

UNSHELTERED LIVES

A family discussion guide on
youth homelessness.



www.haloworldwide.org

What does it mean to be homeless?

It is hard to imagine, but there are a lot of kids out there who are homeless. In the U.S. alone, there are over 2.5 million children without a stable home. These kids don't have a regular place to sleep at night.

- Where do homeless children sleep?
 - Shelters
 - Cars
 - Parks
 - Public Spaces
 - Abandoned Buildings
 - Bus or Train Stations
 - Motels/Hotels
 - Couch-Surfing (Sleeping from place to place)
 - Children who are awaiting foster care placement

What is it like to be homeless?

There are many different ways homeless children live. This is an illustration of how it might feel to be a child who is couch surfing from one home to the next and helps us put ourselves in the shoes of a homeless child.

- When you wake up in the morning, you are sharing a couch with your older sibling at a house of one of your mom's friends. You didn't sleep well last night because it was really cold and you didn't want to ask for a blanket and everyone stayed up really late. You don't have a room of your own, no bed of your own, and only 2 shirts, jeans, one pair of socks with holes and one pair of underwear. All of your things are in your garbage bag that you take from place to place. You would love to take a shower but your mom says we shouldn't ask right now.
- Your tummy has been growling since last night because you only had a piece of salami and one slice of bread for dinner. When you get to school, you can't wait to eat the breakfast your school provides. You wish there were seconds available.
- You are so tired during class and some of your classmates start making fun of you because you don't smell very good and your clothes are dirty. You haven't had a toothbrush for a while. When your mom comes to pick you up from school, she says you are staying in a different place tonight. Hopefully it is warm.

Discussion Questions

How did this illustration make you feel?

What surprised you most?

What are some of the things a homeless child might have to worry about that you don't typically think about?

Are there things in your life that you might take for granted? If so, what are they?

Why is it important to be kind to others no matter what they look like on the outside?

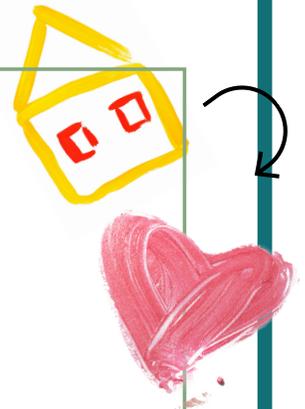
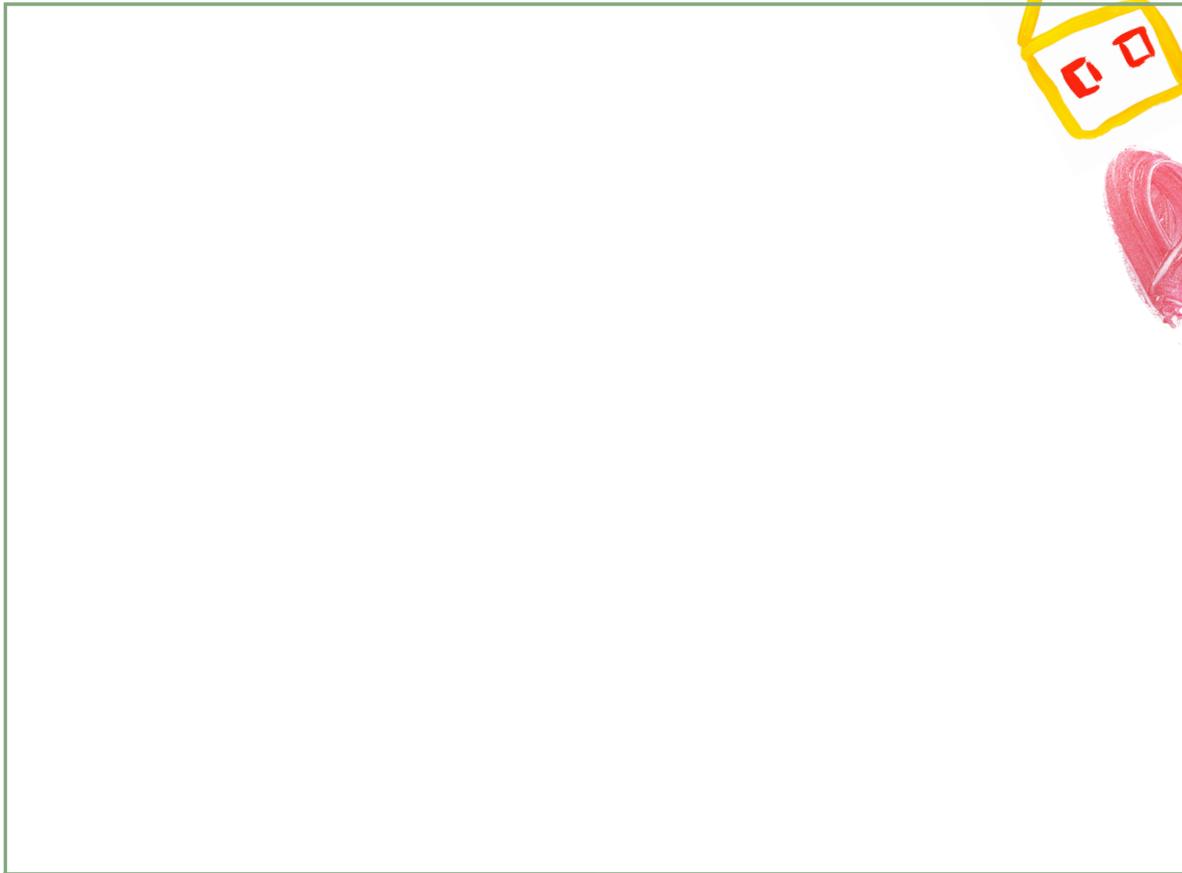
What are some ways to do that?

