

HOMELESS AWARENESS DAY 2021

TOOL KIT



How can you make a difference?

Find out here!

*“No one rests until everyone has a home.”*

## FOUR STEPS TO SPEARHEADING HOMELESS AWARENESS DAY

### 1. Choose an event leader

This can be a teacher, student, parent, organization chair, or another person willing to volunteer their time to raise awareness for HAD.

### 2. Pick an event...or create your own! (This is the fun part!)

The Homeless Trust team can plug you into events happening around town or you can create your own event, reflecting on themes such as the importance of finding landlords willing to rent to formerly homeless individuals, volunteering at local shelters, bringing joy to our street homeless, feeding the homeless indoors in a safe sanitary environment, and ending veteran homelessness in Miami.

### 3. Tell the Homeless Trust all about it!

We want to share what our community is doing. Help us highlight your work on November 4, 2021, by emailing [HADmiami@gmail.com](mailto:HADmiami@gmail.com) with information about your event. Don't forget to send us photos too! And make sure to tag us on social media – our social media pages are hyperlinked in the below images.



### 4. Launch into action November 4, 2021

All day, any time! You set the parameters.

## HAD IDEAS

More than 900 homeless individuals sleep on hard streets and benches in our community because they have no place to call home. The fact is housing ends homelessness. Let's create awareness reminding everyday people how hard living on the streets can be.

### **Create a Bench Meet-Up Art Exhibition**

Follow the lead of Los Angeles artist Skid Robot, who creates landscapes around resting homeless. Do an art exhibit of your own based around your bench location, school, outdoor location, or indoor business.



### **Participate in a Cardboard Brigade**

Brigades are a great way to involve both students and parents. Stand outside the school on sidewalks with signs we will provide, or you can design your own. Educate passing parents and students about Homeless Awareness Day and ways they can help. The Trust also offers Helpline calling cards and student brochures with ideas on making a difference to hand out to students.

### **Host a drive**

From a prom dress donation drive, clothing drive, hygiene supply drive, or sock drive – we can use what your organization collects! There are thousands of students in unstable housing in Miami Dade County Public Schools. The Trust will work with Project UP-START to get these items to students who need them.

### **Socks on a String**

People forget how little things like socks make such a big difference! Collect socks and hang them around offices, hallways, and classrooms as a visual reminder that the homeless need your help for the basics that make life livable.



If none of these ideas inspire you, email us at [HADMiami@gmail.com](mailto:HADMiami@gmail.com). We love to brainstorm with participants to create programs that are the perfect fit for them!

## SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT SAMPLE SCRIPTS

- Mark, your calendar for November 4! **(SCHOOL NAME)** is hosting a “Cardboard brigade” at the school. What is a cardboard brigade? You and your fellow students will gather in front of the school with posters to educate others on the issue of homelessness. What will you do today for the homeless? If you have ideas, contact **(NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION.)**
- The countdown has begun... There are **(NUMBER OF DAYS)** until Homeless Awareness Day. Our school is **(SUMMARY OF WHAT YOUR SCHOOL IS DOING...FOOD DRIVE, SOCK DRIVE, ETC.)** and you can help. Contact **(NAME)** to join. There are almost 6,000 students with unstable housing in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. They could use your help. So step up today and help people transition from “homeless to housed.”
- **(NAME OF SCHOOL)** wants to help homeless Miamians move from “homeless to housed.” How? We are participating in Homeless Awareness Day, November 4. Our school is doing **(LIST ACTIVITIES)**, and we need your help. Contact **(NAME)** for information.
- Did you know that Lil’ Kim was homeless? She was. And so were Harry Houdini, Halle Berry, Tyler Perry, Jewel, and many other famous people. Homelessness can happen to anyone. If you are homeless or know a student, remember that our school has a homeless liaison **(NAME OF TEACHER)**. They can provide all kinds of support to you or your friend.
- Remember that Homeless Awareness Day is November 4.
- Join us in celebrating by **(LIST ACTIVITIES AND CONTACT PERSON.)**

## CREATE A 'BENCH MEET-UP' ART EXHIBITION

### What it is:

The Bench Meet-Up Art Exhibition is a creative project that allows participants to educate bystanders. It creates awareness about ending homelessness by highlighting how difficult and uncomfortable it is to sleep on the streets. We cannot wait to see what ideas Miami-Dade County brings to the table.

### What do we do?

Participants can create art installations around the bench, putting up “fact signs” around the space to teach and educate the community, and hand out information about ways to get involved in ending homelessness. Consider adding “thought bubbles” to indicate what they might be dreaming about.

### Date

Intended to be a one-day event on Homeless Awareness Day on November 4, 2021, but your school or community organization can do the program anytime. Just let us know about it so we can promote your work on social platforms.

