



Homeless Sensitivity Poster & Essay Contest

Enter for a
chance to win a
\$300 gift card!

Winning posters
will be exhibited
at The Bass
Museum of Art



To Learn More,
SCAN ME!

Deadline: January 16, 2026

In partnership with:

THE
BASS



Homeless Sensitivity Poster and Essay Contest

THEME: HOPE and Youth Homelessness!

BACKGROUND

Project UP-START, the Homeless Education Program of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), has identified more than 9,200 students who live in unstable housing situations in Miami-Dade. The Homeless Trust data indicates the most prominent issue contributing to youth homelessness is racial inequities: people of color represent 17% of the county's population, but youth of color represent 69% of the youth homeless population. The second risk factor is domestic violence. The third risk factor is sex trafficking, and the fourth risk factor is being in the foster care system.

PROMPT

In your artwork or essay, expound upon the idea of hope - how providers and volunteers extend hope to Miami's homeless youth through time, support, presence, services, prevention and encouragement.

CONTEST CATEGORY OPTIONS

- **Poster Contest:** Open to all grade levels
- **Essay Contest:** Open to High school students **only**.

CONTEST RULES

Posters:

We welcome creative artwork, designs, comics, and storylines that illustrate a powerful message.

- Posters must be the vision and original creation of the student.
- Poster sizes **must** measure 22 x 28 inches.

High School Essays:

- Essays must be written with the student's authentic voice and ideas.
- Essay length must be 500 words, typed or handwritten (legible writing only).

****The Homeless Trust discourages the act of giving money to individuals on the street. Posters or essays that encourage panhandling will not be selected.****

SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS

- Posters and essays must be electronically submitted to HADMiami@gmail.com, no later than January 16, 2026. **All submissions must be accompanied by a completed *Contest Entry Form* (found on page 4).**
- To submit posters, take a picture of the artwork and email the image, along with the *Contest Entry Form* to HADMiami@gmail.com.
- **Upon submission, posters become the property of the Homeless Trust.**
- Students who submit a poster or essay will receive **TWO** community service hours for their school.

JUDGING

The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust and Bass Museum partners will judge entries in February 2026 and notify winning teachers and students.

A Homeless Trust's representative will contact the sponsoring teacher/School PROJECT UP- START Liaison with delivery instructions for posters.

Winning art and essays will be presented during a 2026 Homeless Trust board meeting – date is TBD. Students are invited to come in person with family and friends to display their art to the community at the meeting and receive their cash prizes.

Good luck!



**Homeless Sensitivity
Contest Entry Form**

Deadline: January 16, 2026 by 5 p.m.

Please email forms to: HADMiami@gmail.com

****Upon submission, posters become the property of the Homeless Trust****

STUDENT INFORMATION

School Name: _____

Student's Name: _____ Student ID #: _____

Grade Level: _____

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

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Phone Number: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature: _____

SPONSORING TEACHER/ School UP-START LIAISON INFORMATION

Teacher/ School UP- START Liaison's Name: _____

Teacher/ UP-START Liaison's Cell Phone Number: _____

School Name: _____ School Location #: _____

School Contact Phone Number: _____

School Principal's Name: _____

School Principal's Signature: _____