

## Poverty Exercise

### An Invitation to Participate

**Poverty Exercise Event Date:** October 21, 2016

**Time:** Noon – 4:30 pm

**Location:** Lena Pope Amon Carter Conference Center  
3200 Sanguinet St  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

### *Could you survive a month in poverty?*

According to the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau, the number of people living in poverty in Tarrant County, Texas was 15.2 % or 301,340 individuals. Of that number, 430,203 were youth under the age of 18. The poverty level for a family of four is \$24,300 per year according to HHS. Many more have incomes above the poverty line, but their incomes are still low enough to qualify for programs like Food Stamps and Medicaid. The recent economic downturn has seen unemployment rates rise and the use of emergency food pantries increase. A report from the Center for Public Priorities documents that:

- 24% of Texas full-time, year-round jobs pay less than \$ 25,000 per year
- 24% of Fort Worth full-time, year-round jobs pay less than \$ 25,000 per year
- Since 2000, poverty is up 11.7% in Texas
- Poverty is up 22% in Fort Worth
- Poverty is up 37.6% in Dallas

ACH, Paving the Way and Tarrant County Juvenile Services have partnered to bring a poverty exercise to our agencies to enhance our understanding of some of the aspects of life in poverty. It is difficult for those of us who have enough to truly understand the situations that families living in poverty experience every day. That is why you are being invited to walk a mile in the shoes of those facing poverty by participating in this training exercise.

You will have the opportunity to assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget. The experience is divided into four 15 minute sessions, each of which represents one week in which you must provide for your family and maintain your home. Other participants have come away from these trainings understanding that the answer to poverty is not just “finding a job”.

**Please RSVP** to what promises to be a life-changing exercise by completing the attached registration form and sending it via email to [mjthomas@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:mjthomas@tarrantcounty.com)

**or by fax to 817/838-4643.** We look forward to your participation and critical feedback as we continue to pioneer this important training in o