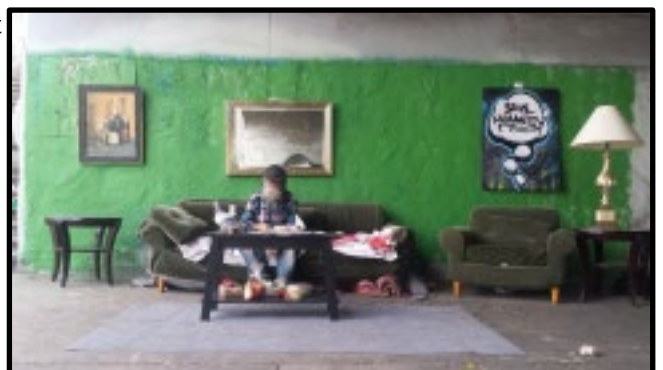
Use the information as a jumping-off point to craft an experience that is unique to your organization.

### Schools

*If you are a participating school*, make sure you involve your School UP-START Liaison (*to find out who that person is at your school, email [projectupstart@dadeschools.net](mailto:projectupstart@dadeschools.net)*). Make sure to get a signoff from your principal. Attached is a letter you can give to your principal and also send home with students.

### Artists and Art Teachers!

Take the lead from Los Angeles artist, Skid Robot and create your own art around the bench project at your school. Here is a sample photo of how this artist created a mural around a resting homeless person. While graffiti on school walls is **NOT** acceptable, teachers can get creative with space using cardboard or poster board. You can see more about the artist who created this idea here: <http://uproxx.com/life/skid-robot-video/>.



## CREATING FACT SIGNS

Students can print out informational signs to post around the bench or make their own. Here are a few ways to get you started!

- More than 900 individuals experiencing homelessness are unsheltered.
- Approximately 6,000 students are experiencing unstable housing in Miami-Dade County.
- Nearly 60% of people who are homeless are not mentally ill or on drugs. They just fell on hard times.
- There was a time when 8,000 individuals were homeless on the streets of Miami-Dade County. In comparison, 6,000 people fit on a cruise ship, 8,000 people live in Wynwood and 3,225 students go to Jackson and Central High Schools combined!
- One in four homeless are senior citizens.
- Homes end homelessness. Housing provides the stability necessary to acquire and maintain a job, hygiene, and safety.
- Tag @Homelessmiami on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)

The infographic features three white-bordered boxes on a blue background. The first box contains the text '3,225 STUDENTS' in large bold letters, followed by 'ATTEND BOTH CENTRAL AND JACKSON HIGH SCHOOLS' in smaller letters. The second box contains '12,525 PEOPLE' in large bold letters, followed by 'LIVE IN MIAMI'S UPPER EAST SIDE' in smaller letters. The third box contains '6,000 PEOPLE' in large bold letters, followed by 'COULD SLEEP ON A VACATION CRUISE SHIP' in smaller letters. At the bottom left is the logo for 'HOMELESS TRUST MIAMI-DADE COUNTY' with a house icon. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'HOUSES MORE THAN 8,000 PEOPLE', with '8,000' highlighted in a white box.

**SIGN-UP SHEET**

\_\_\_\_\_ is remembering the 900 street homeless in Miami-Dade County on November 4, 2021, Homeless Awareness Day, by hosting a \_\_\_\_\_.

Often, homeless individuals are forced to sleep on hard streets because they have nowhere else to go. Let's change that by raising awareness about homelessness. Sign up here to volunteer for the \_\_\_\_\_ Initiative sponsored by the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust. Show your support for organizations that work to shelter and house street homeless.





participated in various programs related to the topic to explore ways to help end homelessness in our community.

The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust helped us create this program, and they want parents and the community to know that the needs of the individuals facing homelessness are many. Here are just a few ways you can help:

- The County offers landlords monthly rent in perpetuity if they house someone who was formerly homeless. If you have a venue to rent, contact RentConnect at 305-349-RENT or visit [homelesstrust.org](http://homelesstrust.org).

- If you want to feed individuals experiencing homelessness, please do so at a shelter and not on the streets. The Trust can link you with shelters that need help. Visit [homelesstrust.com](http://homelesstrust.com) for details.

- Clothes and food items are always welcome. Email [HADmiami@gmail.com](mailto:HADmiami@gmail.com) to get started.

- High School students can receive community hours for volunteering at shelters. We can connect you, email [HADmiami@gmail.com](mailto:HADmiami@gmail.com)

- Miami-Dade County Public Schools has a program called Project UP-START identified and served about 6,000 students who experienced unstable housing last year. You can donate new school supplies, non-perishable food, or toiletries to identified UP-START students. Contact [projectupstart@dadeschools.net](mailto:projectupstart@dadeschools.net) if you are interested in helping.

- Businesses receive tax credits for giving homeless individuals an opportunity to work. If you have employment opportunities, email [HADMiami@gmail.com](mailto:HADMiami@gmail.com)

Thanks to the many students who participated in Homeless Awareness Day events. It was an incredible outpouring of support for those in our community who need it.

Sincerely,



## EJEMPLO DE CARTA PARA ENVIAR A CASA DESDE LA ESCUELA



Insert School  
Logo



Queridos padres,

El jueves 4 de noviembre del 2021 es el Día de la Concienciación de las Personas desamparadas y muchos de nuestros estudiantes participaron en varios programas para explorar formas de ayudar la falta de vivienda en nuestra comunidad.

