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“ Human life is sacred”

Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sol end. God alone can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an human being.

The Value of life

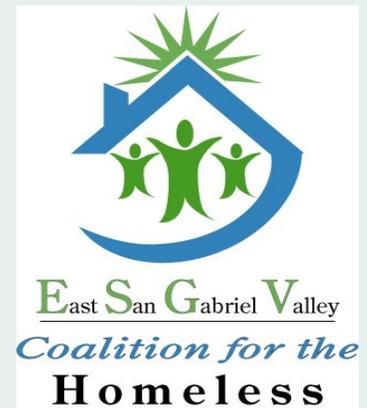
Life is priceless. You can't put a value on it. Life allows us to love, hate, progress, and decay. Life is the reason people wake up in the morning and fulfill their responsibilities. Life brings struggle but rewards us when we least expect it. Life gives meaning to truly living. Without air in our lungs we could not achieve our dreams or spend the rest of our days with those we love. Life presents miracles, disasters, accomplishments, and failures. But without the essence, the fact of life just existing, these simplicities and complexities would not exist. Quite literally, it's just impossible to pay the value of life. It's worth an entire universe.

"What is the meaning of life?" is a question many people ask themselves at some point during their lives, most in the context "What is the purpose of life?" Some popular answers include:

To do good, to do the right thing
To leave the world as a better place than you found it. To do your best to leave every situation better than you found it.
To benefit others. To give more than you take. To end suffering. To create equality.
To challenge oppression. To be generous. To contribute to the well-being and spirit of others. To help others, to help one another. To take every chance to help another while on your journey here. To be creative and innovative. To forgive. To accept and forgive human flaws. To be emotionally sincere. To be responsible. To be honorable. To seek peace. To do and be good.

No one life is more important than another. even the homeless.
God has them there for a reason. if they were not there, then it would mess something up. Everyone is there for someone else to meet. for example, without john doe, then someone wouldn't have learned a valuable lesson, or changed their ways to make themselves a better person.

According to the Los Angeles County Coroner's office for the last 6 months there have been 320 homeless deaths in Los Angeles County. The youngest was 22 and eldest 69. Men and women have died. Their lives mattered.



What do you feel when you encounter a homeless person at an intersection or freeway off ramp? Fear? Pity? Guilt? Indifference? Or, do you simply look the other way? You can't miss them when walking around a city. They are pressed up against buildings or into corners holding make shift signs, asking for money, perhaps pushing a grocery cart with all their possessions. We must remember that each homeless person is an individual created by God experiencing unique circumstances that led to homelessness.

We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.

