 38.3%.

Range: Boone Co. (3.5%) to 17 counties (100%).

15. 29.3 children per thousand are in out-of-home care.

This is better than the state average of 33.7.

Range: Boone Co. (5.3) to Clay Co. (122.4)

16. 56.6 children per thousand are incarcerated.

This is worse than the state average of 51.9.

Range: Oldham Co. (5.4) to Christian Co. (105.5)

In 3 of the 16 indicators, Owensboro-Daviess County ranked slightly worse than the state average:

- **Births to teen mothers**
- **High rental costs**
- **Youth incarcerated**

Daviess County ranked in the top 25% of 120 counties in overall child well-being (based on scores for the four domains).

Daviess County rankings by domain:

Economic Security	**top 25%**
Education	**top 25%**
Health	**top 25%**
Family and Community	**2nd 25%**

Conclusions

Rankings frequently correlate to income level, but not always. On the 16 examined indicators, Daviess County generally ranks slightly better than the state average.

Given Kentucky's poor rankings in most every area when compared to other states, an average placement among 120 counties suggests significant room to improve.

Recommendations

Improving the conditions and prospects for children requires multiple action initiatives. Strategies developed by the Kentucky Youth Advocates include:

- Assist families that struggle economically by establishing a state earned income tax credit.
- Protect children from second-hand smoke through a comprehensive smoke-free law.
- Stop locking up children when other strategies are more effective.
- Restore funding for kinship care to help grandparents and other relatives in caring for children (and keeping them out of foster care).
- Restore core K-12 funding to prior levels.
- Strengthen prevention services to reduce child abuse and neglect.
- Expand early learning by expanding preschool eligibility.
- Ensure that all children are insured to cover physical, mental, vision and oral health.

To take action or for more information:

Kentucky Youth Advocates

11001 Bluegrass Parkway, Suite 100
Jeffersontown, KY 40299
502.895.8167 ● 888.825.5592

UPDATE (as of March 27, 2014)

Important Legislation Affecting Youth & Education

2014 Kentucky General Assembly

1. Child abuse and neglect

Status: HB 157 or the "Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma bill" would ensure physicians that typically see children have the information they need to recognize signs of abuse. The bill requires certain physician groups to go through a one-time, one-hour training on recognizing signs of physical abuse specific to pediatric abusive head trauma. This would apply to: pediatricians, radiologists, family practitioners, and emergency medicine and urgent care physicians.

The bill was signed by the Governor March 19.

2. Child care assistance

Status: The Governor's budget recommendation restores the Child Care Assistance Program by including an additional $52.7 million in fiscal year 2015 and $58.1 million in fiscal year 2016 from the General Fund.

This initiative will permit 16,100 children from 9,400 families to have their child care assistance restored in fiscal year 2015. In fiscal year 2016, it finances child care assistance for 18,000 children from 10,000 families. Intake for new low-income recipients had been closed; this funding will allow it to be reopened. The eligibility threshold that is currently at 100% will be increased to 150% of federal poverty level.

The House budget fully protected the Governor's budget. The Senate included funding for the child care assistance program but at a lower level than the House.

3. Comprehensive Smoke-Free Law

Status: House Bill 173 would make indoor workplaces smoke-free to protect workers from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

It has passed the House Health and Welfare Committee and is currently awaiting a vote by the House.

Senator Julie Denton introduced SB 117 in the Senate as a companion to HB 173. It has been sent to the Judiciary Committee.

4. Education funding (SEEK)

Status: Governor's budget included an additional $189 million to the SEEK (Support Education Excellence in Kentucky) program. This increase includes a 2 percent salary increase for teachers and school personnel in fiscal year 2015, and an additional 1 percent increase in fiscal year 2016. Governor Beshear's recommended budget provides $21.7 million in each fiscal year for textbooks and other instructional materials, restoring funding back to the fiscal

2008 level. Additionally, the Executive Budget restores Safe School funding to fiscal 2008 funding levels by adding $6.2 million each fiscal year. This budget also adds $19.8 million each fiscal year to the Professional Development/Extended School Services programs to support the implementation and development of effective instructional practices and provide students with extra instructional assistance. While school safety programs have been cut in past budgets, Governor Beshear's budget proposal includes $6.2 million for these programs.

The House budget reduced the Governor's proposed SEEK funding by $7 million and the proposed textbook and instructional material funding by $10 million.

