

Hunger & Homeless Awareness Month



Shantytown Planning Guide

October & November

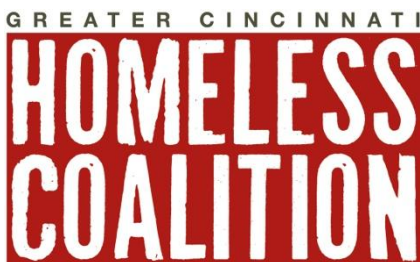


Table of Contents

I. Key Information:

- A. [Introduction and Background](#) 3
- B. [Why Participate?](#) 4
- C. [Project Team](#) 5
- D. [Shantytown Getting Started Checklist](#) 6
- E. [Events and Activities](#) 7

II. Appendix: More Information, Form Templates, Resources, etc.

- A. [Details on Hosting a Shantytown](#) 9
- B. [Application Template for Students](#) 11
- C. [Permission Slip Template](#) 12
- D. [Journaling: Reflect Through Poetry and Writing](#) 13
- E. [Activity: There's No Place Like Home](#) 15
- F. [Activity: Cardboard Brigade](#) 16
- G. [Contest: 30 Day Challenge](#) 17
- H. [Contest: Submit Photos and Writing for Publication in *Streetvibes*](#) 18
- I. [Other Awareness Events and Things to Consider](#) 19
- J. [Educational Resources](#) 20
- K. [Additional Resources](#) 21
- L. [Volunteer! Social Service Agency Listings](#) 22

Introduction and Background

This guide is designed to assist students, teachers, and service learning coordinators from the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area with planning a Shantytown – or other educational and service events – during Hunger and Homeless Awareness Month. Each year during the fall, hundreds of schools throughout the nation participate to bring awareness to their local communities. This manual serves as a tool to guide community leaders towards creating an eye-opening and life- changing experience.

When?

October is Hunger and Homeless Awareness Month in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area. This month is an early kick off for National Hunger & Homeless awareness Week (November 12-20), organized by The National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness. These and other groups all over the country will be mobilizing and educating communities to raise awareness and get involved to end homelessness.

What is “Beyond the Box”, City-Wide Shantytown?

“Beyond the Box”, City-Wide Shantytown is the main event during Homelessness Awareness Month. The goal is for organized groups, youth and college students, and businesses to raise awareness of poverty, hunger, and homelessness through “one night without a home” awareness sleep out. Participating in hunger & homeless awareness projects is a creative way of educating our communities. Education inspires compassion, understanding, and solidarity. The phrase “Beyond the Box” encourages participants to think differently, creatively, and from a new perspective, beyond their stereotypes and limited understanding of the issues.

History:

The City-Wide Shantytown project began several years ago in an effort to bring attention to the issues in our community surrounding homelessness. For years, many high schools, both public and private, had hosted individual Shantytown events throughout the school year. In 2008, Andy Freeze (Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition) and Steve Elliott (Mayerson Foundation Service-Learning Program) launched the collaborative to get more schools and groups involved in awareness activities of this kind. Through student meetings, sharing of resources and ideas, and use of GCCH’s Speakers Bureau and agency connections, we have over thirty high schools and colleges in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky raising awareness of the struggles facing our low-income neighbors.

Register Now! <https://cincihomeless.org/please-register-your-education-event-here/>

Why Participate?

Homelessness is an important issue that needs to be addressed. Approximately 49 million people in our nation, 1 in 4 of them children, live below the poverty line. As a result, homelessness is on the rise just about everywhere in the country. On average, 3.5 MILLION AMERICANS including 1.35 MILLION CHILDREN experience homelessness in a given year. Approximately 770,000 individuals experience homelessness each night across the country, with about 13,000 in Ohio and 6,600 in Kentucky. An additional 700,000 children do not have a place to call home and go to bed hungry nightly. In 2013 in Hamilton County alone, over 8,000 people used a homeless shelter or were on the street. 30% of them were children. Bringing attention to the plight of the hungry and homeless fosters a greater understanding, creates solidarity, and can lead to action to improve the lives and opportunities of the hungry and homeless.

Participating is educational, inspirational, and fun!

This guide will provide several different options for ways to get involved, and you have substantial discretion in tailoring the experience that is right for your school. As just one example, here is a description of how one school, **Ursuline Academy**, participated and some testimonials about their experience:

The students participated in several ways, including: (1) setting up a Shantytown sleep-over with speakers from the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition's Speaker's Bureau; (2) lining the entrance of their school the next day holding signs with facts about homelessness; and (3) making lunches for Mercy Franciscan.

