

## Why Shop? Why Donate? Why Us?



The Community Builder is a dedicated team of all volunteers who give countless hours of their time helping others. We are committed to building new innovative programs and continuing to expand existing programs. Filling the gap of services that would otherwise be unavailable. Working collectively with organizations, and agencies that serve low-income individuals and families to improve the local standard of living and increased community self-sufficiency. Whether you give your time, money or gently used clothing and household items - you are making a difference. It is only because of the generosity from people like you, we can continue to make our community a place where everyone is welcome.

### **The Community Builder – Resource Center**

120 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. N

Nampa, ID 83687

Phone: (208) 590-1084

[info@TheCommunityBuilder.org](mailto:info@TheCommunityBuilder.org) [www.TheCommunityBuilder.org](http://www.TheCommunityBuilder.org)

### **More Than A Thrift Store - Donation Center**

120 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. N

Nampa, ID 83687

(208) 590-1084

[info@MoreThanAThriftStore.com](mailto:info@MoreThanAThriftStore.com) [www.MoreThanAThriftStore.com](http://www.MoreThanAThriftStore.com)

Donate by mail, please send to:

**The Community Builder**

16433 Midland Blvd. 305

Nampa, ID 83687

*Get involved... Join the  
"Because We Care" Community  
Visit us at  
[www.TheCommunityBuilder.org](http://www.TheCommunityBuilder.org)  
or contact (208)590-1084*

The Community Builder is a registered non-profit organization under IRS Section 501(c)(3)



# The Project

The "Because We Care" Project was created to bring awareness and dispel the stereotypes about people who are homeless.



To deconstruct the misconceptions and change the way society thinks of homelessness.

To encourage businesses, service providers, organizations and all people to make our communities a safe place where everyone is welcome.

*Homelessness doesn't discriminate – people do!*

*Our Nation's youth, adults and families faced with homelessness deserve a chance and a future. Many feel they don't have either.*

Until you come home from a war and just can't tackle the day-to-day responsibilities needed to provide shelter. Until an elder, without money or family, takes to the street. Until the homeless congregate near your business and discourage customers. Until a global economic recession leaves 13 million U.S. wage earners without jobs and 4 million families without homes. Until a friend escapes domestic violence and is cut off from the only means of financial support to get away from their abuser or a family member, for whatever reason, cannot find a safe place to sleep for the night. *Most People Aren't Affected by Homelessness. Until you are.*

Get involved and be a part of the "Because We Care" community. Change the stigma of homelessness. Together we can end homelessness!



Show your support, donate and display the "Because We Care" sign. Recognized as a symbol of acceptance and a safe welcoming place in your community and across the Nation.

# What Can You Do?

## GET INVOLVED

**Together we are changing lives. Programs for at-risk youth would not be possible without the support we receive from our donor family. There are a variety of ways you can contribute!**

**Use your skills to make a positive impact. *Volunteering* is good for your career and your community.**

- ◆ **Join the "Because We Care" Community**
- ◆ **Make a contribution today by donating**
- ◆ **Sponsor one of our fundraising events.**
- ◆ **Donate new or gently used items**
- ◆ **Collect holiday gifts and other holiday donations for Teens.**
- ◆ **Corporate retailers and businesses — Donate excess merchandise, shelf pulls and customer returns**
- ◆ **Educate others about people who are homeless and change the way society thinks about homelessness.**
- ◆ **Volunteer - be a mentor, tutor, advocate to help end homelessness.**
- ◆ **Start a fundraiser—raise money to help unaccompanied youth**
- ◆ **Spread the word on social media and let other know about us**  
**[facebook.com/thecommunitybuilder](https://www.facebook.com/thecommunitybuilder) - [twitter.com/tcbnampa](https://twitter.com/tcbnampa)**
- ◆ **Share your ideas, teach a class or workshop**

Visit our website for more information

**[www.TheCommunityBuilder.org](http://www.TheCommunityBuilder.org)**

## Understanding Unaccompanied Youth

Each year, more than a million young people in the United States experience homelessness; some of these homeless youth, will face the challenges of homelessness while living on their own without the support of a caring adult. Unaccompanied homeless youth face the same struggles as other young people: trying to do well in school, “fit in”, and figure out what their future will look like. Without adult guidance and support, however, they will face these struggles while also working to provide for their own livelihood.

### The Numbers

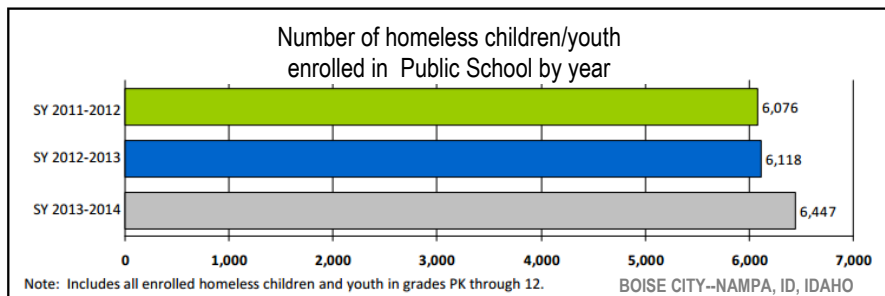
Unaccompanied homeless youth include those who have run away from home or have been asked to leave home by a parent or guardian. The National Runaway Switchboard estimates that between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth experience a runaway / throwaway episode annually.