The Senate budget reduced funding in 2015 for extended school services by $6.6 million and teacher professional development by $3.3 million. It spends the same on textbooks as the House budget.

5. Health care coverage

Status: No legislation has been introduced at this time.

6. Incarceration of youth

Status: A bill that would create alternatives to placing juveniles charged with certain offenses in state-run secure detention facilities passed a Senate committee Thursday morning, setting the bill up for a full vote in the Senate.

The measure passed the Senate and the House.

7. Kinship care

Status: Legislation that allows a relative caregiver to access educational services and health care treatment for the children in their care when legal custody or guardianship is not feasible.

The Governor's budget includes $1 million in each fiscal year to support relatives raising kin children.

The measure passed the Senate and the House unanimously, was signed by the Speaker of the House and delivered to the Governor.

8. State earned income tax credit

Status: SB155

Senator Morgan McGarvey introduced SB 155, which would enact a state Earned Income Credit at 10 percent of the Federal. Six fellow Democrats are co-sponsors.

The $12 million ($9 million in restricted bonded funds and $3 million in agency funds-matching money to be raised locally) Advanced Technology Center at the Owensboro Community and Technical College is included in the state budget approved by the House and Senate. Additional fees per credit hour paid by students will be used to finance the project.

Twenty-five percent of the project will be financed through these additional fees.

Source:

Kentucky Youth Advocates

POINT/COUNTERPOINT:

Does Kentucky need more revenue or are additional cuts warranted?

As legislators from across the Commonwealth wrestle with this fundamental philosophical issue, they have the findings and recommendations of a blue ribbon task force to consider. Meanwhile, facing the task of crafting a biennial budget, organizations representing various constituencies are positioning, making points and rallying partners.

Does Kentucky have a revenue problem or a spending problem? To help our readers come to an informed judgment, we share opposing perspectives: the views of the Bluegrass Institute of Lexington, Ky. and those of the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy located in Berea, Ky.

The Bluegrass Institute "promotes free-market capitalism, smaller government, and the defense of personal liberties." The Kentucky Center for Economic Policy "seeks to improve the quality of life for all Kentuckians through research, analysis, and education on important policy issues facing the Commonwealth."

POINT ◇ **COUNTERPOINT**

Bluegrass Institute

In 2011, only 12 states had a higher tax burden as a percentage of personal income than Kentucky. Of Kentucky's neighboring states, only West Virginia had a higher tax burden than Kentucky, while Virginia, Tennessee and Missouri all ranked in the bottom-10 states for tax burden as a percentage of personal income.

For this article, we invited the Kentucky Council for Economic Policy (KCEP) to respond to points about taxation made by the Bluegrass Institute (BI) in BI's recent newsletter.

Since the KCEP remarks were considerably longer than the corresponding remarks from the BI newsletter, we invited the BI to share additional points.

Kentucky Center for Economic Policy

Census data show that Kentucky has less state and local tax revenue per capita than all but 10 other states (and all but 20 states as a share of personal income). And if you look at the other states at the bottom of the per capita revenue list—Alabama, South Carolina, Mississippi, etc.—you see the places in the country with the lowest incomes, highest poverty and weakest indicators of health and well-being. In contrast, states that invest more in their schools and quality of life have stronger economies and a higher standard of living. A race to the bottom on taxes is a path to greater hardship, not greater wealth.

POINT

Bluegrass Institute

Also in 2011, only eight states had higher state government spending as a percentage of Gross State Product (GSP) than Kentucky. Indiana, Tennessee and Virginia ranked among the 10 states with the lowest percentage of GSP consumed by government spending.

COUNTERPOINT

Kentucky Center for Economic Policy

Data that look only at state spending and not combined state and local spending are misleading. States differ in their emphasis on state versus local delivery of services and Kentucky does relatively more at the state level but relatively less locally. If you look at combined state and local spending per capita, Kentucky spends less than all but 14 other states. And when you look at states that spend more on their schools, safety net and other public investments, you find states with greater prosperity than Kentucky.

POINT

Bluegrass Institute

By 2012, Kentucky had the third-highest state debt as a percentage of its GSP of any state in the U.S. Illinois was the only neighboring state that placed with the commonwealth in the top half of states for debt-to-GSP ratio.

