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JUNE 20th POVERTY SIMULATION WORKSHOP

Kalispell, MT, May 30, 2023. 21,865 people experience the realities of poverty in Northwest Montana. Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana is holding a unique poverty simulation workshop that is designed to help people better understand the realities of poverty. Human service agencies, local civic and community leaders and the general public are all welcome to participate in this simulation being held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 1:30pm in Kalispell at the Gateway West Mall, 1203 US Hwy 2 Gathering Room. **Please RSVP to CAPNM by June 15, 2023.**

“This program helps people understand the complexities and frustrations of living in poverty day to day,” said Tracy Diaz, Executive Director Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana “With a greater awareness of its impact, we can more effectively address the poverty issues in our community.”

Using a simulation kit, participants role-play the lives of low-income families. Some are TANF recipients, some are disabled, and others are senior citizens on Social Security. They have the stressful task of providing for basic necessities and shelter on a limited budget during the course of 15-minute “weeks”. They interact with human service agencies, grocers, pawnbrokers, bill collectors, job interviewers, police officers and others.

More than 133,621 Montanans are living at or below federal poverty level, according to the 2020 census.

CAPNM is a private, non-profit organization with the unique ability to pursue federal, state, private, and local funding sources with the overall mission: **“to provide services and advocacy to improve lives and strengthen our communities.”**

“This is the everyday reality of thousands of Montanans. Understanding that reality will help us change it,” said Ms. Diaz

“Community Action Poverty Simulations enables participants to look at poverty from a variety of angles and then to recognize and discuss the potential for change within their local communities,” said Elaine West, Executive Director of Missouri Association for Community Action, which made the simulation available nationwide.

The simulation was designed to sensitize those who frequently interact with low-income families as well as to create a broader awareness of poverty among policymakers, community leaders and others.

Please visit their website at www.communityaction.org to find out more about the poverty simulation.

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