



John Janzen Bio

About half of my adult life has been lived in the North End of Winnipeg, and the other half in Japan. In both situations I was involved in education and community development work that has allowed for some reflection and familiarity with the differences in the kinds of poverty that occur in various places. For the past 5 years I've worked as the Community Education Coordinator at Siloam Mission, speaking frequently to students in schools about how the most effective ways to fight poverty and homelessness is to build healthy communities.

A particular focus has been on telling stories that get younger and older learners alike thinking about the root themes of community building. In 2016 our community education department published a children's book/CD called Blink's Garden. The story explores the idea that often the greatest health for a community comes in connecting with those who have typically been pushed to the edges of society. This story, along with talks about "The 7 Types of Power" and "The 2 Types of Poverty" help to take apart big, unwieldy concepts like power for an up close look at how it relates to poverty.