Poverty Simulation

When: November 30th, 2018
1:00-3:30: Poverty Simulation
3:30-4:30: Community Member Presentation

Where: Beaux Arts Ballroom. Bemidji State University. Bemidji, MN.
Free and Open to Everyone. Please pre-register.

Facilitated by Denise Stewart, & Dawn vanHees from Lakes and Pines Community Action Council, and Leah Pauletti from MinnCAP, this poverty simulation experience is designed to help audiences 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 audiences to the realities faced by low-income people. In the simulation, 44 to 82 participants assume the roles of up to 26 different families facing poverty. Some families are newly unemployed, some are recently deserted by the “breadwinner,” some are homeless, and others are recipients of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, formerly AFDC), either with or without additional earned income. Still others are senior citizens receiving Disability or Retirement or grandparents raising their grandchildren. The task of the “families” is to provide for basic necessities and shelter during the course of four 15-minute “weeks.”

This experience lasts from three and a half to four hours. It includes an introduction and briefing, the actual simulation exercise, and a debriefing period in which participants and volunteers share their feelings and experiences and talk about what they have learned about the lives of people in poverty.

This experience will end with a panel of community members who will share their insights and experiences of living in poverty with the participants.

For more information and to register to attend, please contact: acharwood@minnesotanonprofits.org; (218) 407-5202

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