



We are asking Orange County to give up the comfort of their beds for one night. Camp it Forward with us to help our neighbors who have no place to call home.

Camp it Forward is a campaign created by Homeless Intervention Services of Orange County. It has two goals: raise awareness of homelessness and raise funds to provide housing and supportive service for families, individuals, and students. Homeless Intervention Services of Orange County has been helping the homeless get back on their feet for 32 years and we are not going to rest until everyone has a home.

Gather your friends, family, church group, scout pack, clubs, and form a team to participate in a new movement and raise funds to end homelessness in Orange County. We have extended Camp it Forward through the month of September so you can pick the day that works for you and your team!!

[#campitforward](#) [#endhomelessness](#) [#his_oc](#)



- Who: YOU and all your friends
- When: All through the month of September
- Where: You pick the spot
- Why: It's a good way to make a difference
- How: Gather your friends; give up your bed for one night; donate your dinner out, your latte, or your round of golf

To sign up your team or donate go to:
<https://givebutter.com/CampitForward>

For more information contact Lisa Scarsi at:
lisa@his-oc.org

Additional information is available at
www.campitforward.org

Facts About Homelessness

Camp It Forward with these fast facts about homelessness! Though it's fun to camp outside, it's important to remember the reason for this campaign. Our aim is to raise awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness. Your donations will help us provide shelter and supportive services needed to help people home, for good.

- There is no city or country anywhere in the United States where a worker making minimum wage can afford a fair market rate one-bedroom apartment.¹
- Only 30% of affordable housing is available to people with extremely low income.²
- In California, around 2.5 million low-income households are cost burdened (spend more than 30 percent of their incomes on housing)²
- Over 1.5 million low-income renters face even more dire cost pressures—spending more than half of their income on housing²
- Overall, 27% of California's homeless population is chronically homeless.²
- A significant portion of homeless people have jobs, they just can't afford to pay rent. For those wanting to work, their situation makes them far less competitive in the low-wage job market.³

¹ National Low Income Housing Coalition's Annual "Out of Reach" Report

² Homelessness Challenges in Context 2021

³ New York University's Silver School of Social Work

- Most homeless people accept offers of immediate access to independent housing with support services. They often reject the option of crowded, unsafe shelters, not housing itself.³
- 69% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck as of September 2020.⁴
- 1 in 5 community college students in the state of California are homeless.⁵
- There are over 269,000 students experiencing homelessness in California. That's enough young people to fill Dodger's Stadium to capacity almost five times.⁶
- Children make up 20% of the homeless population.⁷
- Black people account for about 13% of all people in the US, but make up 39% of the homeless population.⁸
- 42% of homeless youth identify as LGBT.⁹
- 61% of homeless people are men and boys.⁷

⁴ American Payroll Association

⁵ California Community College's Real College Survey

⁶ Dismantling Student Homelessness in California

⁷ HUD Exchange

⁸ Forbes

⁹ Street Kids: The Lives of Runaway and Throwaway Teens

Tell stories around the fire with these books about homelessness, and use our suggested topics to start a discussion. Suitable for all ages.

A Shelter in Our Car (5-7 years)

Author: Monica Gunning

When her father died, Zettie and her mother left their warm and comfortable home in Jamaica for an uncertain future in the United States. Zettie's mother can't find a steady job so they are forced to live in their car. But her mother's unwavering love, support, and gutsy determination give Zettie the confidence that, together, she and her mother can meet all challenges.

Suggested Topics: Bullying at school; characteristics of a “home”; wants vs needs; what a “shelter” can be (a safe place that protects people from the outside world); even when you don’t have a lot, family can make everything okay.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/843350.A_Shelter_in_Our_Car

Still a Family: A Story about Homelessness (4-8)

Author: Brenda Reeves Sturgis

A little girl and her parents have lost their home and must live in a homeless shelter. Even worse, due to a common shelter policy, her dad must live in a men's shelter, separated from her and her mom. Despite these circumstances, the family still finds time to be together. They meet at the park to play hide-and-seek, slide on slides, and pet puppies. While the young girl wishes for better days when her family is together again under a roof of their very own, she continues to remind herself that they're still a family even in times of separation.

Suggested Topics: Living apart from a parent; atypical families; respect for different situations; what it means to be a family; even when times are tough you can make it work; instead of dreaming about the situation you want, work with the situation you have, however, don’t give up on that dream.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30201539-still-a-family>

Fly Away Home (5-8)

Author: Eve Bunting

A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father, moving from terminal to terminal trying not to be noticed, is given hope when a trapped bird finally finds its freedom.

Suggested Topics: similarities and differences between Andrew and his father's life and a typical life; the importance of hope and what we can do to give that hope to others; what a home is; what a family is; don't give up hope, because the moment you do you stop believing in tomorrow.

https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/855685.Fly_Away_Home

The Lady in the Box (4 and up)

Author: Ann McGovern

It is wintertime in the city and freezing cold, but not everyone is inside and warm. Ben and his sister Lizzie know that there is a lady who lives outside in a box over a warm air vent. The children worry about the kind-looking lady, and begin sneaking food and clothes out of their apartment for her. Gently told and powerfully illustrated in rich hues, *The Lady in the Box* deals candidly with the issue of homelessness.

Suggested Topics: giving to others; kindness; empathy; what things you might take for granted; a little help goes a long way; It's not wrong to help, but still be careful around all strangers.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/972238.The_Lady_in_the_Box

Each Kindness (5-8)

Author: Jacqueline Woodson

New girl, Maya, finds herself alone at school. Her obvious poverty sets her apart and the other children reject her overtures of friendships and bully her. Chloe is one of these children, but thanks to a demonstration by a teacher in class about kindness she vows to be kind to Maya, but the next day Maya's gone.

Suggested Topics: Bullying; the importance of kindness; actions and consequences of those actions; if you wait too long to act, then the moment disappears; sometimes all it takes is a few kind words.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13588082-each-kindness>

Evicted (Nonfiction; 16+)

Author: Matthew Desmond

In this brilliant, heartbreaking book, Harvard sociologist Matthew Desmond takes us into the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee to tell the story of eight families on the edge. Arleen is a single mother trying to raise her two sons on the \$20 a month she has left after paying for their rundown apartment. Scott is a gentle nurse consumed by a heroin addiction. Lamar, a man with no legs and a neighborhood full of boys to look after, tries to work his way out of debt. Vanetta participates in a botched stickup after her hours are cut. All are spending almost everything they have on rent, and all have fallen behind.

This masterful book transforms our understanding of extreme poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving a devastating, uniquely American problem. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25852784-evicted>

