

## Catalog of Activities Our Eyes Were Opened

*The following is a list of activities that we offer through Our Eyes Were Opened. The amount of time for each activity varies based on how we customize the presentation for the size of the group and length of time available. Some take as little as 5-10 minutes and others require two-three hours.*

### **Application for Services**

Helps people know how it feels to be asked to do something they cannot do through a process of applying for services that is extremely challenging for all.

### **Cathy Exercise**

Helps participants experience the difficulty of getting out of poverty by using a specific scenario with one person who has multiple issues. Participants prioritize the steps that Cathy must take to improve her life.

### **Checking Assumptions\***

Uses a grid analysis to see how prepared by life experience one is for making judgements about someone else. For example, participants check off whether they have ever shared a bedroom with more than one person or lived with only five books in the house.

### **Double Standards**

Considers several scenarios of double standards that people with resources have when thinking about certain aspects of the lives of people without resources.

### **Faith and Service Go Together Like Peanut Butter and Jelly**

Primarily through lecture and discussion, highlights Biblical teachings for loving our neighbors in poverty. We can include directed small group Bible study.

### **Helping a Family in Need**

Assists groups who are considering establishing a relationship with a needy family. After learning how to get started, participants consider how to develop a relationship with a family. They learn about maintaining a healthy process and avoiding possible pitfalls.

### **Helping Others: Servant or Sucker**

Addresses the sense that when people have reached out to help others, they have been conned, suckered, or taken advantage of. This workshop offers tips on helping others in ways that enhance life for both the giver and the receiver. Participants learn about the culture of poverty as well as helpful tips: The Three Mantras, The Three Vs, The A-B-Cs of Helping, and L.E.A.R.N.

**\* Appropriate for teens (middle school and/or high school)**

## Hunger

Hunger is often hidden in our culture. People can miss meals or have inadequate amounts of food and no one will know. Hunger is a global issue as well. Indeed, hunger can be a destabilizing reality in developing countries. The hunger exercises help increase a group's sensitivity to hunger issues. Components include:

Hunger and the Child: Physically demonstrates the death of a child from hunger every 5 seconds.

One Hundred and Ninety Pounds: An interactive exercise to demonstrate food wasted.

Defining Hunger: Participants develop their own definitions.

Defining Food Insecurity/Food Security: Participants work with definitions.

Why Are People Hungry: Considers the causes of hunger.

Hunger as Universal Emotions: Moves beyond statistics to the human impact of hunger.

## Learning about the poverty guideline\*

Addresses some of the stereotypes of poverty by confronting misperceptions about people who are poor. Interactive activities include true/false/unknown questions such as "Someone who has a lot of children is poor" and a process for using the federal poverty guideline formula to explore its accuracy for modern life.

## Looking through different lenses\*

Expands participants' ways of looking at others by considering the differences between socioeconomic groups. This is primarily a lecture with discussion.

Note: Some of this is covered in Helping Others: Servant or Sucker.

## Poverty test

Gives information about poverty in Greenville by using a multiple choice test and expanded explanations about the demographics highlighted.

## Poverty tour\*

Shows participants blighted neighborhoods of Greenville and discusses the whys of these communities. The tour takes about 1.5 hours. It is limited to 14 people unless the group furnishes its own bus or transportation.

## Poverty Simulation\*

The simulation opens people's eyes to the human cost of poverty. The power of this unique learning resource is that it creates, like nothing else out there, insight into the state of chronic crisis that consumes so many working families. Participants experience one month of poverty compressed into less than two hours. Afterwards, in the debriefing, they share insights of extraordinary vividness and intensity. As a result, bankers, ministers, teachers, clerks, and all kinds of people can share a very special kind of awakening. The simulation requires about 2 hours and at least 20 participants.

## Setting Up A Direct Aid Ministry

Assists groups who want to begin an outreach to assist people in need by "exploring the itch," deciding whom, how, and when to serve, and implementing the plan. Participants also learn about things to watch out for.

**\* Appropriate for teens (middle school and/or high school)**

**Shared Meal\***

Sensitizes participants to the realities and feelings of people who have few resources compared with those who have many. One group of participants receive all the benefits of a party with a complete meal, while the other group not only serves the first group but they also receive a meal of lesser quality and quantity.

**Trading Places\***

Helps participants empathize with classmates who may be poor. By looking at their own situations, they will see things they have in common with people in poverty as well as the things they have which they take for granted. Interactive activities include Ten Questions and “Alike / Not alike.”

**Understanding Poverty in the Classroom**

Helps educators understand how socioeconomic differences impact students and their opportunities for success in the classroom. Teachers learn tips for improving their own and their students’ success in the classroom. This workshop includes the Poverty Tour as well as some other catalog offerings.

**Walking Tour\***

Helps participants see, hear, and smell areas where people who are homeless or poor in their community may go for services or to “hang out.” Providing an opportunity to “walk the walk” can be instructive. Walking past service providers for people who are homeless or very poor, past places homeless people may sleep, and past places where others who have resources congregate can be very eye-opening, especially when those sites are close to each other. The walking tour takes 1.5-2 hours.

**We are connected\***

Helps participants realize how many people are involved helping us have the quality of life we enjoy by considering a bag of chips.

**Why Are People Poor?\***

Demonstrates through a job fair simulation that jobs require education, health, identification papers, stable housing, and transportation. Participants experience the frustration of trying to get a job without all these in place. This activity requires at least 15 people.

**\* Appropriate for teens (middle school and/or high school)**

For information, workshop fees, or to schedule an opportunity, call:

The Rev. Beth Lindsay Templeton  
Director, Our Eyes Were Opened  
606 Pendleton Street  
Greenville, South Carolina, 29601  
864-271-2965 (direct line)  
864-232-6463 x 2204  
864-370-3518  
btempleton@united-ministries.org