

MAKE CHANGE RATHER THAN GIVE IT

Five Ways to Help Homeless New Yorkers

Caring New Yorkers sometimes give money to those on the streets with the hope of providing a hot meal, a new pair of shoes, or a coat to stay warm. But experts say this act of generosity may do more harm than good. By supporting programs that help people leave the street, you can make a lasting difference.

Here are five ways to help overcome street homelessness.



1

Give your time

Hundreds of organizations support positive change in the lives of homeless individuals and families - and many could use your help. Consider volunteering one night each month at a local church, synagogue, or mosque through the Partnership for the Homeless' faith-based shelter bed program at www.partnershipforthehomeless.org. Or, visit the Mayor's Volunteer Center website, located at www.nyc.gov/volunteer, for additional opportunities.

2

Give a donation to nonprofit homeless service providers

A wide variety of organizations provide shelter and outreach services to New York City's homeless adults. By supporting these groups, you support organizations that are working to help homeless individuals get their lives back on track. Visit www.nyc.gov/dhs and click on "Provider Information" for a list of some homeless service providers.

3

Give food or organize a food drive

Several hunger-relief organizations throughout the city coordinate the collection and distribution of food donations from manufacturers, wholesalers, restaurants, individuals, and government agencies to organizations providing free food to homeless and hungry New Yorkers. To learn about organizing a food drive or to donate, call 866-NYC-FOOD or visit websites like www.foodbanknyc.org and www.cityharvest.org.

4

Give clothing

You can help homeless men and women by donating gently used business clothing, suits, and shoes that can be worn on job interviews. To donate women's business clothing, visit www.dressforsuccess.org or call 212-545-DSNY. To donate men's business clothing, visit www.careergear.org or call 212-577-6190.

5

Give furniture

Furnish A Future, a program run by Partnership for the Homeless, collects new or gently used furniture and household items for clients moving out of shelters and into their own unfurnished apartments. Furnish A Future will pick up your donation or you can drop it off at any Manhattan Mini Storage, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information, call 718-875-5353 or visit www.partnershipforthehomeless.org and click on programs.

**DIAL
311**

If you see someone in need on the street, dial 311 and a mobile outreach response team will be dispatched to visit the person and assist them into shelter.

DHS