

HOMELESSNESS



Struggling to Survive in a HEARTLESS World

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Most Common Reasons that lead to Homelessness

Reasons

There are many ways that lead to homelessness and it could be:

- *Decline in government support*
- *Divorce*
- *Domestic violence (abuse at home)*
- *Substance Abuse (smoking, drugs, alcohol)*
- *Mental Illness (War memories, schizophrenia, severe depression)*
- *Illness*
- *Job loss*

All of these are reasons and ways of becoming homeless, but there are still many more reasons and factors that lead to it as well.



WHY Help The Homeless?

WHY?

Homeless people are in need of your help.

THEY NEED HELP TO SURVIVE IN THIS UNFORGIVING WORLD

Some people don't care about their problems. Some people put them down and ignore them, and some even steal from each other. Homeless people are still human and shouldn't be treated any differently. They need somebody to stand up for them and they deserve it. You can make a difference in one of their lives by helping.



How you can Help

YOU CAN ...

- Help at a soup kitchen
- Make donations of any amount
- Donate food to soup kitchens
- Become part of a soup kitchen team
- Donate clothes and shoes to the Salvation Army
- Spare some change next time you see a guy like this → → → → → → → → → → → → → →
- Say hello if you're comfortable with it
- Smile instead of frown and run away (unless it looks like the person was on drugs or something)
- Find a way to help on your own
- Offer to buy them a meal



Why Are They Ignored?

The homeless are often ignored for four main reasons:

1. People don't care what happens to them.
2. People are intimidated by the homeless people because they don't know about the way they live.
3. People think that if they leave them alone, someone else will deal with it.
4. People think it's not their problem to deal with.



Why Should People Care

People should care because it is a worldwide issue, all kinds of people are homeless (men, women, children, and baby's), and because they need the help of caring people. We need to show compassion towards them because compassion is the one trait that separates us from heartless machines. When we show compassion towards others, it leaves a good impression in their minds that there is someone in the world that can care about them.



Who helped?

My grandpa is the upcoming president of Food on the Corner, a society that goes to downtown East side to where the homeless people are and they serve food, desserts and drinks to them right from a van that looks like a ice cream truck, but only without decoration. They are a faith based Christian outreach and they are there because they heard God's whisper: "**You can feed My sheep**". The people of Food on the Corner show compassion to the Homeless because they believe that: "**We are All Equal in the Eyes of God.**" I think that that is completely true because everyone should be treated the same way. Homeless people are still human, as you and I are. I believe that people should care because you should treat others the same way that you want to be treated and because you are striving to be good and kind to the people around you. These people are in trouble and need help to survive. We are the only ones that can help. All people need is the inspiration to do something that can make a difference. The volunteers at my grandpa's society are getting old and need young people to take over.



The Real Power of One

One man's story about helping the Homeless

While having supper on the night of November 16, 1982, Hermann Glockl was inspired by a story that he watched on the news, about a couple who served soup and sandwiches to the homeless in the small town of Quesnel, B.C. He decided to make a difference in the same way as that couple and started the society Food on the Corner. This society hasn't missed a Saturday serving food to the homeless downtown for 28 years.

With constant doubts and discouragements, he persevered because he remembered the whisper:

"You can Feed My Sheep"

Here is the link that tells his story of making a difference:

<http://www.foodonthecorner.org/Our%20Society.htm>



This is Mr. Glockl

His actions have made a big difference

My action Plan is to...

I will go to my Grandpa's society called Food on the Corner. When I get there, I would have to follow all of the rules about serving and about how to behave around the homeless if some of them are mentally ill, drug addicts, or alcoholics, etc. My Grandpa is a volunteer at a soup kitchen and my mom told me that it would be fine if I wanted to help him at the soup kitchen. My Grandpa said that I could help him but I would have to stay inside the area so that I'm safer. He said that he could make arrangements so that I would be able to help. My reflections would be made after every event that happens during the project.

How I've Helped

I was able to volunteer at my Grandpa's society for serving the homeless. I went down in front of the Vancouver court house where a truck loaded with food, was unloading to get prepared for serving the homeless Food on the Corner. The title was clearly printed on the truck's side, and it contained: three tables, 94.6 liters of boiling hot soup, 15 gallons of coffee, and a big box full of buns, cookies, pastries, and wrapped sandwiches that were one day after "expired best before date" donations from Safeway. After everything was set up seven minutes later, I was assigned to put or give spoons for soup to the homeless people that were in my line. I had a volunteer name tag on so that people would know who I am that the other volunteers had given to me. The way it works is that the person who drives the van to the courthouse takes full responsibility of the operation. He makes sure that there is no one cutting lines or stealing food from the volunteers. Today, that happened to be my Grandpa. Once the soup was finished off, people were given coffee and I was in charge of putting in sugar and cream. Later, cookies and bananas were given out. There must've been hundreds of bananas there because almost everyone (150-300) had a banana...

How I've Helped: continued

Some people didn't get a banana because there were none left over. What I noticed was that, most of the people who were here were very polite, generous, and patient. Nobody took more than they needed, some gave others who haven't eaten yet the spot in front of them, and they offered their soup or coffee to others that didn't get any yet. Some people had nothing but the clothes on their backs, but others had plastic bags or backpacks filled with everything that they own. I saw people who were putting or saving food for later in their plastic bags too. Most people were here because of job loss, mental illness, or substance abuse. It was clear that these people didn't have much but were cleaner than I had expected them to be. There were still a few people who were greedy because they were starved and that this might be the only good meal they get all week and there were less than a handful of people that tried to cut or sneak more than they needed. This experience has made me way more aware of those who suffer homelessness and poverty out in the world. People of all races, age, and genders can suffer from homelessness or poverty.

Me volunteering at the Food on the Corner Society



Thanks For
Watching and
Listening to

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