



Homeless...in Redmond?

Community Outreach by the
Hunger and Homelessness
Awareness Task Force



The Face of Homelessness



How vulnerable are you to becoming homeless?

- ✓ *Could you ever experience a flood, fire, or other natural disaster?*
- ✓ *Do you work in an area of the economy/job market where your job might become obsolete?*
- ✓ *Could you ever suffer from long-term illness or accident without proper health benefits or other compensation?*
- ✓ *Do you live in a household with only one full-time wage earner?*
- ✓ *Are you behind in any monthly bills?*
- ✓ *Are housing costs in your area increasing faster than wages?*
- ✓ *Does anyone in your family struggle with addictions such as drugs or alcohol?*





Who are Homeless Children and Youth?

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and *adequate* nighttime residence:

- *Staying in a motel or hotel.*
- *Living in a car, park, public place, abandoned buildings, bus or train station*
- *Living in a campground or inadequate trailer home.*
- *Living with a friend or relative or someone else because they lost their home or can't afford a home.*
- *Sleeping in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.*
- *Living in emergency and transitional shelters.*
- *Living in substandard housing.*
- *Abandoned in hospitals.*
- *Awaiting foster care placement.*



Homelessness Quiz

- *Homeless people commit more violent crimes than housed people.*



FALSE

- *Homeless people actually commit LESS violent crimes than housed people!*
- In 2003, 6.8 % of crime in Redmond was committed by Transients.
- In other words, 93.2% of all crime was committed by people with homes.



Homeless Quiz

- *Setting up services for homeless people will cause homeless people from all around to migrate to a city.*



FALSE

- *This is called the “magnet theory”. Studies show that homeless people do not migrate for services.*
- Most people come into an area with jobs waiting or other area ties.



Homelessness Quiz

- *Homeless people are a fixed population who are usually homeless for long periods of time.*



FALSE

- *The homeless population is quite diverse in terms of their length of homelessness and the number of times they cycle in and out of homelessness.*
- **Transitionally homeless have a single episode of homelessness avg. 58 days**
- **Episodically homeless have four to five episodes of homelessness avg. 265 days**
- **Chronically homeless who have an average of two episodes avg. 650 days**



Homelessness Quiz

- *Homeless people are mostly single men.*



FALSE

- **FAMILIES** constitute a large and growing percentage of the homeless population. In Central Oregon, FAN Advocates reported 229 homeless families with children had been identified as of 10/31/03.
- In the 2003-2004 year FAN Advocates reported that 339 school children, Moms, Dads or primary caregivers received assistance dealing with homelessness IN REDMOND!



Homelessness Quiz

- *Homeless people don't work and get most of their money from public assistance programs.*



FALSE

- *Homeless people DO WORK and a relatively small percentage of them receive government assistance. A nationwide study by the Urban Institute found only 20% of homeless people receive assistance.*
- According to a recent study 40% of any homeless population work full-time.



Homelessness Quiz

- ***A person earning minimum wage cannot usually afford housing in the Redmond Area.***



TRUE

- *According to the Central Oregon Regional Housing Authority, NO MORE than 30% of a household's gross income should be spent on housing. In the Redmond Area a minimum wage earner averages 60% of their gross earnings for a 3 bedroom rental.*
- Let's do the math...
- \$7.05 hr = \$14,652 gross annual wage
- At no more than 30% being spent on housing, you can afford a rental of
\$366 a month



A minimum wage budget for a family of four:

- **Gross Monthly Income** **\$1221**
- Less FICA, Taxes 114
- 2 Bedroom rental 550
- Food (\$50 a week) 200
- Utilities 150
- Car payment 135
- Auto Insurance 75
- Gas (\$25 a week) 100
- **OOPS....not enough** **-103**

- **WHAT ABOUT CLOTHING, MEDICAL, REPAIRS, ETC????**



Homelessness Quiz

- *Lack of affordable housing does not contribute to homelessness because of the availability of shelter beds in the Redmond Area.*



FALSE

- *There are NO shelter beds in the Redmond Area and there is limited affordable housing.*
- What are your ideas?
- How would you address this issue?



Homelessness Quiz

- *The local police will handle the homeless situation!*



FALSE

- *People who are homeless have lost their homes, not their civil rights! The role of the police is more often one of referring homeless people to sources of help.*

- ***BEING
HOMELESS
IS NOT A
CRIME!!!!***



Homelessness Quiz

- *Panhandlers are homeless...*



FALSE

- *Panhandlers are often not homeless. Those people holding "WILL WORK FOR..." signs are often deployed by organized solicitors.*
- The stereotype is no longer accurate for the current situation.
- Families are those citizens leading in becoming homeless.
- Seniors are next in becoming homeless.



Homelessness Quiz

- *All homeless people need is a job and their problems are solved.*



FALSE

- *More often, available jobs are at or near minimum wage, with not enough available affordable housing. And, in order to look for any job, homeless people need an address, a phone, a place to clean up and transportation.*
- Remember our minimum wage family of 4....both parents now work minimum wage... Add \$800 costs for childcare....and increase deductions and work related costs? **OOPS... still not enough!!!!**



Homelessness Quiz

- *Most homeless people CHOOSE to be homeless.*



FALSE

- *The overwhelming majority of homeless people want to get off the street and into a residence*
- *Many people make bad choices at some time in their lives. Among those on the economic margin, a bad choice can result in homelessness.*
- *The alienation and deprivations accompanying homelessness do not help people learn new and better choices. Sometimes the effect is just the opposite.*



But shelters ENABLE.....they just always stay homeless...

- Over a year.....
- 81% ENTER AND EXIT QUICKLY
- 9% ENTER AND EXIT REPEATEDLY
- 10% REMAIN

Source: Culhane, et al, 1999



Does Redmond Need a Shelter?

- If you believe the answer is YES...
then we need
YOUR HELP!!!