THE BOTTOM LINE

Homeless kids need our help.

EVERYONE DESERVES A HOME

Draw a picture of a home you think would be a "Dream Home" for a homeless child or family.



TITLE OF YOUR HOME

WHAT DOES THIS HOME PROVIDE?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE A HOME?

NAME _____

DATE _____

Illustrating Homeless Lives

You are a single mother with a two year old daughter, Carol, and a five year old son, John. You receive \$658 cash and a voucher for \$168 in food stamps each month. You were lucky enough to find an apartment for \$480 including heat, but it is in a run-down building. John is in a tuition-free pre-school program; however, you want him more carefully dressed than when he's at home. For transportation, you rely on your 1975 Chevy Impala. You would like to have a car with better mileage, but you are unable to afford the investment.

On the next page of your packet are the projected expenses for the month.

- Saving \$10 from your \$658 check for emergencies, how will you budget the remaining \$648?
- For each item that you think is important, write the cost in the right-hand column.
- When you finish, add up the total on both pages.
- If the total is more than \$648, decide which items you can cut out to make the total equal \$648.

Illustrating Homeless Lives Budget Worksheet

ITEM \$ COST

Rent \$480/month

Electricity (did not pay last month's bill of \$15, now another bill for \$13 has arrived)

Telephone \$36

Household:

Detergent/cleaners \$7

Roach Spray \$5

Toilet Paper \$5

TV (only TV is small and on sale for \$50)

Laundromat \$6/week (4 weeks in one month)

Transportation \$15 per week

Carol: needs shoes (\$15) and new shirt (\$7)

John: Nice Shirt (\$8) New Jeans (\$5) Birthday this Month (?) Simple Party (\$5)

Self: plant (\$6), new shirt for work (\$8)

Recreation: Ice cream (\$3 per person), Babysitter (\$20)

School: Going back for Bachelors Degree and first payment is \$300

Remember, your total can not exceed \$648 for the month.

HALO is Fighting to End Child Homelessness

For kids all over the world, HALO gives kids a home in which hope can emerge from hardship. We work wherever kids who have been abused, abandoned, and orphaned, need to feel loved. We work to help one more child spend one less day alone.

HALO works to provide Housing, Healing, and Education for homeless children around the world.

Housing

Providing the foundation of a family means we not only give homeless kids a safe place to sleep, we teach them hundreds of little how-tos most kids learn from their parents or grandparents.



Healing

Homelessness hurts. Art heals. A picture is worth a thousand words, and our kids have plenty of stories to tell. Therapeutic art provides kids with a safe place to purge painful memories and share their stories, so they can start the healing process without having to say a word.



Education

HALO puts homeless kids on a path to a positive future. Through tutoring, professional development, scholarships and help preparing for higher education, our kids work hard to leave the “at-risk” label behind and finally be seen as just a great kid with the potential to do great things.

