

Evaluation – Poverty Simulation February 12, 2010

Q1	Before	After	Q2	Before	After	Q3	Before	After	Q4	Before	After	Q5	Before	After	Over all
	3	3		2	3		2	3		2	3		1	1	9
	3	5		4	5		3	4		4	5		4	5	9
	3	4		3	4		3	5		3	5		3	4	10
	2	2		2	5		3	3		2	5		2	5	9
	3	5		3	5		2	4		3	5		2	5	9
	3	5		2	4		2	4		2	4		3	5	10
	3	5		4	5		3	5		3	5		3	5	10
	2	4		2	5		2	5		2	4		2	5	9
	4	4		3	4		4	4		3	4		4	4	8
	3	4		3	4		2	4		3	4		2	3	8
	3	4		4	5		2	4		2	4		1	4	8
	3	5		2	4		4	5		3	4		4	4	9
	3	4		2	4		2	4		2	4		1	3	10
	4	5		4	5		4	5		3	5		3	5	8
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	4	4		4	4		4	4		4	4		4	4	9
	4	5		4	5		4	5		4	5		4	5	10
	4	4		3	4		3	4		3	4		3	4	10
	3	4		2	4		2	4		1	4		2	4	9
	3	3		2	4		1	5		2	4		2	4	10
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	3	4		3	4		2	4		2	5		2	4	9
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	2	3		3	4		3	4		4	4		4	4	7
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	3	4		3	4		3	4		4	4		2	4	8
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	4	5		2	5		2	5		3	5		3	5	10

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	2	3		2	4		1	3		3	4		2	2	7
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	3	4		4	4		4	5		3	4		3	4	8

COMMENTS:

- Not sure how I can have a complete understanding without living it or working with poor people daily
- My heart was racing by the end; I was an 8 year old child
- Awesome experience, I learned a lot about poverty
- Very powerful experience. Grew up in poverty and very interesting that everyone was brought into the situation
- Fun way to engage in learning; involves emotion and intellect. I like to bring/create a simulation exercise to Marathon County
- I would like to change my thinking and be more open minded when going into a home for a home visit
- I never marked a "5" because I won't know/understand what poverty is like unless I actually experience it
- I had done the simulation before and I think it's an excellent experience
- Wished we could have changed role
- Participants could have used more time in the beginning to understand all the rules. But overall very effective simulation!
- An interesting and positive experience
- It was hard to be asked and not have \$ for valentines, field trips, etc.
- Great simulation!

What do you think was the most successful part of the simulation?

- The school
- Limitations , constraints, barriers of the system
- Learning about daily survival when I don't have enough income and transportation
- Limited time to get things done
- Cooperation between neighbors, the understanding & willingness to help
- Helping people to know all kinds of pressures facing low-income families
- The discussion and listening to other's comments about their difficulties and frustrations
- Feeling the pressure
- Realizing how difficult it is to get daily necessities done
- Realizing what low-income is
- Dealing with companies that had different consequences based on the discretion of who's working

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- The realism
- The pressures put on persons over having to deal with living costs
- Having all the different agencies was helpful in realizing how much time it takes to get everything done
- Awareness of the struggle
- Having to make arrangements/appointments for services and finances
- Learning that any sort of bad luck can put you under. People in this situation can barely meet their needs as is
- The whole thing was really good – we got excited waiting for money to come in
- Simulating the stresses and difficult choices
- Time pressures
- Realizing the time it takes just to survive with limited resources
- How real it was – time, paperwork, money, service lines
- Constantly making sure the children were taken care of – food, roof, childcare
- The real life profiles
- Seeing all the bills and different things that needed to be done – very stressful
- Having to wait for everyone and not having enough time or resources to make ends meet
- It showed the stress that families feel to make those daily decisions
- Husband keeping his job
- Real life scenarios of families
- Emphasis on limited resources, both time and money
- Making us feel the stress/frustration associated with poverty
- Understanding time constraints
- Awareness of the effort it takes
- Simulating the stress that this lifestyle invokes
- Gaining an understanding & knowledge of living on a limited income
- Awareness of the barriers impoverished people go through
- The experience of frustration as we were not able to make ends meet
- The great details provided made it seem quite real
- Demonstrated real life situations and unpredictability
- Helping me understand the problems that come up
- Real-life scenarios – getting sent home from school!
- Realizing the stress of getting from one agency to another and not having enough time
- The 15-minute week gave one a feel of the limited time people have to take care of financial/family responsibilities
- Realism. The stressors and resources were that of actual community
- I received a good understanding of poverty
- Working together as a family to try and make ends meet
- Illustrating the roadblocks just to be able to receive assistance
- Adding the frustrating circumstances
- Intensity - the fact that most places are closed after people get out of work
- Cost of daycare
- Setting of realistic family situations

