

Name _____ Date _____

CCHD Poverty Scenarios
Scenario C

Directions: In this activity, you will receive a scenario based on a real problem confronted by people living in poverty. Your group needs to come up with two solutions to this situation. One solution has to be based on "charitable works." How can you meet the immediate needs of individuals or families? The other solution needs to be based on "social justice." How can we help to correct the problem in the community in the long term?

During a time of housing shortage in the late 1980s in southern New Mexico, developers preyed on low-wage migrants and farmworkers. For very little down and low monthly payments, the migrants and farmworkers were illegally "sold" small plots of land in unincorporated rural areas. But deeds of ownership were not awarded and buyers often did not know that the illegal subdivisions, called *colonias*, would not be serviced by the state or city and had no access to clean water, plumbing, gas, sewage, solid waste disposal, paved roads and other basic services. The lack of clean water and sewage disposal caused environmental and health problems such as: hepatitis, gastrointestinal infections and other water borne diseases. With few possibilities for economic development and little access to educational opportunity, the future of those who lived in the *colonias* looked bleak.

What would you do to help address this situation?

Charitable Works:

Social Justice: