Homeless Awareness Month: November
Hunger and Homeless Awareness: November 15th-22nd

The goals are to raise awareness and support, and possibly supplies.

Campaign Ideas:

Events: Sleep Out, food or supply drive, donations, poverty simulation, movie night (with a movie that focuses on homelessness, including information resources and a food/clothing/blanket drive), community service day, penny drive for a local donation.
Media: Social media (FB, Instagram), Newspaper, Radio
In class: Place books about homelessness in the classroom
Community: T-shirts, posters, bookmarks, pamphlets

Promote local shelters, food pantries, community action or local programs that serve the homeless, information about MKV, and Contact information for families with children.

Homeless Awareness Month (HAM) is a national effort to raise public awareness about issues relating to homelessness, which takes place annually in November. *We are asking our districts to promote HAM throughout your schools*. This can be done in a variety of ways and it is completely up to you what you would like to do. From social media blasts with information and resources, to a food or supply drive.

Promote local shelters, food pantries, community action or local programs that serve the homeless, information about MKV, and Contact information for families with children.

Children's books on homelessness:

Picture Books that Illuminate Hunger, Poverty, & Homelessness in America:

https://www.doinggoodtogether.org/bhf-book-lists/picture-books-hunger-poverty-homelessness

- Mommy, Are We Homeless? Winston-Salem: PSG Printing Services of Greensboro, Inc., 2003.
- Johnson, Jerrilyn J. Mommy, Are We Homeless? Winston-Salem: PSG Printing Services of Greensboro, Inc., 2003.

Movies/Documentaries:

- "Pursuit of Happyness," 2006.
- "The Soloist," 2009
- "The Blind Side," 2009
- 'Time Out of Mind," 2015

Suggested educational events:

• Host educational forums on homelessness. Invite speakers, such as individuals experiencing homelessness, service providers and community speakers to share their experiences. Show videos and distribute fact sheets or other informational material.
• Organize a movie night and show one of the movies listed above. Request a nonperishable food item for entry. Have a local business or group donate popcorn and other refreshments.
• Organize a book reading and discussion group. See if there are any local authors in your community who have written on homelessness who would be willing to host a book signing.
• Arrange to go into an elementary school and read a children's book on homelessness and have the teacher facilitate and age appropriate discussion.

Fundraising and Drives for Homelessness Causes

• Organize a drive to collect nonperishable items such as food, hygiene products, clothing, blankets, books, and toys. Involve the community organizations in a competition to see which group can collect the most donations. Helpful hint: talk with local service providers to research what items are most needed in your community.
• Sponsor a bake sale. Donate collected money to a local homeless services provider. Sponsor a benefit concert with local musicians. Donate collected money to a homeless services provider.
• Arrange a walk or a run. Have each participant collect sponsorship money; set a minimum, such as $20 per participant. Donate collected money to a local homeless services provider. Encourage local businesses to donate food and drinks. Encourage local bands to provide entertainment.

Sample Social Media Posts



Think you know what homelessness looks like? Think again. Meet the faces of MI #homelessness: https://vimeo.com/album/4770977 #HAM18



Money is not the only thing you can donate to help those in need. Learn more about this year's Homeless Awareness Month and volunteer opportunities in your area! #HAM18 <link to local information>



Ignoring a problem will not fix it! Homelessness is a problem with a solution. Learn how and where to advocate! #HAM18 bit.ly/MCAHPolicyPriorities



We all have a role in ending homelessness. Where do you fit in? Join the state effort to prevent, reduce and end homelessness. #HAM18 bit.ly/MCAHPolicyPriorities



In 2016, over 66,000 ind. in MI experienced #homelessness, incl. children, veterans, seniors. Learn more at #HAM18 <link to local event>



Homelessness can happen to anyone. Michigan is lucky to have seen a 9% decrease in individuals experiencing homelessness since 2017, but there are still tens of thousands without a home each year in our state. We can, and need, to do more. Learn about what you can do at our Homeless Awareness Month activities. bit.ly/MCAHHAM #HAM18



Homeless Awareness Month is November! Don't know what #HAM18 is? Visit bit.ly/MCAHHAM to learn about and support this movement



Have you signed up for our #HAM18 event? <details about your event-what you want to accomplish, who will be speaking, etc> It's not too late! #HAM18 <registration link>