

# Citizens in Our Community



## HELPING THE *Homeless*

PATTY ANN

A W A R E N E S S  
A C T I V I T I E S

Citizens in Our Community

# **We CAN Help THE Homeless!**

**Written & Published  
By Patty Ann**

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**THANK YOU!  
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PET PROJECT**



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**Citizens in Our Community #1 • HELPING THE HOMELESS**

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# Activity Objectives

## Ethics for Civics and Critical Thinking Development!

- *Develop Problem-Resolution Ideas*
- *Critique and Explore Challenging Topics*
- *Assess Personal and Public Social Responsibilities*
- *Discern and Evaluate Choices and Consequences*
- *Examine Appropriate Personal and Public Behaviors*
- *Understand Effects of Cultural Perceptions and Stigmas*
- *Develop Awareness for Social Choices that Impact Societal Outcomes*

**It is AWARENESS that begins  
the journey to understanding,  
thus integration.**

# Lesson Overview

## Teacher Tips & Suggestions

There are 3 progressive, yet inter-related activities. It's suggested each stage is presented in order. Time duration: 20-30 minutes per activity and 10 minutes for intro and wrap-up. (Approximately 90 minutes total.)

Activities can use a whiteboard, or as handouts, or post on a bulletin board. Activities can be used in groups or independently.

**1) Introduce the Lesson.** Show this lesson cover on the overhead. This will set the stage for the subject activities to follow.

**2) Introduce Topics.** The Introduction page can be read to groups and/or shown on the whiteboard. Read aloud, or have a student read it to the class. The Introduction primes students for the critical thinking activities ahead related to social issues.

**3) Q&As** can be projected overhead and/or reviewed on each activity page. Questions can be presented one at a time- or as a whole page. The questions can be used to inspire thoughts on this subject; or used as an icebreaker/discussion starter.

#### **4) 4 Activity Pages.**

Activity 1: Personal Perceptions and/or Opinions

Activity 2: Problem-Solution (Both short- and long term)

Activity 3: Responsibility and Creating Solutions

(What can be done on a personal and/or public level)

Activity 4: Wrap Up with 3 Concluding Thoughts: Ask what new ideas, thoughts or actions students might consider and/or integrate. This activity is for student reflection.

# Citizens in Our Community

## **How Can We Help the Homeless?**

Who is considered homeless? If you are homeless you are living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, public spaces, camp grounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or temporarily living with other people.

Homelessness is a complex social problem with a variety of underlying economic and social factors. The top causes of homelessness are:

- (1) Lack of affordable housing
- (2) Unemployment
- (3) Poverty
- (4) Mental and/or physical disabilities
- (5) Substance abuse and/or addiction
- (6) Situational Circumstance: domestic violence, legal eviction, foreclosure
- (7) Natural Disasters: hurricane, earthquake, or flood

As of 2018 the US Department of Housing reports there were around 553,000 homeless people in the U.S.A. (0.17% of the population).

Statistics from other countries can be found at Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_countries\\_by\\_homeless\\_population](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_homeless_population)

This lesson explores the challenges of the Homeless. We will be critiquing the issues and evaluate resolutions. There are 3 topics through activities which include:

1. Public Perceptions and Personal Opinions
2. Problem-Solution (Both short- and long term)
3. Who Can Help and/or Provide a Solution? (Citizens, Homeless, Government, or other)

Let's Begin!

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**How Can We Help the Homeless?**

**ACTIVITY 1**

**YOUR PERSONAL PERCEPTIONS/OPINIONS**

Question...	Your Perception/Opinion:
<p>Are Homeless people viewed as a victim of societal downfall, or as a victim of their own doing? Or other.</p>	
<p>What is your perception when you see a homeless person with a sign that begs for money or food, with their well-loved dog standing alongside.</p>	

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**How Can We Help the Homeless?**

**ACTIVITY 1**

**What do You Believe is the Public Perception Towards Those Who are Homeless?**  
Write 3-5 first words or thoughts that come to mind.

**What is Your Personal Opinion of Homeless People?**  
Write 3-5 words, or thoughts, that come to mind.

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**How Can We Help the Homeless?**

**ACTIVITY 2**

**PROBLEM-SOLUTION (Short- and Long-Term)**

Question...	Your Thoughts & Ideas:
<p>Is it a legitimate request to require the Homeless to obtain work and contribute to their own welfare?</p>	
<p>What are your personal concerns for the outlook for solving the growing Homeless population?</p>	



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**How Can We Help the Homeless?**

**ACTIVITY 2**

<b>Identify a Homeless PROBLEM</b>	<b>Share a Short Term Solution</b>
	<b>Describe a Long Term Solution</b>
<b>Provide a Homeless SOLUTION</b>	<b>Share a Short Term Solution</b>
	<b>Describe a Long Term Solution</b>

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