



COULD  
YOU  
SURVIVE  
A MONTH  
LIVING IN  
POVERTY?

For many, it is hard to imagine life without the necessary resources needed to survive. Its even harder to understand the stress associated with the challenges related to poverty.

Walk in the shoes of those familiar with these experiences and spend a simulated month in poverty. This interactive poverty simulation exercise conducted by COTS allows participants to experience the issues faced by families and individuals living in poverty. This experience will create a sense of empathy and will encourage participants to embrace a greater social responsibility.

### Event Details:

Tuesday, April 30th, 6 pm - 9 pm (dinner served from 5:45-6:30)

Fort Street Presbyterian Church - Open Door Ministry  
631 W. Fort Street  
Detroit, MI 48226

Call or email to register for the session at 313-961-4533, x107 or [opendoor@fortstreet.org](mailto:opendoor@fortstreet.org)

**STAND**  
**POVERTY**  
**REACT**

UnderSTAND & OverREACT to  
poverty and positively impact lives!



The Poverty Simulation® conducted by COTS is licensed by the Missouri Community Action Network and used with permission..



## POVERTY ISN'T A GAME. IT'S A REALITY FOR MANY.

In fact, nearly 2,000 families in Detroit are homeless. Even more are living in poverty.

Poverty Simulations are a powerful, tangible opportunity for people to learn about poverty while engaging in conversation about solutions to poverty and the symptoms of it. Participation in a Poverty Simulation offers a view into the struggle that many families and individuals have in relationship to gaining self-sufficiency.

### HOSTING A POVERTY SIMULATION:

We're glad you have an interest in hosting a Poverty Simulation! In the Poverty Simulation, 30-88 participants assume the roles of up to 26 different families facing poverty. The task of the families is to provide for basic necessities and shelter during the course of the "month."

### HOW IT WORKS:

- Participants assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget and interact with volunteers playing the roles of bill collectors, school administrators, service providers, and more.
- The simulation is conducted in a large room with the families seated in groups (a neighborhood). Around the perimeter are tables representing resources in their community.
- A simulation creates a community of people living in poverty for one "month" comprised of four 15-minute weeks and 3-minute weekends. During this hour and nine minutes, each family unit must connect with community resources (i.e. schools, utility companies, social service workers, etc.) to meet their basic needs on a limited income.
- The experience lasts about two and a half hours. It includes an introduction, the actual simulation exercise, and a debriefing period in which participants and actors share their feelings and experiences and learn about ways they can get involved in reducing poverty in our community.



*Please ensure that you meet all the requirements for hosting a simulation listed below:*

- A large room or gym located in Wayne County that can seat 60+ people.
- Volunteer Participants, committed in advance. (30 Minimum. 88 Maximum)
- 60 chairs and 12 tables minimum (3x6ft tables preferred)
- 3 to 4 hours reserved time for the venue

*COTS provides the following:*

- All necessary materials for the simulated experience
- Simulation facilitation with guided reflection
- Experienced Simulation Volunteers to assist

#### **SUGGESTED DONATION FOR POVERTY SIMULATION**

30-44 Participants: \$1,050

45-54 Participants: \$1,250

55-64 Participants: \$1,450

65-74 Participants: \$1,650

75-88 Participants: \$1,850

For more information or to schedule a simulation, please contact:

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*At COTS we **Create Opportunities To Succeed** by assisting families in reaching their housing, economic, health, education and career goals through coaching, mentorship and support as they overcome homelessness and break the cycle of poverty for the next generation and beyond.*

Visit [www.cotsdetroit.org](http://www.cotsdetroit.org) to support our purpose!