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Send me to School

"The things you take for granted someone else is praying for." - Marlan Rico Lee

When was the last time someone told you that you're taking something for granted? Maybe it was when you complained that the furniture needs to be replaced, or when you said that your clothes aren't in style anymore. We all want to make our lives better by stocking up on expensive items and showing them off, but have you ever really thought about what it would be like to not have enough money to buy necessary items like food or water? Can you imagine not even having a car to drive, or a house to live in? Homeless people today face all of these challenges as they struggle to keep themselves alive to eventually escape poverty.

Families with kids are the fastest increasing portion of the homeless population. Education is a huge issue among homeless children. While what these juveniles need most is a home, going to school is just as important. School is one of the few secure places in the lives of homeless youth. It is a place where they can obtain the necessary skills to escape poverty in adulthood. If they don't go to school, they may remain poor all their lives.

However, children in this position have a hard time getting a good learning experience. Shelters have limited duration time that people can stay there. Many families also have to move because shelters are not located in their school district. Every time a child transfers schools they lose 3-6 months of education, which leads to a high risk for falling behind or repeating a grade. According to the Institute for Children

and Poverty, 42% of homeless children have transferred schools at least once and 51% of those students switched schools twice or more.

There are many things that kids can do to help this cause. We can make and hang up posters telling people about this predicament, and try to attract the attention and services of educational experts. We could also set up something like a pen pal system where students at schools could write letters to students living at homeless shelters. The homeless children could learn writing skills and both students would develop a friendship with the other. This would be a fun and beneficial project for everyone.

Another idea is to have a book drive. When children are exposed to books at an early age they learn to love reading. This is a valuable skill to have because it will assist them through life and school while also constructing good vocabulary usage. We need to make sure that all children are given this opportunity, so that they can benefit from this experience and apply it to any situation that they may be faced with. So the next time someone tells you that you're taking something for granted, think of the homeless people in our society and be thankful for what you have.