Mother Teresa

35 Ways to Help the Homeless

- 1. Understand who the homeless are** - Help dispel the stereotypes about the homeless. Learn about the different reasons for homelessness, and remember, every situation is unique.
- 2. Educate yourself about the homeless** - A homeless person may be someone who lost their job, a runaway child, or someone with a mental illness. One of the first steps in helping people is to see them as individuals and to find out what they need. Notice them; talk to them. Most are starved for attention.
- 3. Respect the homeless as individuals** - Give the homeless people the same courtesy and respect you would accord your friends, your family, your employer. Treat them as you would wish to be treated if you needed assistance.
- 4. Respond with kindness** - We can make quite a difference in the lives of the homeless when we respond to them, rather than ignore or dismiss them. Try a kind word and a smile.
- 5. Develop lists of shelters** - Carry a card that lists local shelters so you can hand them out to the homeless. You can find shelters in your phone book.
- 6. Buy Street Sheet** - This biweekly newspaper is sold in almost every major American city and is intended to help the homeless help themselves. For every paper sold, the homeless earn five cents deposited in a special savings account earmarked for rent.
- 7. Bring food** - It's as simple as taking a few extra sandwiches when you go out. When you pass someone who asks for change, offer him or her something to eat. If you take a lunch, pack a little extra. When you eat at a restaurant, order something to take with you when you leave.
- 8. Give money** - One of the most direct ways to aid the homeless is to give money. Donations to nonprofit organizations that serve the homeless go a long way.
- 9. Give recyclables** - In localities where there is a "bottle law," collecting recyclable cans and bottles is often the only "job" available to the homeless. But it is an honest job that requires initiative. You can help by saving your recyclable bottles, cans, and newspapers and giving them to the homeless instead of taking them to a recycling center or leaving them out for collection. If you live in a larger city, you may wish to leave your recyclables outside for the homeless to pick up -- or give a bagful of cans to a homeless person in your neighborhood.
- 10. Donate clothing** - Next time you do your spring or fall cleaning, keep an eye out for those clothes that you no longer wear. If these items are in good shape, gather them together and donate them to organizations that provide housing for the homeless.
- 11. Donate a bag of groceries** - Load up a bag full of nonperishable groceries, and donate it to a food drive in your area. If your community doesn't have a food drive, organize one. Contact your local soup kitchens, shelters, and homeless societies and ask what kind of food donations they would like.
- 12. Donate toys** - Children living in shelters have few possessions --if any-- including toys. Homeless parents have more urgent demands on what little money they have, such as food and clothing. So often these children have nothing to play with and little to occupy their time. You can donate toys, books, and games to family shelters to distribute to homeless children. For Christmas or Chanukah, ask your friends and co-workers to buy and wrap gifts for homeless children.
- 13. Volunteer at a shelter** - Shelters thrive on the work of volunteers, from those who sign people in, to those who serve meals, to others who counsel the homeless on where to get social services. For the homeless, a shelter can be as little as a place to sleep out of the rain or as much as **Stand up for the civil rights of the homeless** - In recent elections, for example, volunteers at shelters and elsewhere helped homeless people register to vote . . . even though they had "no fixed address" at the moment. Some officials would not permit citizens without a permanent address to vote.
- 14. Join Habitat for Humanity** - This Christian housing ministry builds houses for families in danger of becoming homeless. Volunteers from the community and Habitat homeowners erect the houses. Funding is through donations from churches, corporations, foundations, and individuals.
- 15. Volunteer at a soup kitchen** - Soup kitchens provide one of the basics of life, nourishing meals for the homeless and other disadvantaged members of the community. Volunteers generally do much of the work, including picking up donations of food, preparing meals, serving it, and cleaning up afterward. To volunteer your services, contact your local soup kitchen, mobile food program, shelter, or religious center.
- 16. Volunteer your professional services** - No matter what you do for a living, you can help the homeless with your on-the-job talents and skills. Those with clerical skills can train those with little skills. Doctors, psychiatrists, counselors, and dentists can treat the homeless in clinics. Lawyers can help with legal concerns. The homeless' needs are bountiful -- your time and talent won't be wasted.
- 17. Volunteer your hobbies** - Every one of us has something we can give the homeless. Wherever our interests may lie -- cooking, repairing, gardening, and photography -- we can use them for the homeless. Through our hobbies, we can teach them useful skills, introduce them to new avocations and perhaps point them in a new direction.

