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**United Way  
of Snohomish County**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 14, 2017

**Contact**

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**Poverty Simulation on March 31 teaches what it's like to live in poverty.**

(Everett, WA) – On Friday, March 31, the City of Lynnwood, United Way of Snohomish County, and Leadership Snohomish County are putting on an interactive workshop called the Cost of Poverty Experience Simulation (COPES).

The COPES gives you a unique experience into the complex social issues that contribute to poverty and homelessness. Participants will be divided into small “family” teams and experience challenges faced by people in situational or generational poverty.

“Empathy is a powerful human emotion. It elicits a response to reach out, comfort, and help. It is what makes us human. The poverty simulation is a practice of empathy, an exercise that prompts us to join together and take action,” said Allison Warren-Barbour, president and CEO of United Way of Snohomish County.

Past participants have reported gaining a deeper understanding of the complexity of poverty and have gone on to create changes in their own agencies, schools, and public policy to address needs and opportunities.

**Date:** March 31, 2017

**Location:** Trinity Lutheran Church 6215 196<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Registration (space is limited):** <https://www.classy.org/lynnwood/events/cost-poverty-experience-poverty-simulation/e119407>

Registration for the simulation closes March 28, 2017.

This workshop is brought to you through a partnership with Community Action of Skagit County and the Skagit Volunteer Center.

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To find out more about United Way of Snohomish County, including how to give or volunteer and how United Way serves our community, visit [www.uwsc.org](http://www.uwsc.org).