

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE HOMELESS

The following identifies a variety of ways for the public to help those entities which provide direct services to the homeless. These ideas are applicable for individuals, groups, and organizations.

- Donate furniture, clothing, bedding, towels, washcloths, and household items to local homeless shelters or thrift shops.
- Donate personal items, cleaning supplies, and food to local homeless shelters.
- Donate money to local homeless shelters.
- Donate your talents, such as carpentry skills, hair cuts, day care, etc. at a local shelter.
- Offer to spend time in the shelters teaching the individuals living there any special talents you may have.
- Suggest that the organizations you belong to do a food drive, clothing drive, or a non-food item drive for local food pantries or shelters. Possibly, that organization would do a fund raising project for a local pantry or shelter.
- Follow through on at least one special gift to and for the needy.
- Count each light you use to decorate this Christmas. Give ten cents for each light to the hunger appeal.
- Give \$1.00 for every "alternative" gift you receive this Christmas.
- Donate food certificates or coupons to a local shelter.
- Donate a bag of bus tokens to a shelter or school.
- Fast for one meal a week and donate to a food pantry what you would have spent on a meal.
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
- Set an extra place at your table as a reminder of the 5 million children who go to bed hungry every night.
- Donate \$1.00 to a service agency for every pair of shoes you own.
- Donate to a shelter items that can not be bought with food stamps such as soap, sanitary supplies, paper products, diapers, shampoo.
- Learn about homelessness so that if the issue is discussed you can provide useful information or resources. Respect the homeless as individuals.
- When approached by the homeless, respond with kindness, carry fast-food certificates, and know where the shelters are.
- Get others involved. Sign up your company or school to volunteer at a shelter, recruit local businesses, or employ the homeless.
- Educate your children about the homeless so they can teach their friends, collect toys and games for donation, donate admission fees for an event, play with children in a shelter, and use birthday parties to help.