Testimonial from an Ursuline student: "Homelessness is something that cannot be overlooked and Shantytown showed me just that. I encourage each and every person to take a step back and look at all of the luxuries they have, because there are over thousands of people in the community who don't have any of it."

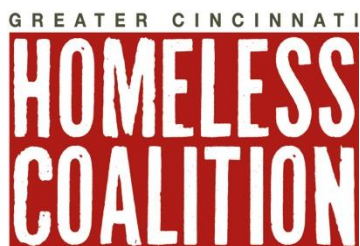
In addition, here is a testimonial from **Batavia High School** regarding their participation in Shantytown and the Speaker's Bureau presentation:

"The kids were talking about it afterward and even later on that night. They thought his message was very important and it definitely gave them something to think about. We will do Shantytown again next year."



Register now! <https://cincihomeless.org/please-register-your-education-event-here/>

Project Team:



The Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition (GCCH) is a unified social action agency, fully committed to its ultimate goal: the eradication of homelessness with respect for the dignity and diversity of its membership, the homeless and the community. GCCH works towards this goal by coordinating services, educating the public, and engaging in grassroots organizing and advocacy.

For more info, visit www.cincihomeless.org or contact Dr. Mark Mussman (MarkMussman@cincihomeless.org), Director of Education.



The Mayerson Service-Learning Program (MSLP) began in 1994 to support the involvement of high school students, their teachers and their schools in strengthening our community through volunteer service. Through the MSLP, the Foundation provides funding, training and technical support to local high schools through a consultative process. The MSLP responds to requests for assistance from schools to implement or improve the fulfillment of mandatory service hours, to integrate service in the academic curriculum, to enhance community service with preparation or reflection activities, and to recognize student achievement in the areas of service and volunteerism.

For more info, visit

www.mayersonfoundation.org/programs/servicelearningprogram or contact Clare Blankemeyer (ClareB@mayersonfoundation.org), Director.

Getting Started Checklist

The following checklist will help your school create a successful Shantytown event as well as provides a roadmap to complete PRIOR to registration:

- Students: Find chaperones** – It is fantastic that you want to get involved and that you have taken the initiative to start something at your school! Even though you will play an integral role, each school will need a lead chaperone (teacher, service coordinator, and/or parent) and other assistant chaperones to serve as advisors and oversee the event.

OR

- Teachers/Advisors: Recruit student leaders** – The success of each school’s event will be reliant on a small dedicated group of students who are willing to commit time and effort into the planning and completion process.
- Get permission:** Talk to school administrators and get permission to host the event as early as possible. Early planning is crucial!
- Select dates:** Every school and district has other events and activities going on, so determining the exact dates will be up to each school’s specific schedule. Additionally, some schools may only have the ability to host a Shantytown overnight with limited education during the week, while others may be limited to an awareness week during the school week.
- Determine participants:** Each school will need to determine how many participants can participate in the activities planned. This may be based on a number of factors including age, grade, and population of the student body. Some schools may want to limit participants to only seniors or only juniors and seniors, others may want to include the entire student body. Whatever the case may be, this needs to be determined early on.
- Send out permission slips and applications for students to participate. Set a deadline for registration.**
- Determine which activities your school will participate in.** See list on pages 7-8.
- Register:** Once all of the above items have taken place, go to <https://cincihomeless.org/please-register-your-education-event-here/> and register your school. Registration with Hunger & Homeless Awareness Month’s City-Wide Shantytown is FREE.
- Network with the wider community:** Become friends with us on [Facebook to stay up-to-date and share your pictures and experiences from City-Wide Shantytown.](#)
- Create evaluations to make your event even better next year!**

Homeless Awareness Month Events

- **Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky's "Run for Shelter":**
 - **Morning of Saturday, October 15, 2016, Devou Park to Willie's Sport's Café (Covington)**
 - The Emergency Shelter of NKY's 7th annual Run for Shelter 5k will be held on Saturday, October 15th. Race begins at 9 am with race day registration beginning at 8 am. Cost for race is \$30 and includes a dri-fit tech shirt, children 10 and under are free with paid adult and can purchase a t-shirt for \$10. Post race massages and food are also included. Come and support ESNKY as we continue to be life saving in winter and life changing in summer.
 - More information can be found at www.emergencyshelternky.org

Homeless Awareness Month Activity Suggestions

Please feel free to be creative and adapt any of these activities.