COUNTERPOINT

Kentucky Center for Economic Policy

Kentucky's debt is relatively high primarily because it hasn't been making its legally-obligated contributions to its employees' retirement plan. The state has been skipping pension payments as a response to inadequate revenue instead of making even deeper cuts to public services or raising taxes. Avoiding pension payments is an unacceptable option; employees' retirement is legally owed to them and putting off these payments just raises the cost to the state over the long-term. Tax reform that raises more revenue is essential to meeting our obligation to workers while also sustaining the other critical parts of the state budget. The quicker Kentucky acts to do so, the quicker it can stop digging this hole.

POINT ◇ COUNTERPOINT

Bluegrass Institute

So if state tax burdens and government spending already were at the high end of the ration, why do we hear so much talk – especially from the more-vocal of the (Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Tax Reform) that our state has a revenue problem? It would appear that what we have is a spending problem.

Additional points from the Bluegrass Institute:

- Looking at 2012 state revenue, Kentucky is the 15th highest taxed state as a percentage of income.
- Local tax collections in Kentucky are low. So if you include local taxes, then Kentucky falls to 29th highest taxed as a percentage of income.
- The state overtaxes Kentuckians, not local governments. Taxes are best collected near where they are spent. Concentration of taxation in Frankfort leads to wasteful spending.
- In response to KCEP's claim that Kentucky collects few taxes in dollar values versus other states: Kentucky is poor, and tax and spend policies cause poverty.
- In response to KCEP's claim that our state debt is due to not paying for pensions and not having enough tax revenue: Kentucky has the most generous teacher retirement plan in the country.
- Kentucky's state debt burden is third highest (and worse if you include local debt.)
- We will only get out of debt by working more and spending less. Increasing taxes will do neither.

Brian Strow, Ph. D.

Kentucky Center for Economic Policy

Kentucky has cut $1.6 billion out of its budget through 13 rounds of cuts since 2008. As a result, many services have been cut 15 percent - 40 percent. The impacts of those cuts are many, including out-of-date textbooks, shuttered child care centers, rising college tuition and denial of needed services to Kentucky's most vulnerable citizens. And the problem extends even further back than that—the state's revenue has been shrinking as a share of its economy since 1991 because our tax system is outdated, has too many holes and doesn't fairly tax those most able to pay. Without adequate revenue and a tax system that is sustainable, Kentucky can't make the investments in children, workers, families and quality of life that will pay back over time in stronger economic growth.

Sources:

Bluegrass Institute Newsletter Feb. 17, 2014

Jason Bailey, Executive Director, Kentucky Center for Economic Policy

Brian Strow, Ph.D., BB&T Professor for the Study of Capitalism at Western Kentucky University, former Bowling Green City Commissioner, member of Bluegrass Institute's Board of Scholars

Low-wage jobs, the value of work, and the dignity of workers

By: David Boeyink, Ph. D.

In February 2013, President Obama called for increases in the minimum wage from $7.25/hour over several years, reaching $9.00/hour by the end of 2015. In November 2013, he supported a Democratic proposal to increase the minimum wage to $10.10/hour. After that, the minimum wage would be linked to cost-of-living increases.

It's tempting to look for an economic argument to support or reject these proposals. Republicans and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have called them job killers, arguing that employers will be forced to shed jobs to meet increased payroll costs.

Democrats disagree. For example, a recent column by Robert Reich argued that the 1996 increase in the minimum wage (proposed by Reich while he was Secretary of Labor under President Clinton) was followed by the greatest four-year period of job creation in U.S. history. "The real job killers in America," Reich wrote, "are lousy jobs at lousy wages."

Can research answer the question?

Okay. Here's a wild guess: The previous two paragraphs did not change your mind about the right course of action on the minimum wage. In fact, statistical ammunition can be piled on both sides of the battlefront. For example, a March 6, 2014, story on National Public Radio looked at studies of the fast-food industry (a major source of minimum-wage jobs) in two states. New Jersey raised its minimum wage in early 1992; Pennsylvania did not.

- Economists David Card and Alan Krueger studied what happened to jobs at fast-food restaurants in both states seven months after New Jersey raised the minimum wage. Though the price of hamburgers went up, he could not find evidence that the minimum-wage increase in New Jersey cost jobs.

- But when David Neumark and a colleague analysed fast-food payroll data of both states (as well as many other studies), they concluded, according to David Kestenbaum of NPR, "raising the minimum wage slightly reduced the number of jobs."

- So Card redid his study using the government data Neumark had—and confirmed his own earlier conclusion. Again quoting NPR: "Raising the minimum wage did not cost jobs."

So who's right?

