

Homeless In Need

By Sarah Hernandez, Keila Pineda, and Valerie Quinones

According to a recent news report, police were hunting for five attackers who were captured on video harming a homeless man sleeping on a New York City sidewalk and stealing \$5 from the victim before fleeing the area. That is a poor representation of society and how we treat the homeless!

Homeless people are also citizens of our community. So they need the resources we also use and need. In 2017, over 553,000 Americans were homeless. 40 million people struggle with hunger and 40.6 million officially live in poverty. Volunteers of America work to prevent and end homelessness while also trying to give them the resources they need. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Annual Homeless Assessment Report, as of 2017 there were **around 554,000** homeless people in the United States on a given night, or 0.17% of the population. Homelessness emerged as a national issue in the 1870s.

Some are trying to do better. They are trying to find jobs, get a home, and get medical attention if they need to. The most common reason why people become homeless is because they do not have the resources to get a job or they have a drug addiction and most jobs require a drug test. Also they don't have an address, and most employers require addresses. This is a lose-lose situation because they cannot get a job, until they get a place to live. People are rude to the homeless, even when they are trying to do better and get the resources they need. We are trying to oppose that; people need to stop treating the homeless like they are not even citizens. Even if someone is not as wealthy or not as clean as you that doesn't mean that they are any less of a person as you are. It's also people's fault that there are homelessness. Since the homeless lack resources to be employed, such as the possibility of poor hygienal health, criminal record, and little education. This can limit these individuals from becoming successful. Also, for women in particular, domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness. The country reported that the top causes of homelessness among families were respectively: lack of affordable housing, unemployment, poverty, and **low** wages.

In conclusion, we hope our readers learned to help the homeless. People need to help them and not be so harsh. You should try to be kind and help the homeless daily so that they can get the resources they need in order to be successful in life. There are resources such as:

- Mercy Housing: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development program that helps single mothers with financial problems.

- Low income housing: A Federal housing assistance program that provides tax incentives to owners of affordable housing.
- House of Hope Housing : The House of Hope Housing is a local housing program in Orange County. This assists families in need.