- 18. Volunteer for follow-up programs** - Some homeless people, particularly those who have been on the street for a while, may need help with fundamental tasks such as paying bills, balancing a household budget, or cleaning. Follow-up programs to give the formerly homeless further advice, counseling, and other services need volunteers.
- 19. Tutor homeless children** - A tutor can make all the difference. Just having adult attention can spur children to do their best. Many programs exist in shelters, transitional housing programs, and schools that require interested volunteers. Or begin your own tutor volunteer corps at your local shelter. It takes nothing more than a little time.
- 20. Take homeless children on trips** - Frequently, the only environment a homeless child knows is that of the street, shelters, or other transitory housing. Outside of school -- if they attend -- these children have little exposure to many of the simple pleasures that most kids have. Volunteer at your local family shelter to take children skating or to an aquarium on the weekend.
- 21. Volunteer at battered women's shelter** - Most battered women are involved in relationships with abusive husbands or other family members. Lacking resources and afraid of being found by their abusers, many may have no recourse other than a shelter or life on the streets once they leave home. Volunteers handle shelter hotlines, pick up abused women and their children when they call, keep house, and offer counseling. Call your local shelter for battered women to see how you can help.
- 22. Teach about the homeless** - If you do volunteer work with the homeless, you can become an enthusiast and extend your enthusiasm to others. You can infect others with your own sense of devotion by writing letters to the editor of your local paper and by pressing housing issues at election time.
- 23. Publish shelter information** - Despite all of our efforts to spread the word about shelters, it is surprising how many people are unaware of their own local shelters. Contact your local newspapers, church or synagogue bulletins, or civic group's newsletters about the possibility of running a weekly or monthly listing of area services available to the homeless. This could include each organization's particular needs for volunteers, food, and other donations.
- 24. Educate your children about the homeless** - Help your children to see the homeless as people. If you do volunteer work, take your sons and daughters along so they can meet with homeless people and see what can be done to help them. Volunteer as a family in a soup kitchen or shelter. Suggest that they sort through the toys, books, and clothes they no longer use and donate them to organizations that assist the poor.
- 25. Sign up your company/school** - Ask your company or school to host fund-raising events, such as raffles or craft sales and donate the proceeds to nonprofit organizations that aid the homeless. You can also ask your company or school to match whatever funds you and your co-workers or friends can raise to help the homeless.
- 26. Recruit local business** - One of the easiest ways to involve local businesses is to organize food and/or clothing drives. Contact local organizations to find out what is needed, approach local grocery or clothing shops about setting up containers on their premises in which people can drop off donations, ask local businesses to donate goods to the drive, and publicize the drive by placing announcements in local papers and on community bulletin boards and by posting signs and posters around your neighborhood.
- 27. Create lists of needed donations** - Call all the organizations in your community that aid the homeless and ask them what supplies they need on a regular basis. Make a list for each organization, along with its address, telephone number, and the name of a contact person. Then mail these lists to community organizations that may wish to help with donations -- every place from religious centers to children's organizations such as Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.
- 28. Play with children in a shelter** - Many children in shelters are cut off from others their own age. Shuffled from place to place, sometimes these kids don't attend school on a regular basis, and have no contact with other kids. Bring a little joy to their lives by taking your children to a local shelter to play. Plan activities such as coloring, playing with dolls, or building model cars (take along whatever toys you'll need). Your own children will benefit too.
- 29. Help the homeless apply for aid** - Governmental aid is available for homeless people, but many may not know where to find it or how to apply. Since they don't have a mailing address, governmental agencies may not be able to reach them. You can help by directing the homeless to intermediaries, such as homeless organizations, that let them know what aid is available and help them to apply for it. If you want to be an advocate or intermediary for the homeless yourself, you can contact these organizations as well.
- 30. Stand up for the civil rights of the homeless** - In recent elections, for example, volunteers at shelters and elsewhere helped homeless people register to vote . . . even though they had "no fixed address" at the moment. Some officials would not permit citizens without a permanent address to vote..
- 31. Join Habitat for Humanity** - This Christian housing ministry builds houses for families in danger of becoming homeless. Volunteers from the community and Habitat homeowners erect the houses. Funding is through donations from churches, corporations, foundations, and individuals.

32. Form a transitional housing program - One of the most potent homeless-prevention services a community can offer residents who are in danger of eviction is a transitional housing program. These programs help people hang on to their current residences or assist them in finding more affordable ones. The methods include steering people to appropriate social service and community agencies, helping them move out of shelters, and providing funds for rent, mortgage payments, and utilities. For information, contact the Homelessness Information Exchange at (202) 462-7551.

33. Write to corporations - Some of the largest corporations in America have joined the battle for low-income housing. Through the use of the tax credit or by outright grants, they are participating with federal and state government, not-for-profit and community-based groups to build desperately needed housing in Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and dozens of other cities. Contact various organizations and ask them what they are doing.

34. Contact your government representatives - Our legislators rarely receive more than three visits or ten letters about any subject. When the numbers exceed that amount, they sit up and take note. Personal visits are the most potent. Letters are next; telephone calls are third best. Housing issues don't come up that often, so your public officials will listen.

35. Push for state homelessness prevention programs - While states routinely supply aid for the poor and homeless, many do not have programs provide funds and other services to those who will lose their homes in the immediate future unless something is done. Homelessness comes at great financial and human cost to the families who are evicted or foreclosed.

10 great reasons to help the homeless if you aren't yet:

1. You would want someone to help if you were in trouble and needed a hand.
2. The next person may not choose to help. It's up to you.
3. They are people, just like you.
4. You have the time and money even if you feel you don't.
5. You want to make a difference.
6. It's the right thing to do.
7. It makes you feel good!
8. They appreciate it and it gives them hope.
9. They can't change their lives without you.