- **Participate in The 30-Day Challenge:**
 - **The 30-Day Challenge** is an interactive way to help raise awareness and money to help those in need in our community.
 - This project provides 30 days worth of journaling, reading assignments and small donations. Participants engage in a small awareness-raising activity every day for 30 days. It is a great way for students to prepare for Homeless Awareness month and Shantytown (**See page 17 for details**).
- **Educate Your Group:**
 - Schedule a ***Voice of the Homeless Speaker's Bureau*** with GCCH; invite a member of Faces Without Places to speak to your class, church group or organization; or use various media to educate members of your group about the causes of homelessness (**[When you register online, you can request a member of the Speaker's Bureau](#)**).
- **Spread the word:**
 - **Engage your students in a *Streetvibes* Shadow Activity** which gives them an opportunity to meet and learn from a veteran Distributor and then hit the streets and try to sell *Streetvibes* to passer-by's. This gives students real-world knowledge about Cincinnati's Anti-Solicitation Laws and shows them first-hand how difficult it can be to ask for help. **Register:** <https://cincihomeless.org/please-register-your-education-event-here/>
- **Reflect:**
 - Publish an article about your experience in *Streetvibes* (**See page 13 for details**).
 - Collect or buy journals for your participants and incorporate journaling time and/or activities throughout your events. There are a variety of activity suggestions on our website!
 - Write about what you learned throughout Hunger & Homeless Awareness Month or advocate through poetry. Participants can use this opportunity to consider what they knew before and after, to think about whether or not they learned what they expected, and to gain perspective on how to educate others based upon their own experiences.
- **Sell "Day-by-Day" Calendars on your school campus, at your office or place of work:**
 - Day-by-Day is an annual calendar produced by the Homeless Coalition and the Mayerson Foundation. It features photographs taken by individuals experiencing homelessness & high school students. *Streetvibes* Distributors sell the calendar during the holiday season for an additional source of income. On average, distributes earned \$135 from selling the calendar. This year schools

can get involved by selling calendars at their school! The proceeds will be turned into the Coalition and divided amongst calendar distributors. Your school could make an impact in the lives of our distributors. Together we can!

- **Upload Photos and/or Submit them for a Contest:**
 - Share your photos with all of the other schools, churches, and organizations that participated in Citywide Shantytown by uploading them to our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/GCHomelessCoalition>
 - Submit your best photos to the Homeless Coalition (Streetvibes@cincihomeless.org) with a caption. The best photos will be chosen for a spread in *Streetvibes*.
- **Serve:**
 - Contact a local agency to see if a small group can support the agency through a volunteer experience (**See the social service agency listing on page 22**).
 - Have your class read homeless advocate Ron Hall's books *Same Kind of Different as Me* and *What Difference Do It Make?* A portion of all proceeds from books purchased through The Bookshelf bookstore in Madeira benefits the Association of Fundraising Professionals and Strategies to End Homelessness Winter Shelter.
- **Educate Youth:**
 - Set up a reading of a children's book on homelessness at your local library or with your former kindergarten or elementary school teachers (**See page 20 for a list of children's books.**)
- **Advocate:**
 - Host a letter writing campaign – draft a Letter to the Editor, or a letter to a politician and ask members of your school, church, or organization to sign the letter. Letters supporting Affordable Housing, Raising the Minimum Wage, and general support for the Homeless Coalition are very much appreciated.
- **Act:**
 - Organize a Cardboard Brigade to raise awareness by making cardboard signs with facts about homelessness and take to the streets, stressing the importance of ending homelessness (**See page 16 for details**).
- **Entertain:**
 - Host a movie night at your school and show a film on homelessness (**See list of recommended films on page 20**).
- **Get Creative:**
 - Encourage students to reflect upon and create dioramas or posters of their perceptions of homelessness. Place in a visible place to create conversation.
- **Take a Tour:**
 - Learn about the life-saving resources in Over-the-Rhine and the history of the neighborhood. See first hand how things are rapidly changing and the forces at play. **Sign up today!**
<https://cincihomeless.org/please-register-your-education-event-here/>

Register for a Speaker, Tour, *Streetvibes* Shadow Activity, and/or Shantytown in one place:

<https://cincihomeless.org/please-register-your-education-event-here/>

Details on Hosting a Shantytown

- Recruit students. Create fliers and posters and have the school administration help you publicize the Shantytown throughout your school.
- Fliers should include the following info:
 1. Time and Date
 2. Explanation of event: An overnight experience to discuss, think, and learn about homelessness. Participants will: construct their own shelters, prepare their own food, learn about homelessness from guest speakers, and sleep outside or inside overnight.
 3. Application pick-up and drop-off information and a deadline (Probably no later than two weeks before).
- Determine the location of the Shantytown.
- Secure chaperones and security.
- Secure boxes, tape, markers, and other supplies.
- Plan the schedule of events for the evening.



