

*Sponsoring Organization:*

**Crossroads Regional Chamber  
of Commerce**  
255 West 80th Place  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219) 769-8180  
FAX (219) 736-6223

**Comments about the Reality Store <sup>SM</sup>...**

"Students were SHOCKED at how fast their money went--sort of like our 'real life' experience."

Pat Parker  
Former Teacher, Pierce Middle School

"Many students were very disappointed at the difference between their gross income and net income -- reality!"

John Rooda  
Ross Township Trustee

"I think it was really good because they actually showed what real life is about." Mandy Medellin  
Former Pierce Student

"The result was seeing the value of the dollar and the necessary parts of life we need in order to function in society as responsible adults. I feel I gained as much as the students!"

Laurie Powers  
Volunteer, Kauffman Chiropractic  
Excerpt from Hammond Times article

"We want students to learn that educational choices, career choices, financial income and costs of living are all related."

Dr. Tony Lux  
Merrillville Community School Corporation  
Superintendent of Schools

**Crossroads Regional  
Chamber of Commerce**

Dear Community Volunteer,

On behalf of the members of the Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce, we would like to thank you for your interest in participating in *ENVISION THE FUTURE*.

We want to help young students make decisions about their future careers. We also want to help every student understand that there is a positive relationship between school success and their future lifestyles.

We think that by helping students *ENVISION THE FUTURE* they will get a taste of what life will be like as an adult.

We hope students will learn what it costs to live the way they would like, what different kinds of jobs pay, and what occupations are available. Your participation in helping our young citizens learn about their future options is appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Brian P. Popp*

Attorney at Law, Laszlo & Popp, P.C.  
Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Chairman of the Board of Directors

*Michael White*

Indiana Wesleyan University  
Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Chairman – Education Committee

***THE REALITY  
STORE<sup>SM</sup>***  
*Envision The Future*

**Wednesday  
March 17, 2010**  
Pierce Middle School  
199 E. 70th Place  
Merrillville, IN 46410



**For Our Business  
and  
Community Partners**

Volunteer pre-registration required.  
Event and registration information enclosed.

*You Can Help Our Youth Get  
Ready Today, To Experience Tomorrow.*

The Reality Store<sup>SM</sup> is an effort to help area 8th graders:

- learn about the real world.
- learn about the costs of various life-styles.
- understand the economic differences between people.
- experience “real world” mathematics problems.
- enhance their problem-solving skills.

**The Reality Store<sup>SM</sup> encourages students to:**

- begin planning their careers early in life.
- learn budgeting skills.

*\*The Reality Store- is a concept that originated with the Indiana Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs*



Community businesses working with the schools investing in our future.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010**

at

Pierce Middle School  
199 E. 70th Place  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
219-650-5308

**Volunteers are needed to assist in the Reality Store<sup>SM</sup> effort. Volunteers are critical to the success of the program.**

**What happens at the Reality Store<sup>SM</sup>?**

Students spend about one hour at The Reality Store simulation. They arrive with a future occupation selected and with their monthly paycheck on deposit. Students then visit several booths, staffed by volunteers, where they make many choices about how they want to live their lives. They select their living arrangements, their type of automobile, and even make decisions on whether or not they “must” have cable TV. Through The Reality Store<sup>SM</sup> experience, students learn how to budget their income, and they experience and learn from real life choices. Along the way, unexpected events may occur, just as in real life.

**How does one volunteer?**

Contact the Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce Merrillville office by phone, Fax or E-mail.

**What do volunteers do?**

Volunteers work in booths that are visited by students.

**What are the types of booths?**

See the categories on the registration form.

**What special skills are required of volunteers?**

If you know the relative cost of everyday household expenses, you can help.

**Do I need to prepare anything?**

Training materials will be provided by the Chamber office.

**How much time must I commit?**

Volunteers are asked to sign up for the entire day, 7am to 3:30pm or share an AM or PM session with a coworker. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Please remember that we are setting an example for our youth and make every effort to be on time.

**VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION**

**THE REALITY STORE<sup>SM</sup>**

Please fill out the below in its entirety to participate.  
One registration for each volunteer is required.  
Questions are to be directed to:  
Crossroads Regional  
Chamber of Commerce—Merrillville Office  
255 W. 80th Place, Merrillville, IN 46410  
P: 219-769-8180 F: 219-736-6223  
karla@crossroadschamber.org

**Volunteer Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate below the booth where you would like to volunteer and the time session you are available. (You may select more than one area)  
*Every effort will be made to accommodate volunteer's preference.*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Reality Check!!      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities               | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Luxury |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone/Cable/Internet    | <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation          | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Services      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance               | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food/Clothing/Childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banking                 | <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference        |

**SESSION:**

All Day (7am to 3:30pm)

AM (7am to 11am)       PM (11am to 3:30pm)

*Please forward completed registration to the Chamber Merrillville office by March 1, 2010.*