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## Communication Across Barriers and Dr. Donna M. Beegle



After growing up in generational migrant labor poverty, leaving school for marriage at 15, having two children, and continuing to cope with poverty, Donna found herself, at 25, with no husband, little education, and no job skills. What followed—in 10 short years—were self-confidence, a G.E.D., an A.A. in journalism, a B.A. (with honors) in communication, an M.A. in communication with a minor in gender studies (with honors), and completion of an Ed.D. in educational leadership.

Donna M. Beegle, Ed.D., is an authentic voice who speaks, writes, and trains across the nation to break the iron cage of poverty. She brings unique insights from having grown up in the deepest poverty in America and from studying and speaking on poverty for over 25 years. She is the author of *See Poverty...Be the Difference*, *Breaking Poverty Barriers to Equal Justice*, and *An Action Approach to Educating Students in Poverty*. Donna's inspiring story and work have been featured in newspapers around the nation, on local TV, and on national channels such as PBS and CNN. Donna founded Communication Across Barriers, Inc., in 1990 with her mentor Dr. Bob Fulford.

Communication Across Barriers, Inc., is dedicated to broadening and improving opportunities for all people who live in the war zone of poverty.

### Our far-reaching goals are to:

- Assist people living in the crisis of poverty to move out and stay out of poverty. We provide education and tools to remove the shame, rebuild the confidence and hope, reduce the isolation, and assist people in obtaining the education and skills needed to earn a living.
- Empower communities and organizations to “fight poverty, not the people who live in it.” We illuminate real and structural causes of poverty and provide life-changing information that shatters common myths and stereotypes about people who live in poverty.
- Offer research-based strategies and insider perspectives for improving relationships, communication, and opportunities.
- Develop an army of speakers and trainers who can educate and assist organizations in becoming poverty informed.
- Provide models and step-by-step programs that increase a poverty-informed, community-wide approach to fighting poverty.
- Educate and engage people who are not in poverty with tools and avenues for making a difference in their own communities.