

HUNGER BANQUET

Another fund/awareness-raising event recommended by Oxfam America is a Hunger Banquet. An Oxfam America Hunger Banquet dramatizes the unequal distribution of food in the world. The Banquet will leave many hungry, some with just enough, and very few with full stomachs. Money is raised through a standard admission charge and/or by gathering donations.

Hunger Banquet participants are randomly assigned to one of three socio-economic levels that represent proportional global standards-of-living. Out of every 100 people, 15 enjoy a full-course meal complete with royal treatment, 25 sit in a simple setting and eat a meager meal (such as rice and beans), and the remaining 60 share rice, without utensils, while sitting on the floor.

STEPS

- Call Oxfam America at **800-77-OXFAM**. The Fast Team will provide you with materials and help you organize a Hunger Banquet.
- Gather interested people in your Awareness Week team to help co-coordinate the event.
- Establish a time and place. For example, school cafeterias and student unions are ideal locations but will require agreements with the administration and dining service.
- Invite local celebrities to the event—local media stars will generate publicity and greater public response.
- Ask local restaurants to donate food.
- Send invitations with RSVPs. The invitations should include endorsers, special guests, and sponsors.
- Prepare the materials for the event. These materials include fact sheets (you can get information about global hunger from Oxfam America), menus, posters, a program (check with Oxfam America for a suggested script), and colored or numbered tickets (15% high-income, 25% middle-income, and 60% low-income).
- Publicize! Send out news releases and use other publicity strategies (see the media section in this packet) to gather as many participants as possible.
- On the day of the banquet, set up the room accordingly. Make sure the first group has an elaborate setting and service, while the third group has only the bare essentials.

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