Why Should I Care About

Homelessness?

For questions or information on how to get involved, please contact:

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**Homelessness is a major issue in Curry County. It**

**affects the entire community, and it will take the**

**community to fix it.**

**It Could Save You Money**

* **Research indicates that each homeless person**

**costs an average of $14,000 - $40,000 per year.**

**Costs include shelters, emergency room visits,**

**and law enforcement contact.**

* **Los Angeles learned that placing four homeless people in permanent housing saved**

**them $80,000 per year.**

* **Phillip Mangero, former homelessness policy czar for President George W. Bush said, “We learned that you could either sustain people in homelessness for $35,000 to**

**$150,000 a year, or you could literally end their homelessness for $35,000 to $25,000 per year.”**

* **A University of Pennsylvania study found that homeless people with severe mental illness cost more than $40,000 per person annually. It also found that providing housing for them led to an annual savings over $16,000 per person.**

**It Is Compassionate & Selfless**

**Aristotle said that the essence of life is *“to serve others and to do good.”* Saint Ambrose stated, *“If you have two shirts in your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the man with no shirt.”* There is little in the world as fulfilling as charitable work. To bring hope and compassion to someone in need also brings good things to those who give. A recent study from Carnegie Mellon University suggested that people who volunteer regularly are less likely to develop high blood pressure, which contributes to a variety of health problems.**

**It Is a Local Issue**

**It is easy to imagine that offering services to the homeless will only attract more homeless to an area. However, the reality is that most homeless in Curry County are from here. Of the clients that the Curry Homeless Coalition serves, more than 65% are long-time residents of the area, many of whom were born and raised here, or brought here as children.**

**It Could Happen to You**

**According to the Community Health Assessment, when compared to state and national wages, the county has more of its jobs in the lower wage categories, most in the under $40,000 annual salary. Similarly, the American Aid Foundation states seven out of ten American’s are just one paycheck away from being homeless. MarketWatch.com reports that only 39% of American’s have enough savings to cover a $1,000 emergency, such as a car repair or visit to the ER. It is easier than we might like to believe for anyone to find themselves without a home.**