
Is Homelessness A Choice Or No

Walking downtown, I would always see people huddled on the sidewalks with blankets and big plastic bags, always asking for change and food but, I always ignored them. I now realise that they were people who were homeless, those that did not have a home to get back to. In Canada, about 35,000 Canadians are homeless each night. In fact, many homeless people start out with jobs and stable residences but sadly they have faced some family troubles or lost their job, resulting in them being homeless. As homeless people are doing their best to get out of being in the state of homeless, there are many things we can do to help. We can donate clothes or money to local homeless shelters. We can support someone by buying them a lunch or a dinner. We can even fund a gofundme page to help. Overall, there are many things that we can do to help.

In my opinion, homelessness is not a choice and we should do something to help. Either they have lost their job or have been kicked out. Many do not have a choice and are striving out in the streets. In Canada, 235,000 people experience homelessness each year! These are people that were once just like you. Had a good job, a nice family and somewhere to go which they could call home. But after some type of event, their lives have drastically changed. According to CHP (council to homeless persons) Ending homelessness can improve lives, strengthen the health and wellbeing of our communities, and can even reduce government costs. A quote from an article named Ending homelessness is good for the community says, "People become healthier and more stable in a safe home, which results in declining costs of frequent admissions to health and crisis services, as well as correctional and mental health facilitates. This cuts taxpayer costs on mainstream services and lightens pressure on already stressed systems." Luckily, according to the Toronto Star, the federal government is planning on ending homelessness. They are planning on doing so by creating a "new affordable housing tax credit," and "direct investments towards affordable housing programs" just to name a few.

Many people may disagree that homelessness is a choice and the people are to blame, that it was their fault for getting kicked out of their home or losing their job. But in reality, it is not. Others think that being homeless is actually a good thing as they have no property or utility bills to pay. In reality, I believe that no one would purposefully put themselves in a position where they could potentially end up homeless.

This may be due to people not being educated on what homelessness actually is and some ways people become homeless.