

**YES, YOU CAN!**

## Getting Community Hours for Your Work:

High School students are required to complete a certain number of community hours each year. Check with your school on specific details, but in general, your activity must be approved and overseen by an adult in an authoritative position with the school, a business or non-profit. When your volunteer work is completed, the person who you've worked with on the project, must provide a signed letter that states what you did, for whom and for how many hours. That's it! Why not take on an issue like homelessness and tie it into community service hours requirements?

**FINALLY...**

## Photo Frenzy

Post your event successes to our Facebook page and let the world know about your amazing work. We want to see it!

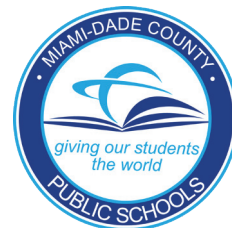
 [facebook.com/HOMELESSTRUST](https://www.facebook.com/HOMELESSTRUST)

**PARENTS, CHECK IT OUT!**

Thank you for considering ways to help the students of our community help Miami-Dade County's homeless. While we have made huge strides as a community to provide support and services to the homeless, our work never ends. Whether it be reinforcing the importance of not panhandling, or helping to raise money for approved homeless resource organizations, we appreciate every kind of help we can get. Project Homeless Awareness is important because it gives students avenues to make a real difference in the lives of others. Please check out our website for more details on the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust ([HomelessTrust.org](http://HomelessTrust.org)), or Miami-Dade County Public School's Student Services Department ([www.studentervices.dadeschools.net](http://www.studentervices.dadeschools.net)).

**A TEAM DOING THE RIGHT THING**

This brochure is a collaborative effort between the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust and Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Homeless Education Program, Project UP-START.



# Project Homeless Awareness

## Homeless Helpbook for Miami-Dade County Students

Your quick-pick guide to engaging friends, classmates and the community in helping the homeless.

**[HomelessTrust.org](http://HomelessTrust.org)**

Give a homeless person a boost with an unexpected helping hand. Everything you need to know is in this guide - like lots of ways you can score big on behalf of homeless women, men, families and students. Inspire others to join in Project Homeless Awareness. Keep on reading to see our Top Picks on how to help.

# Top Picks on How to Help the Homeless

## Facts:

Miami-Dade County Public School's Project UP-START is a Homeless Education Program which provides help for students who are homeless and assists in county-wide homeless awareness - call

**305-995-7318 or 305-995-7558**

or visit

**[ProjectUpstart.DadeSchools.net](http://ProjectUpstart.DadeSchools.net)**

- Sometimes it seems like giving money to panhandlers helps them, but in reality, it perpetuates and encourages them to continue living on the streets.
- There are colorful-yellow Britto-styled meters all over the city. When you deposit spare change in those meters, every penny of your donation goes to providing food and shelter for a homeless person.
- People who ask for money, panhandlers, are often NOT homeless and often use the money for unsavory things. Do not give money to panhandlers no matter how good it makes you feel.
- Never bully - bullying, hurting, or demeaning a person who is experiencing homelessness is wrong.
- Many famous people have counted themselves homeless at one time or another - Jewel, Tyler Perry, Halle Berry, Don Imus, Kelly Clarkson, Lil' Kim, and Harry Houdini.

Check out the following ideas to help the homeless. Mix and match to make ideas work for you and the school!

### If you are in Kindergarten - 5th grade you might like to:

- Host a canned food, kitchenware or toiletries drive. While holidays are a great time to bring awareness to hunger issues, canned food drives can be done successfully any time of the year.
- Launch a sock and underwear drive. Socks are certainly needed during the colder months of the year.

## Volunteer... Tutor, read, donate

### If you are in high school you might like to:

- Host a movie and discussion night and show great films like "The Blind Side" or "The Soloist."
- Meet up with friends at a homeless feeding shelter and help prepare meals or serve food.
- With school administration support, spearhead a Sleepover Night where kids talk about homeless issues and get to know what it's like not to sleep in their own bed.
- Use arts programs, theater groups, and musical outlets as your platform to talk about homeless issues.
- Host a fundraiser to raise gift cards which can be donated to the homeless.
- Donate spare event tickets to a homeless shelter (i.e., movies, sporting events).

### If you are in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade you might like to:

- Host a bake sale with proceeds to benefit a local homeless shelter.
- Coordinate a class tour of a homeless shelter so fellow students get a taste of the issues that homeless students encounter.
- Tap into sports, performance groups or entertainment clubs to ask permission to donate an event's proceeds to the homeless.
- Volunteer at a shelter to read, organize games for the young children, organize donations or tutor students. Ask a shelter near you what needs they have.
- Celebrate the end of the school year, the 100th day of school, a big school milestone or sports win with a food or clothing drive. Contact a homeless shelter first and find out what their needs are.