

## Homelessness

People who don't have homes, money, or food are homeless. There are many people out in the streets of Houston. Homelessness has become a big issue for our city. The total number of homeless in the Houston area is 11,848. I feel really bad for all the homeless people out in the streets because they don't have anything to eat. I think it is really upsetting to want a house or apartment to live in, but not be able to afford one.

Whenever I see people that are homeless, I feel like I want to help them. I think everyone should pitch in for them to have food to eat. There is also a shelter where they stay for a while, and eat. People run shelters where they donate clothes to the homeless. Homelessness is something that I wish I wouldn't see so much, but it's all around. It's time to make a change to help homeless people have a better life.

Some people don't really care when they pass by a homeless person in their car, but you never know, that could be someone they actually know. Homeless people are just as much human as we are, so we should unite and stop this for once and all. If one person wants to do something, he/she wouldn't get too far, but if many people agree to unite, and help out as a team, then there would be a difference.

When I see people under the freeway trying to keep warm during cold weather, I feel horrible thinking about it. I think people should actually come together, and persuade others to help, too. If one person, just one, would take his/her time, and talk to people about how they felt, it would make a bit of a difference.

Some people want to succeed in life, and get a job, but no one really wants a homeless person as a coworker or staff member. Many homeless people maybe aren't even qualified to have a job. It's hard to feed all homeless people in the world, but if a shelter opened up for them, they could feed hundreds of hungry people.

Every day there are people outside suffering the weather conditions, and wondering to themselves, “How am I going to get through this day without food?” I will try to encourage people to speak up, and actually do something about this serious issue. Homeless people ask for money sometimes, but it’s because all they want to do is survive one more day. There are mostly homeless men, but there are women and children, too.

I want to do something about this, not just stare and feel sorry for them. Just simply donating unwanted clothes or donating money to the shelter would help. At least get up, and volunteer at any shelter nearby your house. It won’t hurt to take a little time off, and feed a person in need. It will feel really good to know that you helped out someone instead of just helping yourself. It is called being a kind and caring person.

Most of the time, homeless people will try to earn the money you give them by washing your windshield, or taking your bags to the car. All they want is money for food. So, be a kind person, and speak up! It will motivate others to want to help too. I will encourage a group of teenagers to help out in a shelter. It’s just volunteering. No, you don’t get anything back, at least you make a difference.

Jackelin Garcia, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, RYSS