Sample Agenda

1. Arrival/Check-in (works well after school or on Saturday or Sunday afternoon around 3pm)
2. Welcome/rules/regulations etc.
3. Homework time if needed
4. Set up boxes- provide enough time for construction as well as creativity.
5. Journaling: before/during and after the event journal
6. Dinner (suggestion, have each participant bring one can of soup and prepare it together, or give each participant \$1 and go to a local grocery store to buy dinner)
7. **Homeless Coalition Speaker** or other educational activities – see website for ideas.
8. Candlelight vigil
9. Show a film or documentary about homelessness or hunger.
10. Discussion group – Read, analyze, share stories/poems written by people experiencing homelessness.
11. Police Visit: “Charge Participants with Trespassing” (as a simulation, but the students think it’s real)
12. Day old donut/Breakfast/ wrap up
13. If you stay during the school week, have students greet students/staff as they enter the building.

- Distribute fact sheets.
- Invite the media.
- Draft a statement to submit to *Streetvibes* and other news media.
- Give students an itemized list of what they need to bring and what not to bring.

Examples of Things to Bring:

1. Good attitude
2. BYOB- Bring your own box
3. Duck tape to hold the box together
4. Plastic tarps/shower curtains in case of rain
5. The clothing on your back and a warm blanket (dressing in layers is highly recommended)
6. School items
7. Camera

Do not bring:

1. iPods, cell phones, pagers or other portable electronic devices
2. Snacks, food, candy, etc.



Application Template for Students to Join Shantytown at Your School

City-Wide Shantytown Application

School_____

Student Name_____ Grade (circle one): 9 10 11 12

Email Address_____ Home phone_____

Why do you want to participate in Shantytown? What do you hope to gain?

What community service have you participated in?

What do you think the goal of the Shantytown should be?

What can you do to be an advocate for the homeless?

The cost of Shantytown this year is \$ _____ which will cover the cost of swag, supplies and guest speakers.

You also need to bring: (INSERT YOUR GUIDELINES HERE)

Shirt size (optional) (circle one): Small Medium Large X-large XXLarge

Rules: (INSERT YOUR GUIDELINES HERE)

Permission Slip Template for Your School

City-Wide Shantytown Permission Slip:

Section 1: To be completed by the student's parent/guardian:

I, _____ (parent name) give my permission for my child,
_____ (student name) to participate in _____ (High
School) Shantytown held on _____ 2013

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Emergency Phone _____

Section 2:

I _____ (student name) have read the rules and regulations for the
_____ (High School) Shantytown and agree to them as stated. I have full knowledge
that I am expected to be present for the entire program. I will take responsibility of giving my time and effort
towards the event, while not neglecting responsibilities to my academic and extracurricular activities. I
understand that if I break any of these rules, my parent or guardian will be called and they will be asked to pick me
up.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Section 3: To be completed by student's coach/advisor (if applicable)

I _____ (coach/advisor name) give my permission for the aforementioned student
to participate in the _____ (High School) Shantytown with the understanding that
he/she will be unable to attend regularly scheduled activities on _____ (dates) 2013.

Journaling: Reflect Through Poetry and Writing

Participants of Hunger & Homeless Awareness Month are encouraged to journal before, during, and after their Shantytown experience, as well as submit poetry to the Homeless Coalition to be considered for publication in *Streetvibes*, the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition's street newspaper. To submit your poetry: email Streetvibes@cincihomeless.org

It is recommended to collect or purchase composition notebooks for each participant. These could be included in the price of participating, if funds are not already available.

To make reflection more interactive, consider using the students' notebooks as passports. Each time they complete an activity, they receive a stamp or something to put in their books that they can journal about.

What is reflection? Reflection is a structured opportunity for you to critically think about your experience and apply your learning in a broader academic, social and personal context. Reflection is how we learn from ourselves and includes acknowledging your reactions, feelings, observations, and sharing your ideas about anything regarding the activity. This should be easier if you have been writing in your journals as often as possible. *We do not learn from merely doing, we learn from thinking about what we do.*

Consider including "journaling time" throughout your events; this way the organizers are remembering to encourage reflection, and the participants are remembering to use their books.

Pre-experience questions (these can be used as prompts for journal entries):

1. What are my expectations of this experience?
2. What fears, doubts or questions do I bring to this experience?

What should I write in my journal?

