

# POVERTY SIMULATION

*Could you survive a month in poverty? Are you willing to come along on adventure, knowing that you will be changed by it?*

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Staff and volunteers of congregations
- Food pantry and homeless shelter staff and volunteers
- Community leaders
- Students, teachers, counselors
- Businesses
- Social service staff
- Anyone who desires a greater understanding of situations faced by low-income people

## WHY ATTEND?

- To be educated on the realities that low-income persons face
- To combat myths about people living in poverty
- To increase awareness and empathy

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

In order to organize a successful Poverty Simulation, we need a minimum of 35 participants and 15 volunteers, some of which we can provide. If you are interested in the opportunity, please give us a call at 316-284-0000.

## WHAT IS IT LIKE?

The Poverty Simulation provides participants with the opportunity to assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget. The experience is divided into four 15-minute sessions, each of which represents one week in which you must provide for your family and maintain your home.

## WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING?

*Powerful experience...*

*Very frustrating...*

*A board of education member could read the statistics or tour the schools or hear a teacher's struggles with the poverty of her/his students, but until I became the "child," I could not fully empathize with the teacher, the parent, and the child! (USD 373 school board member who played the role of a child in a simulation)*

*We can sympathize with low income circumstances but going through one of these simulations allows you to put yourself in a "virtual poverty situation" and it makes one aware of a whole new dimension of things that people encounter and have to deal with on a daily basis. It really gave me an entirely different outlook.*

*I had no idea being poor was such hard work...*

*I never imagined I'd leave my 2 year old at home alone!*

