



# Social Justice Education and Programs



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*Volunteers are needed...*

to take on the roles of the community resources that the families need to access within the course of their daily lives. Volunteers are preferably persons who have experienced the Poverty Simulation at a previous time.

Put yourself in the shoes of a refugee fleeing their native home from war, persecution, discrimination, and/or intolerance. The Refugee Simulation will make you aware of the concrete problems which confront refugees and the psychological anguish caused by separation from loved ones. You'll reflect on what life would be like without the luxuries of three meals at the dining hall, 20-minute showers, and bedrooms of your own. You'll begin at a border, where you'll receive an identity card featuring a story of a refugee from various countries.

It takes about 20 to 30 minutes to experience the Refugee Simulation, but you will be challenged to think about possible solutions to refugee problems. Hopefully, negative stereotypes of refugees will be squashed once you have a better understanding of what refugees go through and the reasons that motivate them to seek refuge in safe countries.

It is hoped that you can take this experience with you to advocate for change on behalf of displaced people. We'll give you the opportunity to do just that at the end of the Refugee Simulation—to write to your Congressional representatives at a laptop kiosk advocating for refugees coming to the United States.

*Food for Thought* is a mini-fair designed to introduce students and others to the problem of food insecurity and related issues, particularly here in the Scranton area. Issues addressed include food insecurity, food deserts, information about local food/hunger issues, use of and access to local food pantries, difficulties of trying to eat nutritiously on a budget, and assistance available to those who struggle to feed their families. Presenters include: the University Leahy Food Pantry and the Center for Health, Education and Wellness (CHEW); faculty and classes whose focus is food, nutrition, or access to food; and, local social service agencies such as the Weinberg Food Bank, Friends of the Poor, the Day Nursery Association and Safety Net.

Hop on the *Justice on Tour* bus and learn about Scranton's unique neighborhoods and diverse populations while visiting community organizations that serve Scranton's underserved communities. Students learn how to get involved in community-based service and research. Deeper awareness leads to greater understanding between our students and Scranton residents. A light meal is served after the tour upon returning to campus while reflecting on the experience.

Want to learn more about Catholic Social Teaching? Check out the [Ignatian Solidarity Network](#).

