

A Call to Action

Homelessness . . . Myths and Truths

Preventing homelessness is cost-effective as well as morally compelling. It costs far less to prevent homelessness than to help a family that has become homeless.

- The Simi Valley Task Force on Homelessness has adopted a goal of working to reduce homelessness by 10% annually.
- According to the 2019 street count there are an estimated 120 homeless individuals in Simi Valley.
- 37.1% of the homeless counted in Simi Valley have chronic health conditions, 42.9% have mental health problems and 44.3% are experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Myth: Giving to panhandlers reduces homelessness.

Truth: Supporting services for the homeless will contribute to ending the problem; giving money to panhandlers only maintains the problem.

Myth: The homeless that we see on the streets represent how many are homeless in Simi Valley.

Truth: For every person that is visibly homeless, there are many more that are at risk of becoming homeless, or homeless at some time throughout the year.

Myth: It is too expensive to help people obtain or stay in housing.

Truth: It is much more cost effective to help a person stay in housing or obtain housing than it is to pay for the services used by a person who is already homeless.

Loving Our Neighbors

Mother Teresa said that poverty is not only “being hungry, naked, and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared-for is the greatest poverty.”

*Sponsored by the
Simi Valley Task Force on Homelessness*

*For information call (805) 583-6759
For resources and referrals call 211
Website: www.simivalley.org/homelesservices*



A CALL TO ACTION...

Steps to reduce and prevent
homelessness in Simi Valley

We Invite You to Work Together to Help Solve Homelessness

- Those who are at risk of homelessness are our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, and our associates.
- Homelessness affects all of us and solving homelessness will take a collective effort of individuals, businesses, service clubs, non-profit organizations, the faith community, and government working together.
- The faith communities offer unique services such as counseling, a sense of community, personal relationships, and long-term personal accountability.



Steps to Reduce and Prevent Homelessness

Commit to Making a Monthly Donation to a Local Non-Profit that Directly Serves the Homeless - With your financial contributions, organizations like the Samaritan Center, Free Clinic of Simi Valley, and Salvation Army are able to assist individuals and families to become housed by providing case management, healthcare, services, and temporary housing. Host a fundraiser such as a charitable event and contribute the proceeds to a non-profit that serves the homeless.

Prevent Homelessness In Your Own Congregation and Social Groups - Identify families in crisis in your organization and help them stay housed by creating a "circle of support." Adopt families within your community who are at risk of homelessness to help them to stay housed. Provide assistance such as mentoring, emergency assistance, job preparation, home repair, money management, auto repair, childcare, advocacy, referrals, or fellowship.

Share Your Strengths - Identify resources that you, your organization, or your business can offer to help the homeless or those who are at risk of homelessness (such as services, material goods, or expertise). Contact local service providers, congregations, or non-profits to match your strengths with community needs.

Contribute to a Fund to Provide Rental Assistance - Provide assistance to those at risk of homelessness through emergency shelter, hotel vouchers, and rental assistance. Your contribution can provide families or individuals with emergency shelter, help them to obtain permanent housing, or help to avoid eviction.

Conduct Food Drives - Local food banks are in continuous need of contributions to meet increased demands. Help provide food to struggling families by donating food or conducting a canned food drive, especially outside of the peak food donation months of November and December.

Provide For Transportation - Bus passes are needed to provide transportation to and from employment opportunities, healthcare appointments, dinner sites, PADS sites, or other services. Bus passes may be purchased and donated to the Samaritan Center. Transportation funds donated to the Samaritan Center can also help pay for auto repair costs to help keep family members employed or reunite homeless individuals with their families in other areas.

Volunteer - Volunteer to work to reduce and eliminate homelessness within the community by contributing your time to organizations such as the Samaritan Center, Free Clinic of Simi Valley or Salvation Army.

Educate - Provide learning opportunities for your organization or business to understand the most effective ways to assist the homeless and those at risk of homelessness and to dispel misconceptions about homelessness.

Employ - Assist the homeless by offering job and training opportunities in your business or organization.