Myths About Homelessness
Myths About the Homeless

- They’re all Lazy and Unemployed
- They’re all Drunks and Drug Addicts
- It’s Their Fault
- There’s Nothing I Can Do
What is Homelessness?
What is Homelessness?

People Living on the Streets
What is Homelessness?

People Without a Place of Their Own

- Friends’ Homes
- Shelters
Who is Homeless?
Who Is Homeless?
Who Is Homeless?

15% of Local Homeless are Children

14% of Local Homeless are Veterans
Who Is Homeless?
Who Is Homeless?

9% of Homeless are in College

17% of Homeless are Over 50
Who Is Homeless?

- People who are Disabled
  - 39% are physically or developmentally Disabled

- People with Mental Disorders
  - 24% suffer from treatable mental illnesses

- People who Work
  - Over 40% of the Homeless nationwide have Jobs
Alcohol, Drugs and the Homeless
Drugs and the Homeless

Myth

“All Homeless People are Alcoholics, or Drug Addicts”

Drug and Alcohol abuse actually increases with income
Drugs and the Homeless

Myth

“They can Quit at Anytime”

Price of Rehabilitation

$10,000 - $32,000
Why do you believe people become homeless?
Why are People Homeless?

It’s a Thin Line

- Experts agree people need to save enough money to cover at least 3-6 months of expenses (Food, Rent, Gas, Bills)
Stories of the Homeless

Dr. Phil

- During his teenage years, he lived in a car with his dad
- YMCA and a college scholarship helped him out

Frederick Jefferson (Local)

- Didn’t know he had traffic fines, and lost his license and job
- Recent California law allowed him to get his license and job back
Simple Acts of Kindness
We Can All Do
Simple Things We Can Do: Water

- Hard to find water without a house
- Water is healthier, and better for people trying to stay hydrated
- Keep water in your car and give when you can
Simple Things We Can Do: Food

Fruit Snacks and granola bars are small yet effective items.

Trying keeping these in the same place as the water bottles!
Simple Things We Can Do: **Socks**

Socks are rarely donated, but are an important part of staying healthy, especially in cold weather.
Simple Things We Can Do: Shelters

For the Riverside Area:

Path of Life Ministries:
Shelter for single men and women
(951)683-4101

Riverside Men and Family Shelter:
Shelter for single men and Shelter for single women or single parents with children (909) 386-0787

We also have additional resources for shelters outside of Riverside. Please let us know if you are interested.
Simple Things We Can Do: Vote

Local laws can be the difference between giving someone a shot at a job, or staying on the streets

- California passed a law allowing people to lower traffic ticket prices and keep driving
- One South Dakota city attempted to ban temporary job placement offices, making it harder to find work
Simple Things We Can Do:

Compassion