

How to Help Homeless People

What do you do when a person shows up at your church asking for help? Do you wonder what to do when someone approaches you on the street and asks for money? There are many ways to help persons who are poor and homeless.

- 1. Become familiar with programs in your area that provide help.** When someone asks for help, you can direct that person to a program that will provide what help they need.
- 2. Do not assume that homeless persons are alike.** There are a number of circumstances that cause a person to become homeless. The shabby person on the street may be the stereotype, but the homeless person may be a woman fleeing a domestic violence situation with her children, someone who is working but unable to make enough to pay the rent, or someone living out of a car.
- 3. Talk to the person with respect.** Homeless people face isolation and scorn. It means a lot when someone addresses them in a polite way.
- 4. Pray for them.** You may feel powerless to help someone in a difficult situation, but prayer connects you with a powerful God!
- 5. Think and pray before giving cash.** It is often easier to give cash to a homeless person than to take the time to help with the person's actual needs.
- 6. Support ministries that help poor and homeless persons.** You can help by volunteering, donating in-kind goods, or making financial contributions.
- 7. Help start a ministry in your area.** If you find that there are no programs in your area that will help with needs you see, your church or a group in your community may want to start a ministry.

(From the North Georgia United Methodist Housing and Homeless Council)



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Prayers For Warmth



You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;
my God turns my darkness into light.

Psalm 18:28

February 2010

Prayers for Warmth - February 2010

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | 1 God, be with those seeking warmth, both physically and spiritually, this winter. Psalm 9:9 | 2 God, help me feel compassion for those who struggle with addictions, mental illness, and homelessness. 1 John 3:17 | 3 God, thank you to those persons who dedicate their lives to helping the homeless, poor, and oppressed. Job 31:32 | 4 God, shine your light into the lives of those who need you. Psalm 27:1 | 5 God, forgive my failure to show sympathy to those who are different from me. Matthew 6:14 | 6 God, help us see your presence in our lives regardless of our circumstances. 2 Corinthians 12:10 |
| 7 God, show us a way to break the cycle of poverty. Psalm 72:12-13 | 8 God, grant opportunity to those seeking work. Hebrews 6:10 | 9 God, help me be generous to those in need. Luke 6:30 | 10 God, give us strength to overcome obstacles. Isaiah 35:3 | 11 God, remind me that how I treat others is a reflection of how I treat you. Matthew 25:35 | 12 God, please make available treatment to those suffering with addictions and illnesses. James 5:15 | 13 God, guide us toward long-term solutions for alleviating homelessness. Psalm 68:10 |
| 14 God, give me an opportunity to defend the cause of the poor and suffering. Hebrews 10:24 | 15 God, we pray for parents who struggle to keep their children warm. Nahum 1:7 | 16 God, bless the volunteers at shelters and soup kitchens. Jeremiah 22:16 | 17 God, let transitional housing be a means of success. Psalm 23:6 | 18 God, thank you for those who have donated coats, shoes and sleeping bags to others. 2 Corinthians 8:7 | 19 God, help me to remember that those persons who beg, loiter, and are homeless are also your children. Proverbs 22:2 | 20 God, let my church be open and available to the poor and suffering. Romans 12:13 |
| 21 God, please grant peace to those who experience the pain of depression. Isaiah 35:10 | 22 God, help us focus on our blessings rather than misfortunes. Proverbs 15:16 | 23 God, thank you for being our companion in times of loneliness. Psalm 23:4 | 24 God, grant us hope, even in the midst of our suffering and the sufferings of others. Lamentations 3:25 | 25 God, may I be a source of light to others by sharing the good news about you. 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 | 26 God, grant me the wisdom to know how best to respond to those who ask for help. Proverbs 3:5 | 27 God, open my eyes to those around me so that I might be a friend to someone who is feeling alone. Ephesians 4:32 |
| 28 God, thank you for providing us with the hope of an eternal home in heaven. 2 Corinthians 5:1 | | | | | | |