

**Key points Dr. Beegle will address:**

- Understanding the context of growing up in poverty in the U.S.
- Understanding how to implement changes in communication styles to reduce conflict
- Discussion of ways to motivate people from poverty backgrounds

## Dr. Donna Beegle to speak at the Fargo Radisson on March 31, 2009

Dr. Donna Beegle, from Communication Across Barriers is a highly experienced national public speaker, discussion leaders trainer and author of “See Poverty, Be the Difference.” Donna’s inspiring story and work have been featured in newspapers around the nation, on local TV and on national programs such as PBS. Her work on poverty is being featured in a Documentary titled: Invisible Nation. Donna has worked with educators, justice professionals, health care providers, social service agencies and other organizations all over the nation who want to make a difference for those living in the crisis of poverty.

Donna is the only member of her family who has not been incarcerated. After growing up in generational migrant labor poverty, leaving school for marriage at 15, having two children and continuing to cope with poverty, she 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 Communications, a Master’s Degree in Communication with a minor in Gender Studies (with honors) and completion of a Doctorate Degree.

Donna completed her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Portland State University in 2000, where she taught speech communication courses for eight years. She is currently president of Communication Across Barriers, a consulting firm devoted to improving communication and relationships.

The NDSU Extension staff will be holding their annual conference and Donna Beegle will be a keynote speaker on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 from **2:00—3:15 pm in the Cityscape Ballroom**. We would like to invite our current and past Horizons communities that are interested in hearing her discuss this challenging issue. After her keynote, Horizons communities and staff are invited to attend an informal session with Donna in the **Metropolitan Room from 3:30-4:15**. Then from 4:15-5:00 we will provide an overview and training of “Social Capital: Connecting Citizens to Communities. You may find this useful in your towns. The event will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 201 5th St. N in Fargo.

An evening meal will be served from 5:45—7:15 pm with additional information from Donna that you are also welcome to attend in the Metropolitan Room.

The Horizons program will cover the costs of mileage for up to two vehicles per town. Please RSVP to Lynette Flage (701.265.5200 or lynette.flage@ndsu.edu) the number of people attending by March 16, 2009.