Here are a few of the ingredients, which go into keeping a great journal:

- Journals should be snapshots filled with sights, sounds, smells, concerns, insights, doubts, fears, and critical questions about issues, people, and, most importantly, yourself.
- Honesty is the most important ingredient to successful journals.
- A journal is *not* a work log of tasks, events, times, and dates.
- Write freely. Grammar/spelling should not be stressed in your writing until the final draft.
- Write an entry after each activity. If you can't write a full entry, jot down random thoughts, images, etc. which you can come back to a day or two later and expand into a colorful verbal picture.

Structuring your writing:

- Use the journal as a time to meditate on what you've seen, felt, and experienced, and which aspects of the experience continues to excite, trouble, impress, or unnerve you.
- Don't simply answer the questions listed below, but use the questions as a diving board to leap from into a clear or murky pool of thought. Use the questions to keep your writing/"swimming" focused.

The Three Levels of Reflection:

- **The Mirror (A clear reflection of the Self)**

Who am I? What are my values? What have I learned about myself through this experience? Do I have more/less understanding or empathy than I did before? In what ways, if any, has your sense of self, your values, your sense of "community," your willingness to serve others, and your self-confidence/self-esteem been impacted or altered through this experience? Have your motivations changed? In what ways? How has this experience challenged stereotypes or prejudices you have/had? Any realizations, insights, or especially strong lessons learned or half-glimpsed? Will these experiences change the way you act or think in the future? Have you given enough, opened up enough, cared enough? How have you challenged yourself, your ideals, your philosophies, your concept of life or the way you live?

- **The Microscope (Makes the small experience large)**

What happened? Describe your experience. What would you change about this situation if you were in charge? Was there a moment of failure, success, indecision, doubt, humor, frustration, happiness, or sadness? When did you feel most uncomfortable? Do you feel your actions had any impact? What more needs to be done? Does this experience compliment or contrast with what you're learning in class? How? Has learning through experience taught you more, less, or the same as the class? In what ways?

- **The Binoculars (Makes what appears distant, appear closer)**

From your experience, are you able to identify any underlying or overarching issues that influence the problem of homelessness? What could be done to change the situation? How will this alter your future behaviors/attitudes/and career? How is the issue of homelessness you're serving impacted by what is going on in the larger political/social sphere? What does the future hold? What can be done?

Activity: “There’s No Place Like Home”

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

– Article 25 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Essential Questions:

- Do you think that everyone is entitled to a nice place to call home? Why or why not?
- Have you ever been dissatisfied about how much space you have to live in? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to get evicted? What is a foreclosure?
- What do you think it would feel like to be uncertain about where you were going to sleep each night? Or to have your family move in with another family?

What is home?

Before defining homelessness, it helps to think about what it means to have a home. Most Americans recognize that having a home is essential to everything we value in life. Without a home, it is extremely difficult to meet basic physical needs or maintain family, friends, community involvement, and work. Homelessness, therefore, can be described as the lack of these things that encompass what it means to have a home, including, but not limited to: the fact that you lack security and safety, that you have no place to call your own, that you are always the intruder into other people’s spaces, that you have no place for your things, and that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible to maintain your physical and emotional health, relationships, work, school, treatment regimes, or even regular food preparation.

Activity:

1. Individually draw a picture or sketch a collage of *images* to respond to the question “What does home mean to you?”
2. Share your drawing or collage with one or two partners, taking turns to explain the work to each other. You do not have to share if you don’t want to, but be able to hold a conversation on your ideas. Add to your drawings based on your discussions and write (verbal) descriptions in your journal.
3. Either individually or with a partner, consider how your lives would be different if you didn’t have a home – what would or wouldn’t you be able to do? Which activities that you have planned this summer or for your lifetime would you not be able to do if you had nowhere to live? How would you feel? Keep notes to use for discussion and for the basis of a poem or an essay.

Activity: Host a Cardboard Brigade

Organize your own cardboard brigade and hit the streets in your community encouraging citizens and students to make cardboard signs and take to the streets stressing the importance of ending homelessness and raising awareness.

Steps in creating your own cardboard brigade:

1. Organize a group of individuals from your school, organization, or places of worship.
2. Meet up to create signs with facts about homelessness or questions for passerby's to question. See our "Cardboard Brigade" photo album, or check out the links below for ideas:
 - a. <http://www.cincihomeless.org/content/hfacts.html>
 - b. <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/>
 - c. <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/index.html>
3. Choose an intersection where you will receive high visibility and a time when there will be a lot of traffic. (Stay off the roads and on the sidewalk, do not block traffic on the sidewalk. Do not put yourself or others in danger. Be aware of your surroundings.)
4. Take pictures of your brigade and send them to us so we can post them in our online cardboard brigade photo album.



