

HOMELESS AWARENESS DAY 2023

ACTIVITY TOOL KIT

“No one rests until everyone has a home.”



How can you make a difference?

Find out here!

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 people currently experiencing homelessness, 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 3, 2023, by emailing 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. Who knows? We might even share your photo.



4. Launch into action on November 3, 2023

All day, any time! You set the parameters.

HAD IDEAS

Nearly 1,000 people experiencing homelessness 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 people. 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! There are around 1,000 students with unstable housing in Miami Dade 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. We love brainstorming with participants to create programs that are the perfect fit for them!



HOMELESS AWARENESS DAY

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT SAMPLE SCRIPTS



Mark your calendars for November 3rd! (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 people experiencing homelessness? 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 an estimated 11,000 students with unstable housing in Miami-Dade 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 Miamians experiencing homelessness move from "homeless to housed." How? We are participating in Homeless Awareness Day on November 3rd. 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 a person experiencing homelessness 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 3rd.

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, put 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 3, 2023, but your school or community organization can do the program anytime. Please let us know so we can promote your work on social media.

Use the information as a jumping-off point to craft an experience 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*). Make sure to get a signoff from your principal. Attached is a letter you can give to your principal and 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/>.



HOMELESS AWARENESS DAY

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!

- Around 1,000 individuals experiencing homelessness live on Miami's streets.
- Around 11,000 students are experiencing unstable housing in Miami-Dade County.
- Miami's Homeless Trust needs around 1,000 dwellings to end homelessness today.
- Nearly 60% of people who are homeless are not mentally ill or on drugs. They just fell due to hard times.
- There was a time when 8,000 individuals were homeless on the streets of Miami-Dade County.
- Senior citizens are the fastest growing population of homeless in Miami.
- Homes end homelessness. Housing provides the stability necessary to acquire and maintain a job, hygiene, and safety.

- Tag @Homelessmiami on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)
- Email HADmiami@gmail.com to request a jpeg for printing.



HOMELESS AWARENESS DAY

SIGN-UP SHEET

_____ is remembering the 1,000 street homeless in Miami-Dade County on November 3, 2023, Homeless Awareness Day, by hosting a _____.

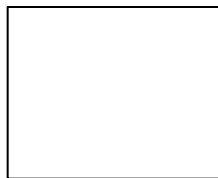
Often, homeless individuals are forced to sleep on hard streets because they have nowhere else to go. Let's change that by raising awareness about homelessness. Sign up here to volunteer for the _____ Initiative sponsored by the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust. Show your support for organizations that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

| NAME | PHONE | CLASS |
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HOMELESS AWARENESS DAY

SAMPLE LETTER TO SEND HOME FROM SCHOOL



**Insert
School Logo**



Dear Parents,

November 3, 2023, is Homeless Awareness Day in Miami-Dade

County and many of our students 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 <https://www.homelesstrust.org/homeless-trust/landlords/home.page>
- 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 www.homelesstrust.com for details.
- Clothes and food items are always welcome. Email 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
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools has a program called Project UP-START that identified and served around 1,000 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 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

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 3 de noviembre de 2023 es el Día de Concientización sobre las Personas sin Hogar en Miami-Dade

El condado y muchos de nuestros estudiantes participaron en varios programas relacionados con el tema para explorar formas de ayudar a acabar con la falta de vivienda en nuestra comunidad.

El Fideicomiso para Personas sin Hogar del Condado de Miami-Dade nos ayudó a crear este programa, y quieren que los padres y la comunidad sepan que las necesidades de las personas que enfrentan la falta de vivienda son muchas. Aquí hay algunas formas en las que puede ayudar:

- El condado ofrece a los propietarios alquiler mensual a perpetuidad si alojan a alguien que antes no tenía hogar. Si tiene un lugar para alquilar, comuníquese con RentConnect al 305-349-RENT o visite <https://www.homelesstrust.org/homeless-trust/landlords/home.page>
- Si desea alimentar a personas sin hogar, hágalo en un refugio y no en las calles. The Trust puede ponerlo en contacto con los refugios que necesitan ayuda. Visite www.homelesstrust.com para obtener más detalles.
- La ropa y los alimentos siempre son bienvenidos. Envíe un correo electrónico a HADmiami@gmail.com para comenzar.
- Los estudiantes de secundaria pueden recibir horas comunitarias para ser voluntarios en los refugios. Podemos conectarlo, envíe un correo electrónico a HADmiami@gmail.com
- Las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Miami-Dade tienen un programa llamado Proyecto UP-START que identificó y atendió a un estimado de 1,000 estudiantes que experimentaron viviendas inestables el año pasado. Puede donar nuevos útiles escolares, alimentos no perecederos o artículos de tocador a los estudiantes identificados de UP-START. Póngase en contacto con projectupstart@dadeschools.net si está interesado en ayudar.
- Las empresas reciben créditos fiscales por brindar a las personas sin hogar la oportunidad de trabajar. Si

tiene oportunidades de empleo, envíe un correo electrónico a HADMiami@gmail.com

Gracias a los muchos estudiantes que participaron en los eventos del Día de Concienciación para Personas sin Hogar. Fue una gran cantidad de apoyo para aquellos en nuestra comunidad que lo necesitan.

Atentamente,
