

**MISSOURI'S
Community Action
Poverty Simulation**

What You Can Do

- **Commit.** Don't leave here today without committing to make a difference in the war on poverty. Think of the situations that you experienced during the simulation and the feelings that they brought out in you. Make a promise to yourself that you are going to take action to make a difference in the lives of those people who experience poverty not just for an hour, but every day.
- **Educate.** The first step in helping end poverty is talking about poverty. Tell your family and friends about your experience with the Community Action Poverty Simulation. As you learn more, develop a presentation about poverty to give to organizations in your community or students in a local school.
- **Volunteer.** Poverty is everywhere, including the city or town where you live. Find out what organizations are helping people in poverty. Find out what you can do to help, and do it. Several Web sites, including www.networkforgood.org/volunteer and www.volunteermatch.org, let you search by ZIP code and area of interest for volunteer opportunities in your community. If you'd rather design your own project, sites such as www.idealists.org can give you ideas of innovative initiatives going on in communities around the nation.
- **Write Letters.** Alert government officials, newspaper editors, local business leaders, producers of local television news, etc. about the knowledge you have gained about the causes of poverty and what can be done locally or nationally to eliminate it. Writing letters demonstrates that when people with a common purpose combine their skills and energies, the results are magnified. If we can get government officials and members of the media talking about poverty, we have a better chance at winning support for policies and programs that can improve the lives of the low-income. For information on how to contact your state legislators, look on your state's Web site.
- **Socialize.** Make it a habit to meet with people of all socioeconomic backgrounds. Have you ever noticed that all of your friends and social contacts are from the same economic class? If so, make a point to meet with those who don't necessarily have as much as you and your family do. By socializing with people at different economic levels, you will develop sensitivity to their needs and learn to relate to them as people just like yourself.

