

# Myths About Homelessness

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- *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?

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People Living on the Streets



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People Without a Place of Their Own

- Friends' Homes
- Shelters



# Who is Homeless?

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# 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?

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- 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



Chronicle / Michael Macor

# 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

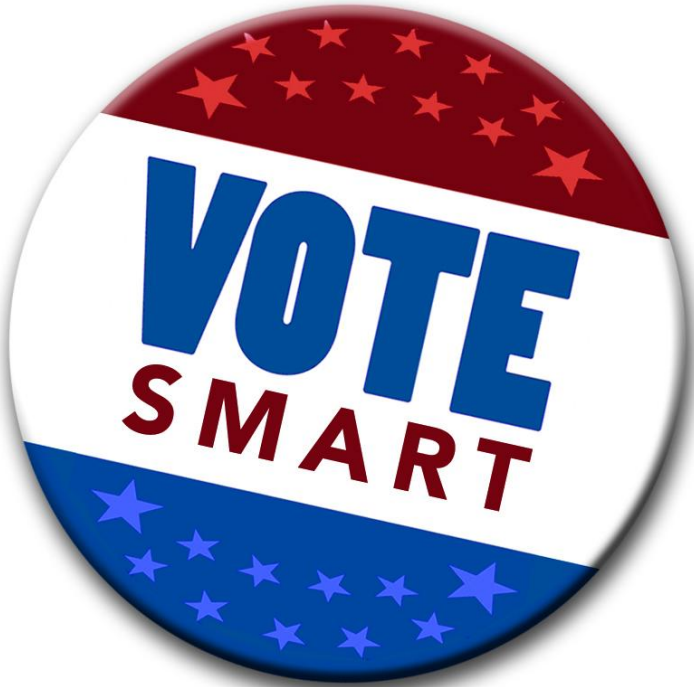
**(951)683-4101**

**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