



**HOMELESS AWARENESS AND SENSITIVITY ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE
POSTER & HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST
DEADLINE NOVEMBER 30**

******* CONTEST RULES *******

Thank you for your interest in the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust's Annual Homeless Awareness and Sensitivity Poster and High School Essay Contest. The poster contest is for elementary and middle school students. **The essay contest is for all high school students.** All participants must be MDCPS and Miami-Dade home education students.

POSTER CONTEST (OPEN FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS)

Utilizing poster board that is no larger than 22 x 28 inches, create artwork, designs, or story lines that will visually impact the judges. Entries will be evaluated on creativity, content, and on how powerful one of the following messages is illustrated:

- How would you like to be treated if you were experiencing homelessness?
- How can housing help us end homelessness?
- How is housing homeless individuals a cost-effective way to end homelessness?
- Why should we care for and respect individuals experiencing homelessness?
- Illustrate ways in which you can show a homeless person that you care about him/her.
- Show why bullying, hurting, or demeaning a person who is experiencing homelessness is wrong.
- Explore the ways you can help and impact homeless individuals without giving them money directly.
- Housing homeless veterans is a priority for the Homeless Trust because of the sacrifice they made on our Country's behalf. Illustrate reasons why the Trust is so committed to these men and women and/or why solving their homelessness is of particular priority.

Please note that the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust has an anti-panhandling approach to ending homelessness (www.homelesstrust.org/meters.asp). Students wanting to focus on giving money to this cause should consider themes showing alternatives to giving money to panhandlers who may or may not be experiencing homelessness. The aim of the Trust is to help homeless individuals move off the streets and into programs that can assist them. Posters should reflect the importance of how community, family, and friends join together to assist in the process of breaking the cycle of homelessness for individuals. While adult supervision is welcome, posters must be the vision and creation of the student. Students should not feel compelled to do one-dimensional art. We welcome creativity of all kind! Posters should be dropped off at Lindsey Hopkins Technical School – 750 NW 20th Street Miami, FL 33127 by 5 PM Friday, November 30, 2018.

Every poster must have the student's name, teacher's name, grade, and school written on the back of the poster. In addition, the entry form should be securely affixed to the back of the board.

HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

High school students have the opportunity to win prizes for outstanding essays on homelessness. Note that there are two essay writing categories.

Essay Instructions for Students Who Have **Never Been Homeless**

Participating students will write an essay of between 250 and 500 words, typed or written in legible handwriting. All essays should **demonstrate appropriate use of technique, spelling, and punctuation**. All work must be the original creation of the author. Entries will be judged on the impact of their message related to one of the following themes (choose one):

- How did my friend's homelessness change me?
- How can myths about homeless individuals lead to bullying, but also present an opportunity for people to search for ways to inspire change in how they think about and approach people experiencing homelessness?
- The bullying of a homeless person leaves an indelible mark on the person who is hurt, as well as our community at large. What can high school students do to affect create change in attitudes toward homeless individuals in their personal spheres of influence?
- The Homeless Trust makes housing a priority. How can housing empower individuals and families?
- Miami is a competitive housing market. How would you convince a landlord or property owner to rent to a homeless family?

Essay Instructions for Students Who **HAVE Experienced Homelessness**

Participating high school students will write an essay of between 250 and 500 words, typed or written in legible handwriting. All essays should demonstrate appropriate use of technique, spelling, and punctuation. All work must be the original creation. Entries will be judged on the impact of the message related to one of the following themes (choose one):

- Can you pinpoint a moment in your homeless experience in which someone inspired you in a way that changed your entire perspective on your situation and what you are capable of achieving in life? How you were able to find integrity and hope in the midst of being homeless?
- If you were once homeless, but are no longer, what stories or experiences would you share with others who are still homeless to give them hope about their future? What knowledge or experience can you share that would bring hope to others experiencing homelessness?
- How has having a permanent place to live made a difference in your life?
- What would you say to a landlord to convince them to rent to a homeless family?

Please note that the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust has an anti-panhandling approach to ending homelessness (www.homelesstrust.org - scroll down to the Britto Meter program for more details). Students wanting to focus on giving money to this cause should consider themes showing **alternatives** to giving money to panhandlers who may or may not be experiencing

homelessness. The aim of the Trust is to help homeless individuals move off of the streets and into programs that can assist them.

Essay Contest Deadline: All essays must be emailed by 5:00 p.m. Friday, November 30, 2018 to contest@homelesstrust.org. Each essay must include the above theme chosen, the essay title, the student's name, teacher's name, school, grade and Student Entry Form.

Judging

A panel consisting of community representatives, Homeless Trust Board members, and Miami-Dade County Public School personnel will judge the poster and essay entries. Essays may be screened to detect plagiarism. All entrants must be from a public school in Miami-Dade County. The decisions of the judges will be final. Winners will be announced in December 2018.

Prizes

The poster contest judges will choose one poster contest winner from among the Elementary School entries and one from the Middle School entries. Judges will also choose one essay contest winner from both High School Essay entry categories. Students will be notified of the contest results through their school homeless liaison or sponsoring teacher.

Prizes are awarded to the student and the sponsoring teacher/homeless liaison. All student winners and their teachers/homeless liaison will each receive a **\$175 gift card (one per student) and a \$75 gift card** (one per teacher/homeless liaison).

Winners and their teacher/homeless liaison are invited to attend the **December 21st Homeless Trust Board of Directors Meeting** where the Trust Board will recognize each winner, their sponsoring teacher, hand out prizes and take professional photos of the winners and their guests. The meeting is schedule to begin at 10 am, but time and location is subject to change. The address of the meeting is:

The Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW 1st Street
Miami, FL
2nd Floor
County Commission Chambers

Posters become the property of The Homeless Trust. If teachers would like posters to be kept, they should let us know and have a way to contain the posters beforehand.

Winning posters and runners up are kept for framing and display at a homeless shelter, at a provider's location, in community spaces or other area deemed appropriate by the Trust.

Good luck!

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Division of Student Services
Project UP-START
The Homeless Education Program**

**HOMELESS AWARENESS AND SENSITIVITY
POSTER & ESSAY CONTEST**

Deadline: Friday, November 30, 2018.

There are two steps to completing the forms.

- 1) Each participating school should complete the below School Entry Form. It should go with your student's work so our team knows the participating teacher and how to reach them.
- 2) Students should complete the Student Entry Form. Essay participants should email to: contest@homelesstrust.org no later than Friday, **November 30, 2018**. Poster entrants should affix their entry form to the back of their poster.

TEACHER/SCHOOL ENTRY FORM

If you have any questions, please contact Debra Albo-Steiger, Program Manager, Project UP-START, under the Department of Title I Administration, at 305-995-7318.

Name of School: _____

Your/Parent Telephone Number: _____

School Location Code: _____

Administrator: _____

Name of School Homeless Liaison Participating: _____

EMP ID#: _____

Contact Phone Number(s): _____

Number of Students Participating: _____

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STUDENT ENTRY FORM – November 30, 2018

Each student/teacher must complete the following “STUDENT ENTRY FORM” and attach it to the BACK of their poster, or email it along with their essay. Please make sure the student entry form is securely attached. To further ensure we have the proper contact information, please also add the name of the student, school and grade on the back of each poster and at the top of the front page of the essay.

Student Name: _____ ID#: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

School Address: _____ Contact #: _____

Teacher/Homeless Liaison Name:

Name of
Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Type of Entry: Poster Essay – I was never homeless Essay – I was formerly homeless

***Please email completed Student Entry Form to contest@homelesstrust.org .**

Principal’s Signature: _____ Date: _____