



Dear Parents,

Throughout scripture, God makes it clear that Christians are to care for the poor and needy (Deuteronomy 15:11; James 1:27). We are to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to those who are oppressed and downtrodden to our dismay, the message of caring for the poor has been lost in many middle class churches. City on a Hill believes the best way to build awareness is through education, reflection, and experience!

This unique experience is called a Poverty Simulation. Lasting for 40/hours, it is designed to help teach and train the participants about poverty, God's concern for the poor, and how we can fulfill his commandments to care for the poor. Since the summer of 2006, City on a Hill has had several groups learn compassion for those immersed in poverty through this engaging experience. We assure you this is a safe activity, as your child's safety is one of the most important aspects that we focus on. All activities and accommodations are planned with the safety of your child in mind. No one has ever been injured during this experience, but ALL have been stretched out of their comfort zones to face their own materialism and cultural values. Moreover, ALL have left changed. Leaders always accompany the group and have cell phone access that can be used if needed.

Our goals are that each participant will:

- Have a better understanding about poverty (causes, impact, and overcoming)
- Be more grateful for the blessings they have
- Learn about God's heart for the poor
- Learn practical ways to reach the poor in their community

How do we do it? All students will be living at the median income of the families in our neighborhood, \$9700/year. That means that life as they know it will change (sleeping accommodations, food, clothing, etc). Your children will be sleeping here at City on a Hill, and will be fed meals according to the social-economic states they are in for the 40 hours. With the combined impact of their daily life being radically changed, planned activities, times of reflection & scripture reinforcement, students will come face to face with the same realities faced by those caught in poverty. We do ask that you not reveal too much information to the participants, doing so will lessen the impact of the simulation.

If you have any additional questions, please call Kiersten Caine at 414-931-6670. The more the participants remain in the dark, the better the experience they will have!

City on a Hill thanks you for allowing your child the opportunity to develop in this vital way. Please pray that God will do amazing and life changing things during this simulation!

Thank you,

Tony Hanna
Program and data manager

The Statistics

- Median income for families within one square mile of City on a Hill is \$9700.
- Milwaukee is the 9th poorest city in the USA.
- 3 out of 4 homes within 1 mile of City on a Hill are headed by single parents.
- More infants die in our zip code, 53233, than any other zip code in America.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 46.7 million people live in poverty.
- In the world, 30,000 children under the age of 5 die each day from hunger related illnesses.
- Approximately 43 % of Milwaukee's children grow up in poverty.
- If you have sufficient food, decent clothes to wear, roof over your head and any form of reliable transportation, you're in the TOP 15% of the world's wealth!
- Half of the world lives on less than \$2.50 a day.

What others have to say about City on a Hill's poverty simulation...

"I thought my eyes were open – they were not! I realize I, personally, need to do more and as a youth pastor. I need to keep my kids aware so they will grow up with a greater awareness and sensitivity. Why should God bless me if I am not obedient to do what he asks?"

-Sharon (Youth Pastor) Appleton WI

"As a staff member of my church, I can help bring awareness to our local church. I think every pastor should go through this to gain compassion and inspire them to do more in their community."

-Brenda (Youth Pastor), Belgium, WI

"You owe it to yourself to become educated in the culture of poverty that so many of God's people live inside of. You can't effectively lead a person out of their mess until you have walked into their mess and looked around."

-Jason (Youth Pastor), Kingsford MI

"I realized how much God has given me, how uncomfortable I am giving up my lifestyle for just one weekend and how easily I can forget the blessings in my life. It really puts things in a Godly perspective. It helps to shatter the selfish "all about me" view point /mentally."

-Brenda, Waukesha WI

"They should learn that the world is bigger than them. It helps to break the barriers that we, as Americans build between ourselves and the poor. You never know what it's like to be poor until you've experienced it"

-Kristin, Kingsford MI

"I came to a fuller understanding of the love and concern that God has for the poor. We all need to forget about ourselves and start thinking about others. If Jesus interacted with the poor and met their needs, then we should too."

-Daniel, Port Washington WI

I went to City on a Hill believing I had a good handle on poverty in America; I left with the understanding that I knew nothing. Unlike most missions' trips, you don't just go to City on a Hill to change someone else's life – you go to have Jesus Christ change yours. The eye opening power of a City on a Hill mission's trip could only be discounted by those incapable of human compassion.

-Michael, Senior Pastor