

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Poverty Simulation – Stepping Into Someone Else’s Shoes

Improving self-sufficiency begins with understanding the challenges that stand in its way.

United Way of the Lowcountry’s **Poverty Simulation** offers a powerful, hands-on experience that helps participants grasp the day-to-day realities of living on the financial edge—where every dollar, decision, and setback matters.

What Is a Poverty Simulation?

In this immersive, role-playing experience, participants assume the identity of a low-income individual or family and navigate realistic scenarios such as:

- Searching for and maintaining employment
- Accessing childcare and transportation
- Managing unexpected expenses
- Interacting with community resources

In just a few hours, participants feel the stress, uncertainty, and difficult choices that are part of life for many in our community.

Why It Matters

Through the Poverty Simulation, participants gain:

- **Insight into the complex realities of poverty** – the daily struggles faced by individuals and families.
- **An understanding of systemic barriers** – challenges that make upward mobility difficult.

- **A recognition of the power of community** – how support networks help people move toward stability.
- **Greater empathy** – a deeper connection to the human side of poverty.

A Catalyst for Action

This is more than an exercise—it’s an awakening. Participants often leave inspired to advocate for solutions, support programs, and invest in strategies that break the cycle of poverty and promote long-term self-sufficiency.

The Poverty Simulation is **free** for participants. Contact United Way of the Lowcountry for more information.

The result: By fostering empathy and understanding, the Poverty Simulation equips community leaders, donors, and residents with the insight needed to create real pathways to self-sufficiency in Beaufort and Jasper counties.