

# HOMELESS AWARENESS DAY 2024

## ACTIVITY TOOL KIT

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



**If not you, then who?**

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**Help End Homelessness!**

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 **HOMELESS TRUST**  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

[#HomelessAwarenessDay](https://www.instagram.com/HomelessAwarenessDay)



*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 1, 2024, 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.

Who knows? We might even share your photo.



### **4. Launch into action on November 1, 2024**

All day, any time! You set the parameters.

## **LIVED LESSONS - IDEAS FOR HOMELESS AWARENESS DAY**

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 pillows to sheets to lightbulbs and cutlery, one in four homeless are old enough to be your grandparent! Help them get the items they need to live on their own. Start a drive to raise these items and the Homeless Trust will pick up everything you collect!

### **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:

[HADMiami@gmail.com](mailto:HADMiami@gmail.com).

We love brainstorming with participants to create programs that are the perfect fit for them!

## **SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sample Scripts**

1) Mark your calendars for November 1<sup>st</sup>! (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.)

2) 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 10,900 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."

3) (NAME OF SCHOOL) wants to help Miamians experiencing homelessness move from "homeless to housed." How? We are participating in Homeless Awareness Day on November 1st. Our school is doing (LIST ACTIVITIES), and we need your help. Contact (NAME) for information.

4) 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.

5) Remember that Homeless Awareness Day is November 1st. Join us in celebrating by (LIST ACTIVITIES AND CONTACT PERSON.)

## **CREATE!! “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 1, 2024, but your school or community organization can do the program anytime. Please let us know so we can promote your work on social media.

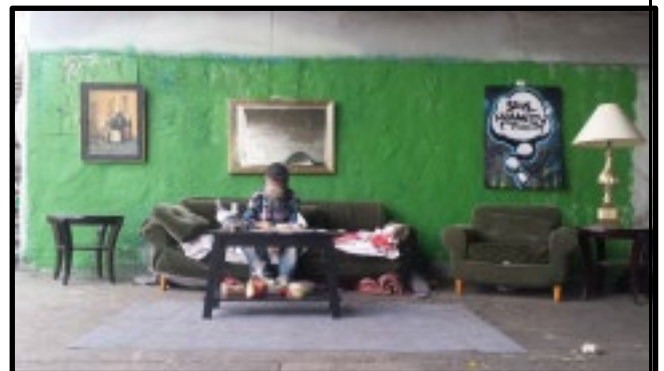
Use this information as a jumping-off point to craft an experience unique to your organization.

### **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](mailto: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 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/>.





## **SIGN POWER!**

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 10,900 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](mailto:HADmiami@gmail.com) to request a jpeg for printing.



## **PARENT COMMUNICATION! SAMPLE LETTER**



**Insert  
School Logo**



Dear Parents,

November 1, 2024, 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](http://www.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 that identifies and serves students who experienced unstable housing. 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 1 de noviembre de 2024 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](http://www.homelesstrust.com) para obtener más detalles.
- La ropa y los alimentos siempre son bienvenidos. Envíe un correo electrónico a [HADmiami@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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,