What do you think was the least successful part of the simulation?

- The mortgage company trying to rip us off
- Quick Cash running out of money to cash checks
- It's a short time so that not everyone could feel the pressures so deeply
- Knowing that I was not actually in this situation and can go back to my life

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- How much time it took it each place/resource
- There wasn't enough time to regroup between weeks to solve problems
- Under-staffed services
- Not having enough time
- Getting to know people
- The school system was quite inaccurate
- As a kid, I spent most of my time in school and I experienced not as much. But as my "mom" said, there is no time to be a parent.
- The children characters didn't feel the stress that the adult characters did
- Not being able to switch role from parent-child or vice versa
- I was a single – it would have been more beneficial to have a family to discuss issues
- Maybe there should be more than one bank teller
- Being a child wasn't as informative as being an adult
- Spending 2 full weeks at DFS
- No bartering at various locations
- More emphasis for participants to play up their learning disabilities, health problems, or interests
- My baby broke his arm and couldn't go to the daycare w/o a hospital visit but there was no hospital
- As a group, our background possibly made this easier (ie; my kids were great and could count on them)
- Time element was too compressed
- There are items that we were not able to pay but feel like we were not penalized
- Food was a low priority
- Some of my family members were not "in character" as much I tried to be
- More time
- Putting the simulation into reality
- Lots of details and info given – I had a hard time taking it all in and remembering what I had to do
- Add a food pantry
- Needed more time to absorb the instructions, a checklist at the end of each week could serve as a reminder of the essentials – food, mortgage, etc.
- More time – perhaps 20 minute weeks. Would have been just as "crunched" but would give people more opportunity to utilize resources
- There was no hospital
- It was hard to get receipts
- Those playing kids may not have understood the difficulties
- Short-term is a bit unrealistic – paychecks typically not weekly

Would you recommend the simulation experience to others?

YES _____ **NO**

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Identify groups who would benefit from the simulation:

- Homeless/low-income
- Everyone needing assistance
- Students
- Professional groups
- Middle to upper income families
- Workers at grocery stores, banks, schools
- High school students – help them make good choices

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- Those who don't experience poverty on a regular basis
- Teens
- Congregation at Woodlands Church
- College students
- Youth groups
- County and city employees
- Local businesses that have contact with the low-income population
- Everyone
- Social service agency employees
- Budget classes
- All community groups that give aid
- County Boards/City Councils
- School Board/Teachers
- Food Pantry volunteers
- Anyone who hasn't dealt with poverty before
- Churches
- Schools

Action step:

- Continue to support my sister and ensure that she is able to stay ahead and empowered to continue to lift up her own life. This is not about writing a check but about partnership, support, counsel, outreach, presence and vigilance.
- I am so blessed, I am going to find ways to volunteer and have empathy
- I will check out volunteersrock.org
- Check out volunteer opportunities
- Will discuss this with our Parish Justice and Peace Committee
- Join HPP
- Educate myself and others
- Visit the United Way website
- Volunteer more often
- Volunteer with local food pantry/soup kitchen
- Continue to get more involved at local schools and churches
- Provide the women at a local shelter with haircuts
- I will volunteer at a soup kitchen by the end of the semester
- Carry this awareness with me
- Cook for the Salvation Army
- Meet with people struggling in poverty
- Learn Spanish so I can communicate with those I can help
- Educating the children of poverty so they can get out of the poverty loop
- Check out websites
- Find new ways to support the families that we serve
- Be more understanding with those I know who are struggling
- Offer to help families to cover the cost of supplies, field trips
- Try to better understand the impact of the many stresses some families are living with