Contest: 30-Day Challenge

The 30-Day Challenge is an interactive way to help raise awareness and money to help those in need in our community. This project provides 30 days worth of journaling, reading assignments and small donations. Participants engage in a small awareness-raising activity every day for 30 days. It is a great way for students to prepare for Homeless Awareness month and Shantytown.

This year we are holding a contest to see which school can get the most students to participate. If your school would like to participate please contact the Education Director.

The winner of the contest will be the school with the highest percentage of student participation in the Challenge. We will need to know the total number of high school students at our school. After you complete the 30-Day Challenge, you simply confirm the total number of students who participated.

All participating schools and the winner of the contest will be recognized at the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless' Annual Dinner and in Streetvibes, the Coalition's street newspaper.

For more information on this interactive tool please visit the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless website at <http://cincihomeless.org/30-day-challenge/>.

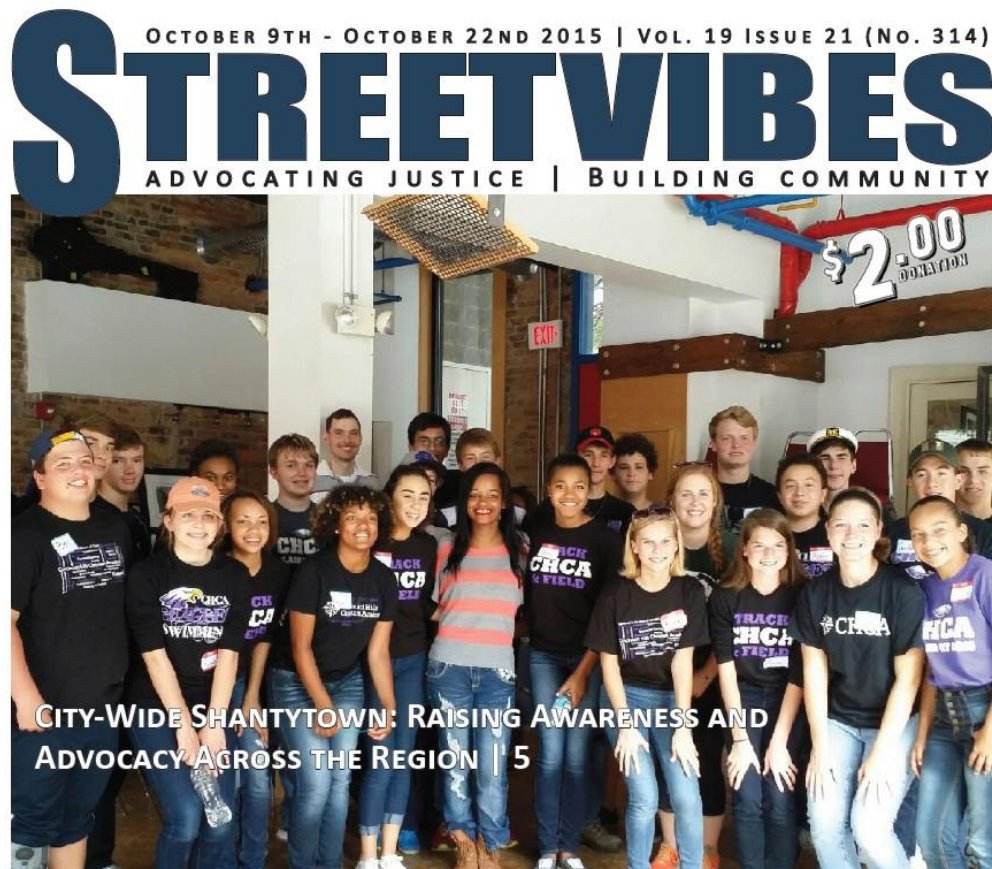
Contest: Submit Photos and Articles for Publication in *Streetvibes*

We encourage you to submit your best photos (with captions) from your Shantytown experience and articles about your experience to the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition. The Coalition will pick the best photos and articles for publication in *Streetvibes*, their newspaper.

Here are some general guidelines for articles:

- News stories: 800 to 1,200 words, based on interviews and documents, providing facts, information and analysis of important issues and events;
- Feature stories: 800 to 1,200 words, based on interviews and personal observations, providing facts, information and insight about individuals and organizations;
- Local news briefs: 200 to 400 words, providing basic information about noteworthy events in the community we serve;
- Guest columns: 800 words, offering personal opinion and perspective on topical issues and trends.

Please submit photos and articles to the Coalition by email to:
Streetvibes Editor | Streetvibes@cincihomeless.org



Examples of Other Awareness Efforts That Your School Can Do

- Organize Oxfam's **Hunger Banquet** (see <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/take-action/events/hunger-banquet/> for script and details).
- **Evict Students** from lockers and post housing statistics on each locker.
- Have a Streetvibes **Distributor come to school and sell the paper during lunch.**
- Decorate lunch trays with hunger statistics.
- Include statistics about Hunger & Homelessness in your morning announcements during Hunger & Homeless Awareness Month.
- Commandeer a bulletin board at school to post information about your events, pictures, statistics, etc. during the month.
- Once your sleep-out is over, save your decorated boxes. Place them somewhere in your school for **everyone to see and be reminded.** For example, Ursuline Academy placed them in their cafeteria.
- Pick a day to wear purple and orange – national colors commemorating homelessness and hunger.
- Ask your librarian to pull related readings and/or host an event in your library to read and discuss the materials the library found.
- **Schools with uniforms** – Speak with your administration and choose a day in which students and staff pay (maybe \$1.00) and then wear colors to support your Shantytown events (purple & orange).
- Go to school **wearing a cardboard sign w/ facts** (over your clothes).
- On the day before your Shantytown: **host an event where all of the participants make sandwiches.** Tell them the sandwiches are going to a shelter. During Shantytown, serve the sandwiches. This will show the participants what it's like to depend on donations and what it's like to receive donations.
- Challenge all of your students and teachers to wear the same clothes all week, without washing them.
- Grocery ad Exercise: make copies of a grocery ad for participants. Divide your participants into groups of 3 or 4 (or less) and have them plan dinner for their family (their group) on budget of 90 cents per person, which is the average amount received for food stamps.

Things to Consider

- Consider transportation home after the sleepout for students who would normally drive themselves. Keep in mind that there will be limited sleep the night of the sleepout.
- Consider separating by male/female while sleeping.
- Speak to Administration about any potential liabilities to also consider.



Educational Resources

Educate yourself and others. The following media are suggestions to start with:

Books – see also, the City-Wide Shantytown Website (“Children’s Book on Homelessness”)

- *Through Our Eyes* (Reflections from students and stories of homeless individuals here in Cincinnati)
- *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall
- *What Difference Do It Make?* By Ron Hall
- *Econocide: Elimination of the Urban Poor* by Alice Skirtz
- *Lives Turned Upside Down: Homeless Children in Their Own Words and Photographs* by Jim Hubbard (Children’s book)
- *A Shelter in Our Car* by Monica Gunning and Elaine Pedlar (Children’s book)
- *The Lady in the Box* by Ann McGovern and Marni Backe (Children’s book)
- *Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen* by DyAnne DiSalvo (Children’s book)
- *Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting and Ronald Himler (Children’s book)

Educational Films:

- *Faces of Homelessness* video, 13 minutes, \$15, from the National Coalition for the Homeless
- *The Homeless Home Movie*, \$44, from Media Visions, Inc. Jim Burns,
- *The Hard Times Generation – Part 1 & 2”* (<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7389750n>)
- *30 Days on Minimum Wage* (2005, Netflix, 45 mins)
- *Inocent* (2012, 42 minutes)
- *Dark Days* (2000, homeless living in New York subways 84 mins)
- *God Bless This Child* (1988, Woman and daughter struggle to find Shelter, 93 mins)
- *Homeless: The Motel Kids of Orange County* (2010, HBO documentary)
- *Without a Home* (2009 documentary, <http://www.withoutahomefilm.com>)
- *SEC Storied: Lolo Jones* (2012, ESPN)
- *A Place At the Table* (2012, <http://www.magpictures.com/aplaceatthetable/>)
- *Tent City, USA* (2012 documentary)

***For discussion questions and summaries of these videos, please see the City-Wide Shantytown Website!*

Mainstream Films:

- MTV’s *Inocent* (<http://fine-films.com/inocente.php>)
- *Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story*
- *Samaritan: The Mitch Snyder Story*
- *Pursuit of Happiness*
- *The Soloist*
- *The Fisher King*

Articles:

- Why are people homeless? <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/why.html>
- How many people experience homelessness? http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/How_Many.html
- Who is homeless? <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/who.html>
- Homeless Youth <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/youth.html>
- Homeless Families with Children <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/families.html>
- Homeless Education: An Introduction to the Issues <http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/introduction.pdf>
- A Critical Moment: Child & Youth Homelessness in Our Nation's Schools

Other:

- DoSomething.org: <http://www.dosomething.org/cause/homelessness-and-poverty>

Additional Resources

- National Coalition for the Homeless: www.nationalhomeless.org
 - *The National Coalition also has a guide for hosting Hunger & Homeless Awareness events. This website gives brief information along with a link to their guide:*
<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/projects/awareness/index.html>
- National Student Campaign for the Homeless: www.studentsagainsthunger.org
- Faces without Places: www.faceswithoutplaces.org
- Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition: www.cincihomeless.org
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth: www.naehcy.org/

Additionally, GCCH offers the Cincinnati Urban Experience Alternative Break for future hunger & homeless awareness programming:

Mission: The mission of the Cincinnati Urban Experience (CUE) is to provide participants with an experience of meaningful service and social justice education that will motivate them to become active in the fight to end poverty and homelessness.

Overview: The Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition coordinates service opportunities while educating and immersing groups in an urban environment. GCHC arranges for service opportunities at many of its sixty member agencies. Days during CUE will be spent volunteering at local homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other agencies that provide services for the area's homeless population. We also offer educational activities so that participants can learn about the root causes of homelessness and poverty. All participants will have the opportunity to hear from speakers, participate in team-building activities, and reflect on how they can get involved in dispelling myths and creating empathy rather than apathy. While doing service and being educated, students are taught the importance of advocacy to promote systemic change.

Programs: Staff at the Coalition can tailor the program to fit the needs of each group.

- **Week-long Service Trips:** Typically last between five and seven days and are most popular during spring, summer, and winter breaks. These trips are often referred to as "Alternative Spring Breaks." We can accommodate groups at any time of the year, but please be aware that spring is our busiest time and space is limited.

Volunteer! Social Service Agency Listing

St. Francis Seraph Ministries

<http://www.sfsministries.org/>

1615 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 535-2719

Interfaith Hospitality Network

990 Nassau Street, Cincinnati, Ohio
45206 513-471-1100
www.ihncincinnati.org

Caracole, Inc.

4138 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45237
513-761-1480
<http://caracole.org>

Joseph House

1526 Republic Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-241-2965
<http://www.josephhouse.net/>

League of Women Voters of Cincinnati

103 WM Howard Taft Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
513-281-8683
<http://www.lwvca.org/>

Lighthouse Sheakley Center for Youth

2522 Highland Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
(513) 569-9500
<http://www.lys.org/runaway.html>

Center for Independent Living Options

632 Vine Street, Suite 305
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-241-2600
<http://www.cilo.net/>

Center for Respite Care

P.O. Box 141301
Cincinnati, Ohio 45250
513-621-1868
<http://www.homelessrespice.org>

Madisonville Ed & Assistance Center

4600 Erie Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45227
513-271-5501

Charlie's ¾ House, Inc.

2121 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-784-1853
<http://www.charlies3-4.org>

Mary Magdalene House

1221 Main Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-721-4811
<http://www.marymagdalenhouse.org/pages/home.htm>

Churches Active in Northside

4230 Hamilton Ave
Cincinnati, Ohio 45223
513-591-2246
<http://www.cainministry.org>

Cincinnati Union Bethel

513-768-6903
<http://www.cinunionbethel.org>

Cincinnati Health Network

400 Oak Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
513-961-0600
<http://www.cinthealthnetwork.org/sites/ages/HOME.html>

Our Daily Bread

1730 Race Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-621-6364
<http://ourdailybread.us>

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing

114 W. 14th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-381-1171
<http://otrch.org/>

Tender Mercies, Inc.

27 W. 12th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-721-8666
www.tendermerciesinc.org

Peaslee Neighborhood Center

215 E. 14th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-621-5514
www.peasleecenter.org

Drop Inn Center

217 W. 12th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-721-0643
www.dropinn.org/

Prospect House

682 Hawthorne Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45205
513-921-1613
www.prospect-house.org/

Tom Geiger Guest House

2634 Melrose Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206
513-961-4555
www.tomgeigerquesthouse.com

UpSpring

P.O. Box 23300
Cincinnati, OH 45223
513-389-0805
<http://www.faceswithoutplaces.org>

First Step Home

2203 Fulton
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206
513-961-4663

Volunteers of America

700 Pete Rose Way
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 513-381-1954
<http://www.voago.org>

Franciscan Haircuts from the Heart

126 E. 13th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-301-0111
<http://www.haircutsfromtheheart.org/FranciscanHaircuts/Welcome.html>

St. Fran/St. Joseph Catholic Worker House

1437 Walnut Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-381-4941
<http://www.catholicworkercincinnati.org>

Bethany House Services

1841 Fairmount Ave
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214
513-921-1131
<http://www.bethanyhouseservices.org>

Walnut Hills/OTR Kitchen

www.overtherhinekitchen.org
2631 Gilbert Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45206
513-961-1983

Note: Highlighted Organizations typically allow Teen Volunteers – please contact them for more details.