

Why Do We Need More Homeless Shelters?



9 significant reasons

One and a half million people are homeless worldwide. This article explores why we need more homeless shelters.

9) PROVIDING SHELTER HONORS GOD'S WORD

i



A cute little boy reading the Holy Bible. | One reason why we need more homeless shelters is because God says so.

If the universe is as beautifully complex and diverse as it is, if all the fascinating entities both living and not that exist in it were born by a creator, then God is magical in intelligence and wisdom.

Further, if the [Holy Bible](#) is a record of God's word to man, and in it, God commands that we love our neighbors and help the poor, then we ought to do so because God is magically intelligent, wise, and morally good. We ought to do what God says because what He commands of us must be wise, and morally good as well.

Providing enough homeless shelters for the needy honors God's commands to love our neighbors and to help the poor.

So the first reason why we should provide more homeless shelters is to honor God's word.

8) OFFERING HOMELESS SHELTERS IS MORE HUMANE

More support for why we should offer more shelters to the homeless pertains to how humans ought to live and be treated.

The human species, being as intelligent and rational as they are, have worth. Each human being is valuable not only for the value that they can provide for other people, but they are valuable in and of themselves.

As such, homeless people are valuable enough for us to be concerned about their sufferings. Homeless people are also valuable enough for us to be concerned about their mortality.

But sleeping outside of buildings for humans can cause suffering and death, and it is not humane to allow humans to die and suffer.

So another reason why we need more homeless shelters is that providing shelter to humans is more humane than not.

7) HOMELESS SHELTERS CAN PROVIDE NEEDED TRAINING AND SERVICES

The homeless are often people who need guidance and counseling. [Many suffer from mental illness.](#)

Encountering difficulties navigating the internet in an attempt to attain social services, many of the homeless are without. Some need help attaining food assistance or medical coverage. Others lack the knowledge, skills, or ability to attain a psychologist or social worker. Still, others lack even a way to get online.

What is excellent about homeless shelters is that they can provide a place where trained professionals can easily reach the homeless population. People who are trained in attaining social workers, help, and mental health professionals can more easily present themselves to the homeless in shelters. Trained professionals can help the homeless attain what they need to live better. They can also aid in training the homeless with the skills that are necessary for employment.

So another reason why we need more homeless shelters is that homeless shelters can provide a place for the homeless to get needed services and job training.

6) HOMELESS SHELTERS CAN PROVIDE FOOD TO THE HUNGRY

Not only can homeless shelters provide much-needed training and services to people in need, but they could offer food to the needy as well.

Especially near the end of the month, in countries where the homeless are provided with governmental food assistance, [the homeless sometimes run out of money to buy food.](#) In regions where food assistance is not offered by the government, or to homeless people for whatever reason who do not qualify for it, more homeless shelters would be great because in them the hungry can eat.

Homeless shelters could receive food donations from local grocery stores, bakeries, citizens, and restaurants. Volunteers could either go pick up the donated food or have it delivered to them by donors. Volunteers or people who are paid via governmental grants could then cook that food and serve it to hungry homeless people.

This is the best way to utilize expired or donated food because many donated items need to be cooked, and the homeless lack a way to cook food.

So another reason why we need more homeless shelters is that shelters can provide, along with a warm place to stay, donated food to the homeless.

5) HOMELESS SHELTERS PROVIDE WARMTH

In addition, homeless shelters provide relief from the cold.

In many areas, [frigid temperatures make being homeless miserable](#), and in extreme cases, even cause death. The most common way homeless people die from the cold is hypothermia.

Regions in which cold temperatures are especially problematic to mortality include areas that are located distances far north or south of the equator.

Since death and misery are evils that we ought to prevent, another reason why we need more homeless shelters is that shelters provide the homeless with warmth.

4) HOMELESS SHELTERS CAN PROVIDE A PLACE TO SHOWER AND DO LAUNDRY

In addition to warmth, services, and donated food, homeless shelters can help homeless people regain employment.

Often, the single greatest barrier to getting back into the workforce is looking presentable to employers while homeless. From sleeping in the streets and dirt one's clothes become dirty. A person's clothes often turn black and brown as does their skin. Showing up dirty to an interview discourages employers from hiring a person (to say the least.)

But with homeless shelters built to offer showers to the homeless upon request, homeless people can look presentable to employers.

So another reason why we need more homeless shelters is that homeless shelters can provide a place for the homeless to shower and do laundry.

3) HOMELESS SHELTERS PROVIDE SAFETY

Being homeless can also be dangerous. Aside from the potential to cause hypothermia, having no place to retreat from the heat can also cause heat stroke.

Homelessness can also make it difficult to keep wounds clean. Given that when unsheltered a person lacks a shower and sleeps on the streets or in the dirt, wounds can develop into serious infections. Staph infections are a particular concern for the homeless. Staph infections can result in death.

Other people and wildlife also make unshelteredness dangerous.

