

Poverty

The “working poor,”
as they are approvingly termed,
are in fact the major philanthropists
of our ociety.

They neglect their own children so that
the children of others will be cared for;
they live in substandard housing so that
other homes will be shiny and perfect;
they endure privation so that inflation
will be low and stock prices high.
To be a member of the working poor
is to be an anonymous donor,
a nameless benefactor,
to everyone else.

Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*