Economic Prosperity | FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SPENT: PARENT IMPACT GUIDE

Age 13+ | 1-2 Hours

“Gaming is such a huge influence and with so many people spending literally millions of hours tending virtual farms, we thought why not bring gamers face-to-face with a very real issue like homelessness that affects us all.”

--Jonathan Cude, Chief Executive Officer, McKinney

ABOUT SPENT

Spent is a game about negotiating the realities of poverty and financial responsibility, and how small choices can stack up to make the best intentioned, financially responsible people look anything but responsible. By increasing awareness of the struggles of low-income parents, the Urban Ministries of Durham hoped to change the fate of struggling citizens. In fact, Spent’s success has helped raise more than $45,000 to provide food, clothing, shelter and supportive services for the citizens of Durham, while creating awareness all over the world. For more information, visit: http://playspent.org

THEME FOR THIS GUIDE: Financial Responsibility

Spent is about learning and experiencing the reality of poverty. The player is a single parent with only $1,000 to live on for a month. Through this month, he or she must fulfill his or her adult duties: find a job, buy groceries, choose a health plan, and pick a location to live. This game focuses on financial responsibility, which is the ability to control money in a way that is law-abiding and beneficial.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Challenge your child to play Spent and learn about the importance of taking financial responsibility. He or she will learn the importance of saving and budget priorities that he or she can apply to his or her life. Use this guide and the Player Impact Guide to become familiar with Spent.

DISCUSS THE GAME

… the gameplay

- What were some of the goals and values that you had to give up because your priorities changed? [+2]
- What were the hardest choices you made during the month? Why were they hard choices? [+2]
- What did you learn about money management and how it relates to health and opportunity? [+2]
- What surprised you the most about trying to make it through a month on $1000? [+3]

… the game’s impact

- Based on what you experienced in the game, what changes should you make in your budget? [+1]
- What did you learn about how people in our city might be living? What could we do to help? [+3]

INTERACT WITH THE GAME

- Have your child pick two game achievements and describe how they were earned and what they mean. [+1]
- Have your child setup two challenges, and watch as they complete them. [+2]
- Play the game yourself, and complete the "Game Basics" section of the player Impact Guide. [+2]
- Solve one challenge that your child sets up for you to complete with their help. [+2]

SHARE THE GAME

- Post a positive reflection on the CGI Facebook page: http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact [+2]
- Engage in conversations with other parents about your experience using the guide and playing the game. [+2]
- Host a “Game Slam” event, using these and other challenge questions you create. [+3]

Family Challenge: Challenge yourself and your child to go one week with a budget limited to 10% of what you normally would spend. How does this affect your lives? What did you learn about what you really need, as opposed to just enjoy? Post it to YouTube, and share the link on the Center for Games & Impact Facebook page at http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact.