



Runtime: 55 minutes.

Language: English. Genre: Documentary.  
A Threeleaf Documentary

**FOR GRAPHICS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL PLEASE VISIT:**

*<http://www.lessthan.film/press>*

## **LOGLINE**

One out of 8 people in the US live in poverty. What's the cause? What's the effect? Less Than asks the question, "Is there Hope?." Although the data is harsh, the opportunity is real. Less Than is an in-depth look at Poverty in America.

## **SYNOPSIS**

Less Than is an in-depth look at poverty in America. What are its causes, what are its effects, and ultimately asks the question, "Is there Hope?." The current poverty rate in America is staggering, and the future is bleak. This film takes a closer look at the research from Dr. Ron Haskins and Dr. Isabel Sawhill that outlines a three-step process towards changing the tide in America. ED. WORK. WED. The film focuses its attention on Amarillo, Texas, a rural hub of the Texas Panhandle. We speak with educators, pastors, students, and community leaders about what poverty looks like in their hometown. The data is harsh, but the opportunity is real. The film is not a political statement, but a rally cry for our communities to step up for their neighbors. There is hope, and it resides in each and every one of us.

## **DIRECTOR STATEMENT**

Growing up in an affluent family in the Texas Panhandle, I never knew anything but the plenty and richness life had to offer. I thought poverty as the drug addict under the bridge or homeless person begging for money on the street corner. Little did I know that my faith and fate would have me on a path to encounter something as profound and life-altering as the story of my struggling neighbor. Poverty is just that. It's your neighbor down the street, it's the parents of the kids on your child's soccer teams, it's the families at your children's school, it's the person next to you at the grocery store. Poverty affects 1 in 8 people in America, and the epidemic is growing exponentially each year. This film was commissioned by the United Way to help us tell the story of real Americans, living in real struggles. Our goal was to produce a film that engaged the communities around us with the story of poverty, not just depressing facts. The desire is for our audience to leave asking questions. Questions such as what can I do, who can I help, what is the next step. This film highlights the less than and challenges all of us to see how we can do more, help more, and be more.

- Patrick

# BIOGRAPHIES

## **PATRICK KEMP - FILMMAKER**

Visionary and owner of a boutique creative firm based out of Texas, specializing in brand creation and software development. Patrick and his team have been recognized with numerous advertising and design awards over various industries. His clients range from fortune 500 companies, universities, non-profits, and top-level real estate brokerages across the country.

## **DONNA BEEGLE**

Dr. Donna M. Beegle, president of Communication Across Barriers Inc., paves a way for those struggling through poverty by developing strategic methods to overcome the low-income adversaries. Through her own personal story of rising above poverty, Donna seeks to educate and inspire individuals and communities across the nation. She has been a voice of hope for more than 25 years and continues to assist professionals with proven strategies for breaking poverty barriers.

## **EJ CARRION**

Best-selling author, successful entrepreneur, and recipient of the prestigious Bill Gate scholarship, EJ Carrion has overcome the hardships of poverty and become a preeminent thought-leader focusing on student success. EJ has traveled to more than 33 US states and continues to educate and empower those who have faced the struggle of poverty.

## **RUDY RASMUS**

Rudy Rasmus is a pastor, author and humanitarian, who has helped revitalize Downtown Houston by providing shelter and services to the some of the most vulnerable part of the community. Through several collaborative initiatives, Rudy has shaped the homeless population by providing permanent living accommodations, serving 500 meals per day in the sanctuary of his church, and establishing domestic and anti-global hunger projects. He continues to actively develop and support programs around the world for people experiencing poverty.

## **RUSSELL LOWERY-HART**

Russell Lowery-Hart is the President of Amarillo College, a major community college in the hub of the Texas Panhandle. His work has been transformative in addressing poverty in college-age students. The Atlantic recently ran a piece covering his success at attacking poverty head-on in his community. (<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2018/05/college-poor-students/560972/>)

**Cast**

Candy Gibbs  
Dana West  
Donna Beegle  
EJ Carion  
Elia Moreno  
Isabel Sawhill  
Katie Noffske  
Raul Rodarte-Suto  
Ron Haskins  
Rudy Rasmus  
Russell Lowery-Hart  
Wendy Garcia

**Director**

Patrick Kemp

**Director of Photography**

Chase Roberts  
Jon Michael Jones

**Original Score**

Michael A. Muller of Balmorhea

**Camera Operators**

Ryan Putman  
Luke Kemp

**Editing**

Leland Wetzel  
Chase Roberts

**Colorist**

Tanner Buschman

**Visual Effects**

Jon Michael Jones  
Tanner Johnston  
Luke Kemp

**Gaffer**

Ryan Putman

**Sound Engineer**

Paul Clark

**Art Direction**

Jonathan Rollins

**Sound Operator**

Tony McCallie

**Executive Producers**

Patrick Kemp  
Katie Noffske  
Assistant Producer  
Honnah Taylor

# FILMAKER CONTACT

Producer & Directory

ThreeLeaf Creative

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