Sleeping not behind locked doors, the homeless are unprotected from wandering people who do others harm. This is also true for wildlife. Lacking a way to keep wildlife out, the homeless are at a higher risk for snake bites, and attacks by wild animals like coyotes and mountain lions.

Homeless shelters, however, provide a way to keep dangerous people and wildlife out.

So another reason why we need more homeless shelters is that shelters provide safe places to sleep.

2) TOO FEW HOMELESS SHELTERS EXIST

Many countries of the world [have more people unsheltered than warm beds are available](#).

When homeless, a person sometimes finds that the homeless shelters in their area, if any exist at all, are full to maximum capacity.

This is especially true in big cities where the cost of living is high and so the number of homeless people is too.

Reasons for why too few beds exist for the homeless to go to when misfortunes arise include homeless shelters being expensive to build and maintain, the belief that homeless people are responsible for attaining shelter on their own (via working for it rather than receiving it for free,) and misconceptions about the availability of homeless shelters. Many citizens in communities where homeless shelters are full to maximum capacity incorrectly assume that they aren't.

But homeless shelters provide safety, and resources necessary for the homeless to get back on their feet.

So another reason why we need more homeless shelters is that too few of them exist.

ANYONE WHO WANTS TO SLEEP IN A HOMELESS SHELTER OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO

The final reason why we need more homeless shelters is that homeless people ought to have the option to go to one if desired.

There they can stay warm, safe, fed, and clean.

FINAL THOUGHTS

It might be said that we don't need more homeless shelters. Though it may be politically incorrect to suggest, the existence of homeless shelters is one of the major reasons why homelessness is so widespread.

When you give unemployed people free places to stay, when employed people know that a warm bed with a food kitchen and shower will be waiting for them should they decide to up and quit their jobs, more people will choose to be homeless. Therefore, building more homeless shelters is a self-defeating goal. In an attempt to combat homelessness, we end up causing more of it.

The obvious reply to this assertion, of course, is maybe so. Maybe more people would choose to quit their jobs and become homeless if they knew that a warm bed, food, and shower were waiting for them when they did. Perhaps people who would have otherwise remained on the streets for only a short time would find the comfort of being in a homeless shelter persuading enough to never attempt to regain employment and get back into a place of their own.

But I find this reality unlikely.

I don't think most people would enjoy living in a community shelter more than in the privacy of a home of their own. I think most people would hate living in a homeless shelter, being forced to eat only the food provided by the shelter, forced to remain quiet and still while everyone in the shelter slept.

Further, I think that not all homeless people would even go to a homeless shelter if enough warm beds were provided for them. I think that many would, but not all.

So while it may be tempting to assume that if more homeless shelters existed, more people would choose to be homeless because most people would probably prefer a home of their own over a community shelter after learning what living in a shelter is like, I think that most people would regard homeless shelters as a temporary solution to unshelteredness rather than an early retirement.

And since sleeping out on the streets is dangerous, inhumane, and isolating, I think we ought to provide people with the opportunity.

summary

Society needs more homeless shelters for many reasons.

First, too few homeless shelters exist. While it is commonly believed that if a person is seen sleeping on a sidewalk or in a dirt field he or she chooses to sleep there instead of in a homeless shelter, the truth is that many homeless shelters are too full to accept incoming people.

Next, providing shelter to the homeless honors God's word. In the Holy Bible, God commands that we love our neighbors and help the poor. Homeless people are our poor neighbors.

Also, society needs more homeless shelters because shelters provide warmth. It gets too cold some days for the homeless to sleep outside when they do not have a warm building to retreat to.

Homeless shelters also reduce unshelteredness. When every homeless person has the option to sleep in a homeless shelter, fewer homeless people will litter sidewalks and fields with tents and sleeping bags that obstruct walkways and render communities less beautiful.

In addition, offering shelters to the homeless is more humane than not. The reason is homelessness causes death and suffering. Since homeless people are human beings, we ought not to let these evils happen.

Homeless shelters can also provide needed training and services to the homeless. In them, because it is easier to get in touch with homeless people, we can teach more the skills needed to regain employment, and reacquaint more homeless people with the doctors and social workers they need to live a life worth living.

Plus, homeless shelters can provide a place for the homeless to be fed. In shelters, we can set up food kitchens that are run entirely by volunteers and feed the hungry with donations. We can feed people who would otherwise not be reached.

Similarly, we need more homeless shelters to give homeless people a place to shower and do laundry. The homeless often lack these amenities, and doing so can help them obtain employment.

Being homeless is also dangerous. Unshelteredness can contribute to poor health. It also offers no security from harmful people and animals that pose threats to the safety of the homeless while they live and sleep.

Finally, we need more homeless shelters because anyone who wants to sleep in one ought to be able to. Offering a warm, safe place to live and sleep to an unsheltered person, at least temporarily, is the morally correct thing to do.

