The Homeless Community

By Dayana Camarena

The homeless community has grown more in the city of Orange. Currently, the homeless are being kicked out of the riverbeds. According to the Orange County Register, there are several hundreds of people lined up in the riverbeds. I believe more people should help the homeless people instead of making them feel like if they do not exist.

There are many homeless people in Orange County, but not many people realize it. There was 15,291 in Orange County in 2015 according to the Orange County Register. Many people in the gated community do not understand the hardships of the homeless because they are closed off from them. When people do see the homeless, they think that the homeless are only homeless because they made bad life choices, but most of the causes are only that they didn't make enough money to sustain themselves. Reporter Joseph Pimentel said earlier that “Several hundred people have lined the eastern side of the riverbed with camps, adjacent to the 57 freeway and Angel Stadium. They will have to move.”

The community is trying to help, but that is just not enough. There are about 3,400 beds, but there is not enough for every homeless. According to the Orange County Register, there were 32,510 homeless children during the 2013-2014 school year. Clearly, there are not enough of beds for all the homeless kids at the time. Orange County is trying to help by giving the homeless some shelter away from the riverbed, but they did not give enough beds for all of the homeless to live in. Therefore, this causes the riverbeds to be clogged up with many homeless people.

Many people do not respect homeless. Orange County was sued. Orange County has been sued for the second time in four days over allegations that it broke the law when it recently cleared out portions of a homeless encampment along the riverbed in Orange to make room to stockpile boulders and sand for flood control purposes. There should be changes made in Orange County that would help homeless people out of the streets. We as people should maybe save up some money to buy them a blanket or any products that they might need. We could communicate with them, say hi to them, and donate stuff that we do not need anymore. Also, we can volunteer our time to the homeless shelter and the foodbank. As you can see, by helping the homeless you can make a good cause of getting them off the streets. This is beneficial because there will be a better community.
When surveying Chapman students, many of them said they support the homeless community. Madi Spiegel said, “I think it is important for us to support the homeless community because they do not have access to the same resources as many people in our community do. They need support and need to feel like they are humans too.” A lot of Chapman students do community service. For example, there are soup kitchens. Soup kitchens are a place you can feed the homeless. Soup kitchens are important because not all people get to eat and having this place feeds many in need. Brianna Carcione worked at a soup kitchen and said, “It was a unique experience to get the chance to make a homeless child smile when I served them food that my friends and I made.”

Additionally, I interviewed my mom, Vanessa Albino, and my step dad, Jimmy Ochoa. My mom said, “Well, I agree that they should have more respect, every homeless deserves a second chance and they deserve to be in a better place other than the streets.” Jimmy Ochoa said, “The government should help the homeless more, not by giving them money but by maybe giving them a job or by giving them a place to stay at, but I think there are two types of homeless one that wants to make money for a good cause and one that wants money for something bad. I believe that there should be more respect towards them.”

In conclusion, there are still a lot of homeless people out there and it has been rising over these past few years. In my opinion, I think people should not treat the homeless badly. They are just like us. They have feelings as well, and we should treat them with kindness and not make them feel left out. I have talked about ways we could help the homeless community by spending more time in community service, donating stuff to them that we do not need anymore, and we can greet them whenever we see them. Overall, I think they should not move because that is the only place that makes them feel like home.