The actual studies cited here are tough sledding for a non-economist. But it's fair to say the evidence is mixed.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO)—generally considered to be bipartisan—weighed in on this in February, concluding that an increase in the minimum wage to $10.10/hour (the Democratic proposal) would cost 500,000 jobs. Well that should settle the argument, right? Not exactly.

The CBO's report offered a "likely range" of jobs lost from "very slight decrease" (read "almost no effect") to one million jobs lost. Hmmmmm. Ronald Reagan once said (misquoting John Adams), "Facts are stupid things." Maybe he meant statistics.

> "The real job killers in America are lousy jobs at lousy wages."
>
> **Robert Reich**

As hard as economic facts are to pin down, the reality of the minimum wage is critical to more of your neighbors every day. In 2009, 19 percent of all jobs paid a low wage (below $13.83/hour). In the last five years, 39 percent of new jobs paid low wages -- *double* the percentage of 2009 low-wage workers, according to Richard Florida of The Atlantic Cities.

Given the inconclusiveness of the statistics, and the significance of the growing number of Americans relying on the minimum wage, let me offer a different angle on this problem, one that raises questions of ethics.

All honest labor has value

How much do we value work in this country? Oh, I'm sure most people value their own work. We see how our jobs contribute to the company we work for; we see the impact our labor has on others' lives in the products and services we produce and the wages that support our families.

I was lucky to be a college teacher for nearly 25 years. When I taught writing, I could see the improvement in students' ability to express themselves. When I taught ethics, I listened to them wrestle with tough moral problems, often for the first time.

I also know persons who never went to college who value their labor. One of my brothers-in-law lives for work. Whether as an electrical contractor or a sundown farmer, every waking moment is consumed by being productive. He's proud of what he has accomplished.

Do we act like we value the service of others?

But do we really value all work? Do we value the work of low-wage workers whose labor affects our lives in small ways? I'm thinking about hotel maids, fast-food workers, custodians in the schools, dishwashers, security guards, manual laborers, and many others who live in or on the edge of poverty.

John Calvin, the Protestant theologian, believed every job was a calling. According to Calvin, God invests work with meaning because we are all called to these vocations. Calvin was talking about everyone who performed honorable labor, everyone whose work benefits the community.

In some ways, one could even argue that hard, physical labor has more value because few in our society want to do it. And it actually produces something needed by the community.

In an abstract way, it's easy to say John Calvin was right: All honest labor has value. But how do we show this?

Only 30 percent of U.S. hotel guests leave tips for housekeepers, according to Michael Lynn at the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.

"Sundays Are the Worst," a website in existence for only two weeks, already has more than 14 pages of comments by restaurant servers about the bad tipping habits of the Sunday church crowd. It's not scientific, but you'll get the message.

My experience is that few people go out of their way even to express their thanks to low-wage workers. In the last week, how often have you complimented a worker for a job well done, for the importance of their work, the quality of their craftsmanship, or the pleasant attitude they convey? In the last month?

In 2009, 19 percent of all jobs paid a low wage… In the last five years, 39 percent.

Not on our radar

Sometimes, we don't even see such people. They are the wallpaper in the workplace, part of the landscape in the outdoors. When I was in graduate school, a library guard told me many professors were too busy or disinterested to acknowledge his presence even as he checked their bags. He was a non-person. In cases like this, our actions—or the lack of them—show that such work is not valued.

I remembered that story when I became a professor. As a consequence, I met lots of interesting people among the staff at my university. One custodian turned out to be a Sudanese refugee who was an ordained Presbyterian minister. Another worker with limited intellectual capacity had designed the Lotus Music Festival t-shirt I was wearing that day. Through the years, other staff persons have rewarded a simple greeting with a beautiful smile. Everywhere we go, we are surrounded by people who are more than their jobs.

Respect for persons

And when we value the work that others do for us every day, we are valuing their humanity. We are saying we respect them as persons, not just as common laborers. Because very little about them is common.

One cannot help but feel the irony of living in a nation that values individualism above all and discounts so many individuals as not even worth meeting. Science is inventing robots that do the work of humans. Based on the way we often treat humans who provide services for us, their replacement by robots should be seamless.

We complain or simply feel dissatisfied when our physicians don't spend enough time with us. They treat our disease when we want them to treat us as persons with a disease. Paul Ramsey of Princeton University made this point eloquently in his classic text, The Patient as Person. But what does that say about how we treat people in the service professions? Do we treat them as persons? Or as worker/robots?

