Poverty Awareness Activities

1. Speakers
   a. Contact a local social service agency and see if any of their staff would be willing to speak to a group on your campus. Do a Google search for “social service agencies” for names of organizations.
   b. Possible social service agencies are: Catholic Charities – Lutheran Social Services Red Cross – United Way - Local Churches-State Dept. of Health and Human Services - County Social Services
   C. Collaborate with a sociology or psychology class on campus to host the speaker

2. Movies/Films/Discussion
   a. Show a movie, or video from the internet on poverty
   b. Be certain you have the rights for a public showing
   C. Host a discussion afterwards
   d. Check out this website for ideas: http://www.un.org/works/goingon/poverty/lessonplan_poverty.html

3. Jelly Bean Jar
   a. You need a jar and two colors of jelly beans
   b. Research the rate of poverty. “In 2010, 15.1 percent of all persons lived in poverty.” (http://www.npc.umich.edu/poverty/) That is 15 out of every 100 people live in poverty.
   C. For every 100 jelly beans of one color that you put in the jar, put in 15 of the other color. Put up a sign or ask people to figure out what the jar represents. Once they know it represents the poverty rate, ask them to guess the actual ratio.

4. Food Drive
   a. Do a food drive on your campus for the local food shelf.
   b. Organize a field trip to the food shelf.
   C. Organize a volunteer group to work at the food shelf

5. Poetry for Poverty
   a. Ask students and staff to write a poem that brings awareness to the issue of poverty. Share the poems by email, in a newsletter of display on a bulletin board.
6. **Soup Line Lunch**

   a. Ask students/staff to donate the money they would have used to go out to lunch and provide them with a soup line lunch instead. (Bowl of soup and a piece of bread)

   b. The money collected would go to a local charity of your choice.