

Poverty Simulation



“A basic moral test of a society is how its most vulnerable members are faring. - From the key themes of Catholic Social teaching

March 5, 2016: 9 a.m. – Noon
St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, West Des Moines
\$15.00 per participant

Walk a mile in “their” shoes

The poverty simulation experience is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month. It is a simulation—not a game. The object is to sensitize participants to the realities faced by low-income people.

The Simulation

Participants assume the roles of different families facing poverty. Some are newly unemployed, some are recently deserted by the “breadwinner”, and others are receiving assistance—either with or without additional earned income. Others are disabled or senior citizens receiving social security while some families were recently forced out of their farming operation. The task of all the “families” is to provide for basic necessities and shelter during the course of four 15-minute weeks.

The simulation is conducted in a large room with the “families” seated in the center. Tables around the perimeter of the room represent various community resources and services, including a bank, a pantry, employment office, pawnbroker, grocery, welfare office, a school, etc. Volunteers, referred to as “staffers” are recruited to represent the community resources.

Poverty Simulation Registration Form – Saturday, March 5, 2016

First/Last Name _____ Email _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Day Phone _____ Other Phone _____
Name of Group (if applicable) _____

(Please make checks payable to Center for Social Ministry)

Please complete and mail this form to:

Poverty Simulation
Attn: Susie Tierney
4211 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50312
Questions: 515-782-3054

Catholic Charities and the Center for Social Ministry are not allowed to make a profit on the simulation. All proceeds are used for supplies or to provide stipends to volunteers for their time. Donations always appreciated!

Sponsored by:



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