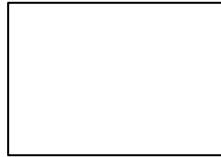
El Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust nos ayudó a crear este programa y quieren que los estudiantes, sus padres y la comunidad sepan que las necesidades de las personas desamparadas son muchas. Aquí detallamos las muchas maneras que usted puede ayudar:

- El Condado ofrece a los propietarios fondos para pagar el alquiler de una persona desamparada. Si usted tiene una propiedad para alquilar, póngase en contacto con 305-349-RENT.
- Si quieres alimentar a las personas desamparadas, por favor hágalo en un refugio y no en las calles. El Homeless Trust puede conectarlo con los refugios que necesitan ayuda. Visita [www.homelesstrust.com](http://www.homelesstrust.com) para más información.
- La ropa y los alimentos son donaciones de mucho valor. Envié un mensaje electrónico a [HADmiami@gmail.com](mailto:HADmiami@gmail.com) para informarse de estas necesidades.
- Los estudiantes mayores pueden obtener horas comunitarias si ofrecen servicios de tutoría. Podemos conectarlo; déjenos su correo electrónico en [HADmiami@gmail.com](mailto:HADmiami@gmail.com).
- El distrito escolar de Miami-Dade County ofrece servicios a través del Proyecto UP-START para los más de 6,000 estudiantes que se encuentran desamparados. Puedes donar artículos escolares, ropa, vestidos de graduación, trajes, etc. a su tienda para los estudiantes desamparados. Por favor contacte al programa del Proyecto UP-START al 305 995-7558 o a través del correo electrónico [projectupstart@dadeschools.net](mailto:projectupstart@dadeschools.net) si está interesado(a) en ayudar.

- Las empresas obtienen incentivos fiscales por ofrecerles empleo a las personas desamparadas. Si usted tiene oportunidades de empleo, envíe un mensaje a [HADMiami@gmail.com](mailto:HADMiami@gmail.com).

Gracias a todos los estudiantes que participaron en los eventos de hoy. Fue un gran apoyo para aquellos en nuestra comunidad que necesitan su ayuda.

Sinceramente,



Insert School  
Logo



## [SAMPLE LETTER TO SEND HOME FROM SCHOOL]

Chè Paran,

Jedi 4 novanm 2021 se Jounen Konsyantizasyon sou Sanzabri nan Miami-Dade County e plizyè nan elèv nou yo te patisipe nan diferan pwogram ki gen rapò ak sijè pou eksplòre fason nou ka ede fini ak sitiyasyon sanzabri nan kominote nou an.

“Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust” ede nou kreye pwogram sa a e yo vle paran ak kominote a konnen bezwen moun ki ap fè fas ak sitiyasyon sanzabri yo anpil. Men kèk fason ou ka ede:

- Konte a ofri pwopriyete lwaye mansyèl san rete si w loje yon moun ki te sanzabri. Si w gen yon kay pou lwe, kontakte RentConnect nan 305-349-RENT oubyen vizite [www.homelesstrust.org/rentconnect](http://www.homelesstrust.org/rentconnect) pou plis enfòmasyon.
- Si ou vle bay moun ki ap eksperimante sitiyasyon sanzabri manje, silvouplè fè sa nan yon sant akèy e non pa nan lari a. ‘The Trust’ ka mete w an kontak avèk sant akèy ki ka ede w la. Vizite [www.homelesstrust.com](http://www.homelesstrust.com) pou detay.
- Atik rad ak manje toujou byenveni. Silvouplè voye lèt elektwonik nan [HADMiami@gmail.com](mailto:HADMiami@gmail.com) pou kòmanse.
- Elèv lekòl segondè ka resevwa lè kominote poutèt yo fè volontè nan sant akèy. Nou ka konekte w, sèlman voye lèt elektwonik nan [HADMiami@gmail.com](mailto:HADMiami@gmail.com).
- Pwogram Pwojè UP-START Lekòl Leta Miami-Dade County te idantifye e sèvi apeprè 6,000 elèv ki te fè eksperyans kay ki pa estab ane dènyè. Ou ka bay nouvo founiti klasik, manje ki pap gate, oubyen atik twalèt pou elèv Pwojè UP-START idantifye. Silvouplè kontakte Pwogram Pwojè UP-START nan telefòn 305 995-7318 oubyen atravè lèt elektwonik [projectupstart@dadeschools.net](mailto:projectupstart@dadeschools.net) si w enterese ede.
- Biznis resevwa kredi pou taks lè yo bay moun ki sanzabri yon opòtinite pou travay. Si w gen opòtinite aplwa, voye lèt elektwonik nan [HADMiami@gmail.com](mailto:HADMiami@gmail.com).

Nou remèsye tout elèv ki te patisipe nan evènman Jounen Konsyantizasyon sou sanzabri. Se te yon gwo jès sipò pou moun nan kominote nou an ki bezwen li.

Sensèman,