HOMELESS SENSITIVITY POSTER & ESSAY CONTEST

Enter the Homeless Sensitivity Poster and Essay Contest and have a chance to win a $175 gift card.

**DEADLINE: FRIDAY, December 13, 2019**

***Please see your sponsoring teacher or UP-START Liaison for more information.***
Homeless Sensitivity Poster and Essay Contest

Deadline: Friday, December 13, 2019

Sponsoring Teacher or UP-START Liaison Contest Regulations

For the last 25 years, the Homeless Trust has aimed to end homelessness by transitioning individuals off the streets and into programs and shelters. Through initiatives that turn spare change into real change. The Trust has been able to help more people than ever access housing and other crucial resources. We want to make sure our homeless have the support needed not just to get off the streets but to stay off. As such, part of the Trust’s job is educating the community on how they can be partners with us in large and small ways. The Poster and Essay contest is one of the many initiatives we have in place to engage students in ending homelessness.

It started back in 2006 when a homeless man named Norris Gaynor was assaulted and murdered by three inebriated teenagers while sleeping on the streets. During an early-morning assault on Jan. 12, 2006 he was clubbed to death with a baseball bat and a rake. His assailants were convicted of second-degree and third-degree murder.

The poster and essay contest was created in Gaynor’s honor to educate public school students about homelessness, prevent future acts of violence against individuals living on the street, and to lay the foundation for a more compassionate community.

(Students and teachers can learn more about Mr. Gaynor here.)

POSTER CONTEST: OPEN TO ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

The poster should reflect the importance of how your community can join together in breaking the cycle of homelessness for individuals. While adult supervision is welcome, posters must be the vision and original creation of the student.

The Homeless Trust does not encourage students or anyone to give spare change or money directly to individuals on the street. Our goal is to provide safety and a pathway to stability and housing. Therefore, we do not support panhandling activities as a way to end homelessness, which is why posters and essays that depict panhandling will not be selected.
Instead, brainstorm meaningful solutions that address the causes of homelessness, overcoming negative stereotypes, or other creative ways to create compassion for our city’s homeless.

Students are not limited to one-dimensional art; we welcome creative artwork, designs, comics, and storylines that illustrate an impactful message.

***Utilize a poster board that is no larger than 22x28 inches.

Choose a theme:
- How would you treat someone who is homeless?
- Why should we care for and respect an individual experiencing homelessness?
- Illustrate ways you can show a person, who is homeless, that you care about him/her.
- Illustrate why bullying, hurting and demeaning a person, who is homeless, is wrong.
- Illustrate ways you can help and impact a person, who is homeless, without giving them money directly.
- Illustrate reasons why it is important for the Homeless Trust to assist military veterans who are homeless.

POSTER CONTEST SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS

Posters can be dropped-off in the Project UP-START office, located at the Lindsey Hopkins Technical School – 750 NW 20th Street, Room G-154 Miami, FL 33127 by 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 13, 2019.

***Upon submission, each poster MUST have a student form attached to the back. Please also write the student’s name, sponsoring teacher or UP-START Liaison’s name, grade level and school on the back of the poster.

Please read:
After the posters are submitted, they will become property of the Homeless Trust. If the sponsoring teacher or UP-START Liaison would like to keep the finished posters, please add a note to the poster upon submission to the Homeless Trust and coordinate an appropriate pick-up time for the finished work.

Poster Contest Deadline: Friday, December 13, 2019.
ESSAY CONTEST: OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The purpose of the contest is to engage high school students’ perceptions of homelessness and think about how they can encourage others to create real change in the lives of people experiencing homelessness.

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Instead, brainstorm meaningful solutions that address the causes of homelessness, overcoming negative stereotypes, or other creative ways to create compassion for our city’s homeless.

If you are in need of inspiration, check out some of the work our providers do. Visit their websites or consider volunteering with them for a day. The work they have done, has helped The Homeless Trust become a national model for ending homelessness. Volunteering with them is a great way to see what real change looks like first-hand!

Students participating in the essay contest will write an essay between 300-500 words, typed or handwritten (legible writing only). All essays should demonstrate a clear and precise idea and include appropriate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

ESSAY QUESTIONS

CATEGORY 1: Students who have NOT experienced homelessness

- Do you know anyone who is homeless? If so, how did their story impact you?
- Name a few myths about homelessness, what are some ways those myths may lead to bullying a person experiencing homelessness?
- As a high school student, what are some tactics you can use to educate and inspire change in your fellow colleagues and community about homelessness?
- The Homeless Trust is determined to find housing for people/families who are homeless, how can housing empower individuals or families?
- How would you encourage a landlord or property owner to rent to a family or individual who is homeless?
- Volunteer with one of our providers for a day. How did this experience shape your understanding of homelessness? What did you learn?
CATEGORY 2: Students who HAVE experienced homelessness

- Explain a moment, when you were homeless, when someone or something inspired you to alter your perception of your living conditions. How were you able to find hope? What are your goals in life?
- What experiences would you share to those who are currently homeless to give them hope about their future?
- How has having a home, made a difference in your life?
- What would you say to a landlord or property owner to convince him/her to rent to an individual or family who is homeless?

ESSAY CONTEST SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS

All essays MUST include the theme chosen, the essay title, the student’s name, sponsoring teacher or UP-START Liaison’s name, school, grade level and Student Entry Form.

Essays MUST be submitted to contest@homelesstrust.org by 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 13, 2019.


***Essays will be screened to detect plagiarism.

Judging of the Poster and Essay Contests

The judges will consist of a panel with community representatives, Homeless Trust Board members and Miami-Dade County Public Schools personnel. All final decisions will be made by the judges. All entrants MUST attend a public school in Miami-Dade County.

The poster contest judges will choose one poster winner among the elementary school entries and one from the middle school entries.

Essay contest judges will choose one essay winner from each high school essay entry category.

Students will be notified of the contest results through their school’s UP-START Liaison or sponsoring teacher.

***Winners will be announced at the April board meeting.
Prizes for the Poster and Essay Contests

Prizes will be awarded to the student and UP-START Liaison and or sponsoring teacher, all student winners will receive a $175 gift card (one per student) and the UP-START Liaison or sponsoring teacher will receive a $75 gift card (one per UP-START Liaison).

Winners and the UP-START Liaison or sponsoring teacher will be invited to attend the April Homeless Trust Board of Directors meeting, where the Homeless Trust Board will recognize each winner and the UP-START Liaison or sponsoring teacher, hand out prizes and take professional photos of the winners and their guests. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:30 AM at the Stephen P. Clark Center 111 NW 1st Street Miami, FL 2nd Floor, County Commission Chambers.*

*Time and location are subject to change.
Homeless Sensitivity
Poster and Essay Contest

Entry Form

Deadline: Friday, December 13, 2018

STUDENT INFORMATION

School Name: ________________________________
Student Name: ________________________________
Student ID#: ________________________________ Grade level: ______
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: ________________________________
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Phone Number: ________________________________

SPONSORING TEACHER/ UP-START LIAISON INFORMATION

Teacher/ UP-START Liaison Name: ________________________________
School Name: ________________________________
School Location Number: ________________________________
School Contact Phone Number(s): ________________________________
School Principal’s Name: ________________________________
School Principal’s Signature: ________________________________

TYPE OF ENTRY - Please mark a check next to the entry you are submitting.

Poster
Essay - Category 1
Essay - Category 2

***Please email forms to: contest@homelesstrust.org