

# POVERTY SIMULATION: IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

## INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

This activity will provide your audience a better understanding of how many lives are touched through United Way's work in our community. Participants will experience firsthand how United Way works with a network of partners to create strong communities made up of healthy children and families, thriving economic conditions and high-quality education options. All of these things give a community the power to shine.

**01** Write or post scenarios on a nearby wall. See following page for ideas on potential scenarios.

**02** Give each participant one "fake bill."

**03** Tell your audience that you want to lead them in a quick activity that will show how United Way helps the community. Draw their attention to the examples on the walls and explain that these represent some of the people in need in our community.

**04** Instruct them to tape the fake money to one scenario they want to support. Remind them they can only select one.

**05** After everyone has "spent" their money, ask the following three questions. Be sure to involve the group and make it a discussion.

- How did you choose which person you were going to help?
- What other information would you have liked to have as you made your decision?
- Do you wish you could have helped more than one or even all the people represented on the wall?

- 06** Review who received help and who didn't.
- If there is an example of a person who didn't receive money, crumple the scenario handout up and throw it to the side.
    - Later, go back to the crumpled scenario, open it up and put them back on the wall.
    - Explain that with United Way, no one gets left behind or falls through the cracks. Thanks to a healthy network of agencies this person has a better chance of getting the help they need.
  - If each scenario received money, address the following:
    - Let your audience know that there are many other needs in the community that have not been represented here. The money given to United Way can address all of these needs collectively.
    - In these scenarios, people receive help to meet their most immediate needs but many of them will need ongoing help. (For example, the woman and her children who are escaping domestic violence will likely need access to additional services such as job training, day care, affordable housing and health care, transportation and legal assistance.) These ongoing needs can be met because of the many other agencies United Way supports with your gifts.

**07** Discuss with the group that together with United Way, they have the opportunity to help more than just one person and address more than one of our community's needs. United Way provides funding to more than 100 agencies across our five-county region, and volunteers ensure our dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.

# IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT



## POTENTIAL SCENARIOS



A FAMILY OF FOUR WHO LOST EVERYTHING IN A FIRE LAST NIGHT



A HOMELESS MAN WHO HASN'T EATEN IN TWO DAYS



A YOUNG MAN WHO WANTS TO LEAD A PRODUCTIVE LIFE AFTER AN ACCIDENT HAS LEFT HIM UNABLE TO MAINTAIN HIS JOB



A WOMAN AND HER CHILDREN IN NEED OF A SHELTER TO ESCAPE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



TEENAGERS WHO NEED A SAFE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PLACE TO GO AFTER SCHOOL



A 2-YEAR-OLD CHILD WITH DISABILITIES



A SINGLE MOTHER WHO DESPERATELY WANTS TO PROVIDE A BETTER LIFE FOR HER CHILDREN



A NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY CENTER THAT WANTS TO PROVIDE TRAINING RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS



AN UNEMPLOYED MAN IN RECOVERY FROM ADDICTION



AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY WHO NEEDS HELP ACCESSING HEALTH CARE



A THIRD-GRADER WHO DOES NOT HAVE BOOKS TO READ AT HOME BECAUSE THE FAMILY LIVES IN POVERTY



A TEEN MOTHER WHO WANTS TO GET HER SUPPORT RAISING A NEWBORN CHILD