MYTH

"Being LGBTQ is a risk factor to homelessness."

FACT

Homophobia, transphobia, and cis-hetero-sexism are risk factors to homelessness.

Someone's identity is not the problem.
How do we end LGBTQ homelessness?

NEOCH works directly with queer and trans people to accompany them through a homeless service system that's often neither welcoming nor affirming.

We advocate for inclusion, train shelter staff on best practices working with LGBTQ folks, and educate the public on how anti-LGBTQ oppression contributes to homelessness in our communities.

Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless
40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ despite LGBTQ youth only representing 7% of the general population.

Why does this alarming disparity exist?

Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless
WAYS LGBTQ YOUTH EXPERIENCE CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AND OPPRESSION

- Bullying and harassment from kids AND adults
- "Not under my roof" from parents/guardians
- Being mis-gendered by family, teachers, etc.
- Refusal by caregivers to buy gender affirming clothes
- Denial of gender affirming healthcare
- "Love the sinner, hate the sin," and other forms of rejection from family, church community, etc.

THESE EXPERIENCES ARE A ONE-WAY TICKET TO HOMELESSNESS FOR MANY LGBTQ YOUTH.

Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless
8% of transgender adults experienced homelessness in the last year; more than 8x the general population.

Why does this alarming disparity exist?
Root Causes of Trans Homelessness

- Employment Discrimination
- Landlord Discrimination
- Loss of Connection to Family & Friends
- Discrimination in Social Services:
  - Sometimes excused under "Religious Exemption"
  - Often unspoken, difficult to prove
  - Passed from one agency to another, unhelped
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criminalization</th>
<th>Violence</th>
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<td><em>Homelessness = increased visibility</em></td>
<td><em>Assault/hate crime</em></td>
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<td><em>Trauma = fight or flight response</em></td>
<td><em>Sexual assault</em></td>
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<td><em>Targeted arrest, esp. Black trans women.</em></td>
<td><em>Human trafficking</em></td>
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<td><em>Criminal record creates barrier to housing options</em></td>
<td><em>Less likely to be helped by police</em></td>
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Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless
Reasons trans people have been denied access to shelter:

- Didn't look 'feminine enough' to stay in the women's shelter.
- Hadn't saved up enough for surgery yet.
- Seemed 'hostile' in response to harassment and abuse.
- Considered a threat to cis shelter residents.
HOW TO HELP

To support our LGBTQ clients to feel themselves & more easily access shelter, NEOCH is collecting gender affirming clothing and personal care items,

visit neoeh.org/pridedrive to contribute.

Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless
“As we advocate for more inclusive spaces for our unhoused LGBTQ neighbors, we also accompany them through the homeless and social service system as it currently exists.”
“We have heard from unhoused trans folks that they have a safer, more comfortable, more dignified experience in those spaces when they present as their whole selves.”
We provide clothing and personal items that affirm their identities, and support them to more confidently navigate shelter life.
"We’ve partnered with nVent Allies to create a list of items most requested by our LGBTQ clients, particularly Black trans women, who are most often harassed and excluded."
WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY STANDING STRONG AND BEING UNITED WITH PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN US, WHO ADVOCATE FOR US, WHO SUPPORT & LOVE US FOR WHO WE ARE.

Miss Major Griffin-Gracy

www.neoch.org/pridedrive
Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless