**ACTIVITY 2: Ethics in Action**

(15 – 20 minutes)

Ask two volunteers for a role-playing exercise:

Scenario:

One student plays the role of employer and the other plays the role of employee.

In the first scenario:

The employee is a hard worker who regularly arrives early, stays late, is a real team player, and makes sure everything is safe at all times. The employer is a demanding, abrasive, and rude individual who does not always provide the proper equipment for the given tasks. The employee is disputing his/her paycheck. The employee is paid by the hour and the employer has shorted the check by 20 hours. The employer makes the case that (s)he has the right to withhold hours if (s)he feels like the employee is not performing up to expectations.

After the role-play, ask the students the following questions:

1. What did the employer do wrong?
2. Was what the employer did right?
3. Would you want to work for an employer like the one in the scenario? a. Why?
4. Is it important to you to work for an ethical employer?

In the second scenario:

The employer is a kind and trusting individual who always takes care of his/her employees and tries to do his/her best to create a happy workplace. Employees are allowed to work flexible hours to ensure they have time at home to rest and take care of their family. There are monthly bonuses based on individual improvement in productivity and safety. A new employee is hired and arrives with a bad attitude every day. The workplace environment is becoming stressful on the other employees. The new employee is caught stealing something from the job. Role-play the confrontation between the employer and new employee (the employer should be patient and respectful at all times while the employee will be rude and confrontational).

After the exercise, ask the students the following questions:

1. What did the employee do wrong (not just the stealing but in the interaction with the employer)?
2. What about the employer?
3. If you were an employer, would you want someone like this working for you? a. Why?
4. What would you do if you were the employer?

Do employers have the right to expect their employees to behave ethically?