Americans often betray their self-centeredness in encounters with other cultures. "Why," a student from Uganda asked me, "do Americans always begin conversations with the business they want to conduct? Do they not care how I am feeling today? How my family is?" His complaint: we treat him as something less than a person.

Should we change?

Just because a job requires minimal skill and offers low pay doesn't mean we should dehumanize the worker in that job. All workers deserve respect for their contribution to the community. The value of useful and needed service needs to be acknowledged.

This can be done in simple ways. My daughter was a judge and clinician at a high-school jazz festival recently. One middle-school band director sent her an e-mail after the festival, thanking her for the clinic she had held for her band. That thoughtful compliment made my daughter's day. It's eye-contact with a stranger, a smile and a comment about the cold weather, a word of thanks. It's treating others the way we want to be treated.

Do we really value the work of… hotel maids, fast-food workers, custodians, dishwashers, security guards, manual laborers, and many others who live in or on the edge of poverty? …we don't even see such people. They are the wallpaper in the workplace.

Back to the minimum wage

But that brings us back to the minimum wage. It's one thing to compliment someone for a good job. But if that person is working full-time at minimum wage and can't feed, clothe, and house her family, what are we as a society saying about the value of her work? Or about our concerns for her as a person, not just a worker?

Our view of the value of all persons is challenged when a person working full-time (perhaps holding several jobs) or even a family of two wage-earners cannot provide basic needs for a family.

The working poor are at the crossroads of our two decision-making models: Should wages be solely determined by market forces or should basic human needs also play a part? As a nation, we are split on which road to take: a) hold the line on the minimum wage so we don't lose competitiveness (and jobs) in the marketplace or b) ensure that people who work full-time do not have to live in poverty.

In one sense, the decline in the real value of the minimum wage (taking inflation into account) has given the upper hand to market forces in recent years. If one took the minimum wage in 1968 and adjusted it for inflation, today's minimum wage would be $10.74/hour. That's far less than the current minimum wage of $7.25/hour. Even the Democrat's proposal to raise the minimum wage to $10.10/hour doesn't get low-income wage-earners back the buying power they had nearly 50 years ago.

Can we at least acknowledge that arguments against raising the minimum wage abandons those whose humanity (and industriousness) deserve more: the working poor? Can we see that those hurt most are the children of those working poor—more than 16 million of them?

Not a solution, but a start

Admittedly, raising the minimum wage will not solve this problem. The Congressional Budget Office predicts that even a minimum wage of $10.10/hour would lift only 900,000 people out of poverty. But lifting the minimum wage can say something about the value we place on the dignity of work and of the people who do it.

Decades ago, the major companies of Columbus, Ind., were facing an effort to unionize their workforces. J. Irwin Miller, head of Cummins Engine, declined to participate in plans to drive union organizers out of town and intimidate workers. "We don't want to treat our people that way," Miller said. So he told his workers to do what they wanted, even joining a union. So Cummins' workers formed their own union. Cummins remains a major international force in diesel engines—and nationally recognized for its ethical treatment of employees.

Market forces—and human dignity

While we can work to promote fairness in the workplace, inequities will always be part of our free-market economy. Financial forces will drive compensation for work more often than what is most important and valuable to society.

But is the importance and value of a job—or the basic needs of a family—also a relevant factor? Should the value of the

work for the larger community, not just the marketplace, be considered? And what kind of wage would recognize the needs of individuals and families in a country where the gap between the richest one percent and the poor grows every year?

Everywhere we go, we are surrounded by people who are more than their jobs.

Perhaps we should start the conversation more simply. For the moment, forget the statistics and the predictions. Meet with someone you know who is earning only a minimum wage. If you don't know any low-wage workers, reach out and find one.

Ask that person what it would mean to earn an extra $2 or $3 an hour in wages. What would she spend it on? What would she buy for her children?

Then let's talk. About the minimum wage. About human dignity. About children and poverty.

David Boeyink, Ph.D.

Consultant to the Public Life Foundation of Owensboro, Boeyink retired as Associate Professor of Journalism and Director of Media Studies, Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions, Indiana University. He holds a B.A. degree from Central College and an M.T.S. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. From 1978-87, he was Editorial Page Editor for the Owensboro *Messenger-Inquirer*. He has published articles in *Journal of Religious Ethics*, *Journal of Mass Media Ethics*, *Newspaper Journal*, and *Journalism Quarterly*.