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*SCROLL TO 2<sup>nd</sup> PAGE TO GET UPCOMING DATES*

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**VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

You can make an important contribution to local students by volunteering your time to a Chamber career readiness program called Reality Check. And at the same time, you can become eligible to win a prize after Reality Check has been presented at all participating schools. (See paragraph toward bottom.) Plus, while you are at the school volunteering, we will do a drawing for a Carmike movie ticket!

Reality Check offers high school freshmen an opportunity to experience life as if they were 25 years old and the primary support of their household. During the mock exercise in “Realville, USA” the students face real-life scenarios based on annual and monthly income, tax deductions and a list of items they must budget, including housing, transportation, clothing and food.

This program introduces students to the challenges of household budgeting, reveals the incomes associated with various occupations, and emphasizes the relationship between education and earnings.

In Realville (usually the high school gym or cafeteria), the students pay their bills at different booths. That’s where the volunteers come in. Volunteers man the booths, answering the students’ questions and advising them on how much they can afford to spend at each booth.

The Chamber piloted Reality Check at Central High in the spring of 2002. “It has been such a success; we’re offering it at as many schools as possible during the school year.” Mattie Moran, Director of Education & Workforce Development says. “We are also happy that Reality Check won a Replicated Best Practices Award during the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Tennessee Association of Partners in Education Inc.”

The drawing for the end of school year prizes will be held in the spring at our annual volunteer recognition picnic. Only those who volunteered during the school year will be eligible for the prizes. Volunteers will have the opportunity to put their name in for the drawing each time they volunteer. The more times you volunteer, the greater your chances of winning.

**Interested in volunteering? Please contact Cathy Humble at the Chamber at 763-4321 or [chumble@chattanooga-chamber.com](mailto:chumble@chattanooga-chamber.com)**

~Thank you~