

VOLUNTEERING

Not sure how you can help? Here is a list of ideas to get you thinking:

Ask someone to share their story with you

At your next party, have your guests bring food for a food drive

Bake a birthday cake for someone that doesn't have a house

Bring someone to church with you

Develop and maintain websites for local agencies serving people who are homeless

Donate office space to an agency

Encourage an atmosphere of respect: speak up when someone disparages people experiencing homelessness or repeats a misnomer

Encourage community and planning groups to include people affected by decisions: consumers, clients, people experiencing homelessness

Enter data into the HMIS system

Form a core team at your congregation, university, business, or civic group to advocate on homeless issues and address community need.

Get a group of your professional colleagues together to offer a much-needed service (dental care, physical care, etc.)

Give people haircuts

Have dinner with someone experiencing homelessness

Have students or your study group research housing, homeless, and hunger issues

Help someone fix their bicycle

Help someone that is experiencing homelessness apply for government aid (disability, food stamps, etc.)

Hire homeless people at your company

Hold a benefit concert for homelessness

Host speakers from the Homeless Initiative and Homeless Coalition to raise awareness

Identify community partners and invite them to a Homeless Coalition meeting

Invite someone experiencing homelessness to join you for a community event

Join the board of an agency serving people who are homeless

Knit or crochet sweaters, hats, scarves, or stuffed animals for people – do it with your knitting group!

Mentor someone as they seek employment and move into housing

Offer legal advice to individuals or agencies

Organize a costume drive for halloween

Organize an event at a shelter or apartment building

Organize Renovation/Construction/Clean-up Projects

Provide transportation

Register people experiencing homelessness to vote

Read a book about homelessness, and then give it to a friend for him or her to read

Recruit more volunteers

Serve Food

Share your hobbies

Start a running or fitness group at a shelter

Take an evening overnight shift at a shelter

Talk to the school to find out how you can help homeless children stay in school.

Tutor someone in reading, GED, job skills or other skills

Write a letter to the editor, or write an op-ed for the newspaper about homelessness

Write thank-you notes to other volunteers on behalf of a service provider agency

Volunteer to be a Tax Preparer

Volunteer to help with the annual point in time count

Volunteer your professional talents at an agency

Write a grant for an agency or group addressing homelessness