

# Turning the Tide on Poverty

## Creating Vibrant Communities Together

### What is “Turning the Tide on Poverty?”

- It is an initiative of the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) that works in 13 southern states and is headquartered at Mississippi State University.
- It is an effort to help communities take action to fight poverty in their communities by working together to explore ways to help families and individuals move from poverty to prosperity.
- **Tensas Parish** is one of the eight counties and parishes chosen to participate in a pilot program that is being conducted in five states. All sites have 20% or greater poverty.

### What Will We Do?

- Community members will meet in Study Circle groups to learn about poverty and to start talking about possible solutions.
- When the Study Circles are complete, participants will come together for a Community Action Forum on March 8.
- The project goal is to develop a clear community action plan to help address the issue of poverty.

### What is a Study Circle?

Study Circles:

- Consist of 8-12 people from different backgrounds.
- Meet once a week in two-hour sessions for five weeks of guided conversations.
- Begin February 1 and conclude March 1.
- Are led by trained facilitators whose job is to help the group stay on the topic.
- Look at an issue from different directions and explore common concerns.
- Come up with practical ways to address the issue.
- Design plans for action and change.

### Come to the Kick-Off Event

**Tuesday, January 26  
5 p.m.  
Tensas Community  
Center**

**For more information  
contact the LSU AgCenter  
office, 766-3320.**

### How Can I Participate?

- Volunteer to help organize the community Study Circles.
- Sign up to participate in a Study Circle in Tensas Parish.
- Participate in the Community Action Forum on March 8.
- Volunteer to help execute the plan created in the Action Forum.

For more information, contact James Hendrix, LSU AgCenter, Parish Chair/County Agent, 318-766-3320 or Dr. Cynthia Pilcher, LSU AgCenter, Area Agent, Community Rural Development, 318-435-2903.

*Turning the Tide on Poverty is sponsored by the Southern Rural Development Center in conjunction with Everyday Democracy, The Farm Foundation, and The Kettering Foundation.*

