HOW CAN WE ADDRESS AND PREVENT VETERAN HOMLESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITIES?

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give” - Winston Churchill

In Indianapolis, Fox 59 reported that the number of homeless people decreased from 1,783 in 2017 to 1,682 in 2018, and that the number of homeless veterans decreased from 328 to 261. Although this is a great change in helping those who are homeless, there is still more that we can do to aid in homelessness in our Indiana communities. We may not be able to stop homelessness completely, but as a state we can work together, give, and make a change in the lives of the homeless. One question still holds: “What can we do to help homeless people?” We can help them by treating the homeless like real people, giving what we can, and donating and volunteering.

Firstly, the homeless need to be treated like real people. Even though items like clothing, food, and shelter are good things to give to those without a home one should also take the time to talk with the homeless. Sometimes our tendency is to shy away and ignore the homeless, but spending time with them shows we care about them. In 2016, one Reddit chatroom user asked, “Former homeless people of reddit, what can we do to help homeless people the most?” Out of the thousands of posts, one answer was recurring: “just stopping to acknowledge someone experiencing homelessness as a fellow human being goes a very long way.”

Another solution would be giving what we can. Giving of our money to help a homeless person may majorly help those without money or a job. When we talk with the homeless we need to ask for specific needs they may have. Giving the homeless something they can use shows our care and concern for their well-being. Also giving seasonally appropriate clothing, like clean t-shirts in the summer or winter jackets in the winter, can be useful if given at the proper time of year. If you are afraid of giving away money, you can also give them food from a nearby restaurant or a bus ticket to visit their family.

The final solution would be donating and volunteering. There are many charitable organizations that need volunteers and donations. Many opportunities are available in which we
can get involved and help the homeless. If you are not sure where to volunteer, you can always look up online about shelters and other facilities to learn more about how to help.

In conclusion, the only way we are going to stop veterans from becoming homeless and help those who already are is by being involved in helping. God has blessed America with so much that we have the liberty to share our blessings with others that may not have as much. Right now, there are many homeless that are living on the streets and suffering in the cold without a place to call home. What are we going to do about it?
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