

# HOW CAN WE HELP THE HOMELESS?



Many of us encounter a person who is homeless at one time or another. Although we may feel compassion for the individuals and anger at the injustice that allows homelessness, we may also feel discomfort, helplessness and even fear. By volunteering together, your family can address the problem of homelessness thoughtfully and make a meaningful difference.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Many things can result in homelessness:

- Poverty
- Lack of affordable housing
- Job loss
- Lack of health care
- Mental illness
- Substance abuse
- Domestic violence

**Who is homeless?** 633,782 people experience homelessness on any given night in the U.S. 22.1% are children. 13% are veterans. 42.6% are disabled and unable to work

<http://frontsteps.org/u-s-homelessness-facts/>

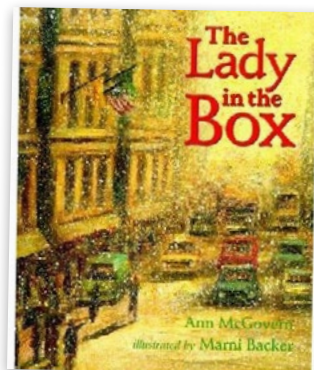
“ There is a lot that happens around the **world** we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent **droughts**, and we cannot **prevent** all conflict, but when we know where the hungry, the homeless and the sick exist, then we can **help**. ”

—Jan Schakowsky, Illinois congresswoman

## READ WITH ME

The *Lady in the Box* by Ann McGovern is a gently, powerfully told story that deals candidly with homelessness.

- Why do you think the children tried so hard to bring gifts to the lady in the box?
- Why didn't the children tell Mama about their efforts?
- How do you think helping made the children feel? How do you think their help made Dori feel?



## LET'S TALK

At mealtime or bedtime, or when you're on the way to help out, bring up these questions.

- Why do you think some people are homeless?
- What would be the hardest thing about living in a homeless shelter?
- How would you feel if you had to eat your meals at a shelter? What would you want to be served?
- If you had to move into a homeless shelter, and you could only take a few possessions with you, what would you take?

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE!

**DGT™ will use your story to...**

- Inspire others to make a difference!
- Make giving back seem doable.
- Lighten hearts and open minds on social media.
- Build excitement for more big-hearted good deeds!

**SUBMIT YOUR GOOD STORIES TO:**

[www.doinggoodtogether.org/good-stories/](http://www.doinggoodtogether.org/good-stories/)

## MORE SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP THE HOMELESS:

Make Sandwiches

Cook a Meal  
at a Shelter

Create Homeless  
Care Kits

Read Big-Hearted Books  
about Homelessness

DOING  
GOOD  
TOGETHER™