

Hi, I'm Jahide'e, Chanai, Kaylee, and KayKay! We are the homelessness group!

**Jahide'e:** We decided to learn more about homelessness because we see it in our community of West Hartford. We would like to make a difference.

**Kaylee:** We created these lines of inquiry to help focus our research on homelessness.

1. **Causation:** An inquiry into the causes of homelessness.
2. **Connection:** An inquiry into how homelessness affects children.
3. **Responsibility:** An inquiry into how we can support the homeless population.

**Jahide'e:** Have you ever wondered about the causes of homelessness? Today, I'll teach you about it. The causes of homelessness are not being able to afford things like rent, a house, furniture, or food. Other causes are natural disasters, a tragedy in the family, or a disability or illness that is preventing them from working. Surprisingly, some people who are experiencing homelessness can have a job but can't afford a home. Also, some people are experiencing homelessness for reasons out of their control.

**Kaylee:** Did you know that a child can be affected by homelessness? Shockingly, according to a representative from Journey Home, in Connecticut, there are 84 families and 82 children experiencing homelessness. Children are affected by homelessness in different ways. Children might have dirty clothes, may not be able to shower every day, have a hard time getting homework done, and have fears of unpredictability in their lives. Children also may feel sadness or stress. All in all, we recommend that children who are homeless find support at school with trusted adults and a good friend.

**Kayshlanie:** Did you know that you could easily help people who are experiencing

homelessness? I am going to teach you about an organization called Journey Home.

We learned that Journey Home supports individuals in finding a job, helps them to find a safe place that is already furnished, and connects them with mental health services.

**Chanai:** We also spoke with Sarah Burnett, a student at Eastern Connecticut University. She told us that you can help by volunteering at homeless shelters and community centers. At her shelter, she helps organize showers and gets them supplies. You can also support them by treating them with kindness and being someone they can talk to.

**Kayshlanie:** As part of our project, we created cards to give to people that are moving into their new homes.

**Chanai:** We chose to do this because we want to welcome people to their new homes after not having a permanent place to stay.

**Kaylee:** Lastly, we want to share a key takeaway with you. We learned in our interviews the importance of saying “people experiencing homelessness” instead of “homeless people”.

**Everyone:** Thank you for coming to our presentation!