



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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Senator Frank Barnitz Shares Information on Opportunities in Pulaski County

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, recently attended a meeting of the Pulaski County Community Network where members of the community suggested several upcoming opportunities for citizens in the area.

The Missouri Ozarks Community Action Agency (MOCA) Poverty Simulation will take place on September 15 at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Richland. The poverty simulation provides participants with the opportunity to assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget. Between 20 and 72 participants assume the roles of up to 26 different families facing poverty. The task of the “families” is to provide for basic necessities and shelter during the course of four, 15-minute “weeks.” The experience lasts from two to three hours.

“Throughout our state, there are families that are struggling to make ends meet and are making tough decisions every day,” said Sen. Barnitz. “This simulation gives individuals the opportunity to experience the reality of choosing between feeding their children or paying their mortgage. As one who has participated in one of these simulations in the past, I know the exercise is a valuable experience.”

If you are interested in participating in this simulation or want to coordinate a simulation through your organization, call Chelsea Turowski, Keri Pratt, or Mary Leonard at (800) 876-3264.

The Waynesville AmeriCorps is currently looking for individuals who would like to become members. The service organization offers adults of all ages the opportunity to serve through a network of partnerships with nonprofit groups. Members can also have access to benefits such as a stipend or educational assistance, health insurance, childcare assistance and professional development. Members commit to serve full-time for a year to provide reading and math tutoring support to students who are struggling academically.

“Members of the AmeriCorps serve a vital need in our community, and the organization in Waynesville is looking for motivated new members,” said Sen. Barnitz. “It is an opportunity that is twofold: members receive work experience and professional development while they are also helping a student in need.”

More information is available at www.americorps.gov or by calling 573-433-2030.

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