Kay Bobadilla  
594 Hwy 20 Tonasket, WA, 98855  
bobadkay000@stu.tonasket.wednet.edu  
(509)-486-8139  
Tonasket High School  
Tonasket, WA  
Anita Asrnussen  
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“How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?”

A problem that is facing many communities across the United States is veteran homelessness. There may be a way to address this problem and potentially prevent it too. Many of these honorable soldiers that have returned from fighting for our country are susceptible to homelessness because of what they lack. In Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, a theory in psychology, there are five tiers that contain what a human needs according to the order of precedence. Maslow’s Hierarchy is depicted as a pyramid that models human needs in five tiers, at the very bottom containing the most basic necessities. The bottom containing water, food, warmth, rest, and safety and security. Sadly some of the veterans lack these very basic needs.

Some solutions to prevent veteran homelessness in our communities is by providing temporary housing, healthcare, rehabilitation services, and employment aid. If these things are met the veterans are more likely to have a better start to continue on with their lives. For example, if a veteran were to be provided with transitional/temporary housing they will have the basic human needs of warmth, rest, and safety met and one less thing to worry about. For the families of these veterans, supportive services could be provided so that they can understand and learn how to deal with the conditions their loved one may have. These supportive and rehab services can be covered by veterans healthcare.

In my own community, a way that it has addressed veteran homelessness is by providing housing options at different churches so that those who are displaced, have a place to stay for the cold nights. This helps some of the veterans have a warm safe place to stay so
that they can rest and feel somewhat rejuvenated for the conditions they’re in. Some of these shelters don’t have shampoo, soap, or towels and if those were to be provided it would help for when the homeless veterans have to look presentable for their job interviews or feel human again. In the winter coats and gloves could be donated by local thrift shops so that the basic need of warmth is met. Local food banks also have canned foods that homeless shelters could meet the necessity of food for veterans.

In all, there are some ways to potentially prevent homelessness of veterans by providing the services to help them succeed in life after serving for our country. In our communities, we can address veteran homelessness by making sure the bottom tiers of Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs are met. That begins with helping out at homeless shelters, by providing food and clothes, and assisting the veterans in the process of getting employment and housing aid.