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Homeless Changes

by Penn Kerhoulas

Most of us walk by homeless people and feel sorry for them but just hurry by. Why, though? Imagine that you had no house or money, how would you feel? It's hard to figure out the best methods for helping these people. We are advised not to hand them cash because it is likely that they will spend it on drugs and alcohol. Most of us feel helpless to solve a problem that seems so huge in our county. I feel that if the U.S government created a strong well- funded plan to fight homelessness, maybe we would make progress towards defeating this issue. I think that governments should focus on three main areas in the battle against homelessness: Mental Health, Housing, and Food Security.

There is a shortage of mental health professionals available to the homeless in the United States. City and State governments must hire more therapists to be out on the streets with the homeless. These professionals will often be able to help find people who need mental help and let them into a program that aids them. More therapists regularly at homeless shelters could monitor people more closely than out on the streets. Just having someone to talk to could bring changes for a lonely homeless person.

Housing for the homeless is a huge program for America. The government should donate more money towards using abandoned motels, malls, department stores, and even bowling alleys as places to house the homeless. A group of citizens in each major city could be set up to work on this goal. Some cities are trying to build tiny houses for their homeless. Americans are clever and smart and we should help think more creatively when trying to help our friends in need.

Food security is a very important goal in the battle against homelessness. In a wealthy country like ours it seems unbelievable that many people go to sleep hungry every night. One main problem is getting restaurants and supermarkets to work with the city government to make sure that no usable food goes to waste when it could be donated to the homeless. But we cannot always depend on the city governments, citizens need to strike out on their own and volunteer to pick up food and deliver it to the homeless. If the homeless have food security, their mental and physical health will improve tremendously, and that is a win-win for everyone.

As I have shown, the battle against homelessness in America should focus upon achieving better Mental Health, Housing, and Food Security. This battle cannot be fought only by elected governments, it must be taken up by citizens as well. WE have to step up and help, even if it's in a small way in our community. We cannot depend on others to take up the fight, the problem belongs to all of us!

