

TITLE: A Chair for Everyone

IMPACT: Get people moving, learn about the distribution of world resources

RISK: Low

GROUP SIZE: 10 people

TIME REQUIRED: 5 minutes

DIRECTIONS:

- Invite each person to sit in a chair. They represent the population of the earth. The chairs represent the earth's resources. If those resources are divided equally, there's more than enough for all. Play the music once and then stop. See? Everyone has a seat!
- But the resources of the world are not distributed equally. Ask two to sit on the floor. They represent the poorest fifth of the human family, about 1.3 billion people, yet they collectively earn just 2% of the world's income, about a dollar a day.
- Ask six to share three-and-a-half chairs. They represent the world's middle class, about 3.5 billion people, with enough to get by. They earn 33% of the world's income.
- Ask two people to spread out over six-and-a-half chairs. They represent the richest fifth of the human family, 1.2 billion people, earning 65% of the world's income. They have more than enough, enjoying many personal conveniences.

HINT: This activity will work for groups whose size are multiples of 5. Maintain a 1:3:1 ratio between poorest, middle class, and richest people on the planet.

DISCUSSION:

- Where would the following young women be seated?

They are forced to work 9-10 hours a day, seven days a week, earning as little as six cents an hour in the Keyhinge factory in Vietnam making popular giveaway promotional toys, many of which are Disney characters for McDonald's Happy Meals.

- Where would your family be seated? How can we begin to build a world that works for all people? Describe some of the work of CWS.