Good things happen to you when you do good for others

God is love, and if he is in us, it is as love. God pours his love, himself, into our hearts. As he shares his life, he shares his love. This is the love that he wants us to give to others. Jesus gave his disciples the love he had received from his Father, and sent them forth to continue his work of sharing that love with all of humanity. **Think of the people today who are lonely and lost, starving for love and attention. They have no clue that God loves them with an eternal love or that he has loved them intimately, deeply and perfectly from all eternity.** They do not know that this love has given them life and maintains them in existence. **People need to hear the good news of God's love. This is our mission.**



EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless (ESGVCH) is a non-profit, 501c3 charitable organization with a mission to bring hope and restore dignity to individuals and families who are homeless in the San Gabriel Valley region. Our goal is always to assist people to find permanent housing and assist them to become self-supporting. Toward this end ESGVCH:

- Provides emergency and transitional shelter programs
- Alleviates hunger by providing food
- Assists with basic daily needs: clothing, hygiene, and transportation
- Stabilizes individuals and families by making referrals for housing, jobs, education & healthcare
- Raises community awareness about issues related to homelessness
- Works collaboratively with others to end hunger and homelessness.

ESGVCH has four programs: **(1) Emergency Assistance Center** located in Hacienda Heights is where clients come to receive direct aid (up to 500 client visits per month); **(2) Transitional Housing Program** which consists of two apartments rented by ESGVCH for families who are transitioning back to permanent housing; **(3) Winter Shelter Program** that operates within six participating churches located throughout East San Gabriel Valley. Partner churches donate space for the shelter (2 weeks at a time) during winter months. Last winter over 1100 unduplicated persons spent one or more nights at ESGVCH Winter Shelter Program; The Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA) released its 2015 count in San Gabriel Valley, revealing a 21% increase in unsheltered homeless since 2013. Most alarming is the increasing numbers of families without shelter. The need for shelter is urgent! **(4) Our newest program, the Encore Program**, provides support for outpatient therapy for the homeless who are addicted to substances and seek recovery.

ESGVCH operates under the authority of an all volunteer Board of Directors with a small paid staff to insure that over 95% of resources are available to directly aid the homeless. Support comes from generous local donors and churches, local foundation grants, as well as government grants (federal & city grants).

Physical Address:

St. Martin de Porres Center at St. John Vianney Church • 1345 Turnbull Canyon Road • Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 **Mailing Address:** P. O. Box 93256 • City of Industry, California 91715-3256 **Phone:** 626-333-7204 • **Fax:** 626-333-7260 • **E-mail:** esgvch@aol.com

I guess because I had such a horrible life growing up, going from place to place not knowing what I was gonna do and ending up being homeless, there was a lot of pain and a lot of anger that was coming out through my guitar playing.

Dave Mustaine

There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts, and we cannot prevent all conflict, but when we know where the hungry, the homeless and the sick exist, then we can help.

Jan Schakowsky

If housing were inexpensive, or people could earn enough to afford housing, very few individuals would face homelessness. But housing costs have risen steadily across the country, and they have skyrocketed in many areas. Further, the inability to afford housing is concentrated among households with incomes below the poverty level, whose members account for the vast majority of people entering homelessness. At the same time, people with little education or job training find it increasingly difficult to earn enough money to raise their incomes above the poverty level, even if they are employed full-time and work overtime.

The Homeless Are Different

One of the things people naturally do when they are afraid of something is to distance themselves from it. In a time when most families are one or two paychecks from homelessness, it is reassuring to most to tell themselves that "I can't become homeless because"

1. I am not an alcoholic
 2. I am not a drug addict
 3. I am not mentally ill
 4. I am not lazy
 5. I am educated
 6. I have job skills
 7. I have a family who cares about me
- I have friends who care about me

1, 2, 3: Only 40% or less of the people in homeless shelters are addicted to alcohol or drugs, and/or are mentally ill. Some of them developed those conditions after becoming homeless.

4. 50% to 60% of the people in homeless shelters work full-time, some working two or three jobs. Those who do not work at paid jobs are often taking some form of training or doing volunteer work. It is hard work just to survive -- a Belltown Herald journalist who tried following the schedule of a street-person one day said, "after two weeks of this, I'd catch pneumonia and die."

5, 6. Many of the people in homeless shelters are highly educated, often with professional job skills.

7, 8. People have died on the street with family and friends in homes who cared deeply about them. There is only so much you can do if the family resources are strained already, or if an individual's problems are beyond the resources of the family.

Ultimately, homelessness is simply a state where the problems of the individual exceed the resources of the individual.

East San Gabriel Valley

Coalition for the Homeless

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East San Gabriel Valley
Coalition for the
Homeless

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

ESGVCH.ORG