



Kit KindnessCamp #2 Poverty and Homelessness



Background: Data taken in the US in 2018 revealed that 552,830 people were experiencing homelessness in a single night. This is about 17 of every 10,000 people. 67% of these are individuals while the remaining 33% are families with children. Youth (individuals who are under 25) living on their own without parents make up 7% of the total homeless population. {Reference: "State of Homelessness." National Alliance to End Homelessness, (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-report/>}. At Little Hands Can, we strive to help people in small yet impactful ways as they embark on a path toward wellness and security.



Book(s)

Step 1- Read: Read the following books and discuss.

1. Book 1: Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts, Illustrated by Noah Z. Jones
 - a. After the story, ask your child these questions.
2. Book 2: You, Me, and Empathy, by Jayneen Sanders, Illustrated by Sofia Cordoso
 - a. This book has excellent discussion questions on each page of the book!



Talking Tips

Step 2- Discuss: Use the following resources to help guide your discussion about poverty and homelessness.

1. Click here to read our tips on how to talk to your child about homelessness.
2. Tips for Talking to Your Child About Poverty:
 - a. eSchoolToday.com has a great unit on talking to kids about the cycle of poverty, causes of poverty, and other effects of poverty.



Lessons

Step 3- Complete the Object Lessons:

1. Object Lesson #1: Privilege Basketball Game: In this activity, you will use simple everyday objects at home to demonstrate the concept of privilege, fairness and the cycle of poverty in a concrete way that makes it easier for young minds to process. Click here for directions!
2. Object Lesson #2: Empathy in a Shoebox: This is another favorite from Kindness Camp! We originally found this idea over at The Corner on Character (another excellent resource on kindness). It's very simple. All you need is a few shoeboxes and pairs of shoes you have at home. Click here for directions!

click pink graphics for more!



Service Project(s)

Step 4- Serve! Complete the Service Project

1. Gotta Have Sole: This organization's mission is to provide homeless youth with new shoes. With each pair of shoes, they provide a personalized card. This is where we come in!
 - a. Head to the Gotta Have Sole website and choose whether you would like to decorate your card electronically or by hand. Click on the link for the option of your choice.
 - b. Decorate your card and add an inspirational or supportive message. Mail your completed cards to: Gotta Have Sole Foundation, PO Box 8379, Cranston, RI 02920
2. Click here for our bonus service project - learn how to make Mini First Aid Kits!



Additional Resources

Step 5- Additional Resources: Extension materials for further service learning.

1. Catholic Community Services provides help and hope for people in need in Lane County, specifically addressing the community issue of Poverty.
2. Hosea Youth Center provides services for at-risk and homeless youth in Lane County.
3. Additional children's books to explore:
 - a. Last Stop on Market Street by Matt dela Peña
 - b. Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting
 - c. The Lady in the Box by Ann McGovern
 - d. A Shelter in Our Car by Monica Gunning

Thank you for serving with us!



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