**WHY: COMMITMENT**

*Poverty is not inevitable.* It is a result of a lack of commitment to build a just society and economy that ensures everyone has what they need. Sacred Heart believes everyone has the right to adequate food, clothing, housing, education, health care, personal safety, and a living wage. *This belief is not shared widely enough.*

Our economic, social, and political systems privilege some over others because of an individual’s race, gender, and immigration status. *This must not continue.* Therefore our goal is to build a community united in the common purpose of ensuring everyone can live in dignity. This commitment is developed by taking action, and growing our capacity through relationship building, learning together, and building leadership.

**WHAT: ACTION**

*Our commitment to social change requires us to act* on both the root causes and consequences of poverty. Sacred Heart moves our community to action in three ways. We provide resources and impactful programs. We wage campaigns for public policy change. We create support systems.

**Programs and Resources:** Sacred Heart mobilizes members to share their talents and resources to address the consequences of poverty. We provide essential resources to help stabilize individuals such as food, clothing, and financial assistance. We implement programs to support and strengthen families such as education, employment and financial coaching, family violence intervention, and urban gardening.

**Policy Action:** Sacred Heart organizes members to join committees where we share concerns impacting low-income residents, analyze the causes, identify public policy solutions, and advocate for policy change with decision makers.

**Support Systems:** Sacred Heart creates spaces for members to provide support to each other, to identify common goals, and to share knowledge, resources, and talents to improve their own lives.

**HOW: EMPOWERMENT**

*It is not just what we do, but how we do it.* When members work together, learn together, and lead the work, we develop a greater capacity to address the consequences of poverty and build solidarity to impact the causes of poverty.

Sacred Heart builds relationships across boundaries, develops learning experiences about broken systems and our collective responsibility to fix them, and invests in the leadership of members.

**Relationships:** Sacred Heart invites people from different backgrounds to establish relationships with each other through shared work. We use our talents, networks, and resources to meet critical needs, deepen our commitment to one another and toward a more just society.

**Learning:** Sacred Heart challenges our community to understand that poverty in the midst of great prosperity is a systemic failure, and to learn that together we have the power and responsibility to transform our community.

**Leadership:** Sacred Heart invites members to become leaders who recruit new people and resources, facilitate shared work, and participate in decision making. We seek to strengthen the voice and leadership of those impacted by poverty and their allies.

*Poverty is fixable.* If you agree, Sacred Heart exists for you to do something about it now, to learn, and to help build a more just society.