- ◆ Children under 18 accounted for 39% of the homeless population. Of that number, approximately 42% were younger than age 5.
- ◆ Approximately 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBT.
- ◆ Every year, approximately 5,000 homeless young people will die because of assault, illness, or suicide while trying to survive.
- ◆ 46% of homeless youth escaped a home where they suffered physical abuse.
- ◆ 17% left because of sexual abuse. 75 percent of homeless or runaway unaccompanied youth have dropped out or will drop out of school.

### The Barriers

Unaccompanied homeless youth often live in high-risk environments, putting them in danger of experiencing a wide variety of problems. Some of the challenges unaccompanied homeless youth face are:

- ◆ Lack of financial means to live independently and safely
- ◆ Unsafe and inadequate housing arrangements
- ◆ Reluctant to seek help or assistance / services are non-existent
- ◆ Struggling to balance school and other responsibilities
- ◆ Lack of parental consent of minor
- ◆ Inability to be financially self-sufficient



## Giving Homeless Hope



A Community Cares Collection Drive is a great way for volunteer groups to make an impact in the lives of unsheltered and formerly homeless individuals as they overcome homelessness. This volunteer project is ideal for all types of group - faith, civic, businesses, individuals and other service groups. You can participate by organizing your group and putting together a collection drive for household goods and items that will be used to assemble care kits. You will help give a new start to individuals moving off the streets and into permanent housing. Many of these people have not had a true home for months or years. For them, knowing that they have a secure place to call home, out of the rain and heat, with a comfortable bed, a shower, somewhere to cook a meal and a door they can lock helps restore their human dignity. By working together, we can change the face of our communities and make them a safe welcoming place where people will want to come to, and not be just another place to drive through.

**And, it starts with you!**

*Get involved... Join the  
“Because We Care” Community*



For more information and find out what you can do visit our website at [www.TheCommunityBuilder.org](http://www.TheCommunityBuilder.org)

# Misconceptions About Homelessness

## Homelessness is a choice

The unfortunate belief that homelessness is somehow a choice made by people faced with this situation is all too untrue. For many, homelessness is the only option when affordable housing or livable wages jobs are not available.

## Why don't they get a job?

While employment seems like a simple solution to homelessness, it is a complex issue. Applying for work can be difficult without a permanent address or regular access to a shower or transportation. Other obstacles such as disability can also be a barrier to seeking employment. Many individuals experiencing homelessness are employed and still are unable to find affordable housing.

### Housing Affordability in America by the Numbers

To afford a two-bedroom apartment in the U.S. you need, on average

an annual income of **\$39,360**

OR  
a full-time job with an hourly wage of **\$18.92**

OR  
**2.6 full-time jobs** at minimum wage

The estimated mean renter wage in the U.S. is **\$14.64**

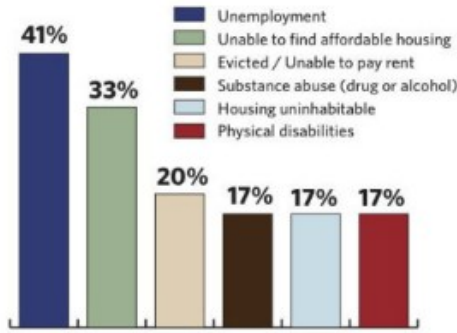
NLIHC, 2014

## All homeless people are lazy.

People experiencing homelessness are anything but lazy. Survival when homeless requires actively seeking shelter, food and other necessities, which are not adequately or consistently provided by the support services available. Actively seeking employment is also a laborious task, especially with inconsistent access to a phone, computer, mailing address, transportation or childcare.

## What causes homelessness?

The situations that caused individuals and families to lack a stable home fell into the following categories. Some people had multiple situations.



Source: Idaho Housing and Finance Association

## Homeless people are all addicts

The stereotype of homelessness being connected to alcoholism and drug addiction is unfortunately one of the most common misconceptions. While a percentage of the homeless population does struggle with substance abuse, there are many who do not. These individuals may be suffering from mental illness, trauma, or any number of issues that have resulted in their becoming homeless.

# Criminalization of Homelessness

Imagine a world where it is illegal to sit down. Could you survive if there were no place you were allowed to fall asleep, to store your belongings, or to stand still? For most of us, these scenarios seem unrealistic. But, for homeless people across America, these circumstances are an ordinary part of daily life that we take for granted.



## Populations at Risk of Homelessness

Many poor people are at risk of homelessness. Ultimately, this is because it is hard for them to afford housing. Unemployment, housing cost burden, and living doubled up are indications of this struggle to afford housing.

As the homeless population continues to rise so does the criminalizing of homeless people. Laws criminalizing homeless deprive them of the opportunity to succeed in life, creating additional barriers as these individuals look to lift themselves out of homelessness. A criminal record can impact their ability to find housing, secure employment, pursue education, only serve to punish them at a time when they are most vulnerable.



## Everyone Counts

The **Point-in-Time (PIT) count** is a **count** of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January.

**Counts** are provided by household type (individuals, families, and child-only households), and are further broken down by subpopulation categories, such as homeless veterans and people who are chronically homeless.

## CRIMINALIZING HOMELESSNESS

(Since 2011)

- Citywide bans on camping in public places have increased by **60 percent**
- Citywide bans on begging in public have increased by **25 percent**
- Citywide bans on loitering, loafing and vagrancy have increased by **35 percent**
- Citywide bans on sitting or lying down in certain public places have increased by **43 percent**
- Bans on sleeping in vehicles have increased by **119 percent**