

5 Ways YOU Can Inspire Change!

Let's End This Trend!

The number of people living unsheltered in the Omaha metro area has *increased eightfold* in the last decade. By learning more about homelessness and the ways each of us can make an impact, we can end this heartbreaking trend and inspire HOPE for lasting change.

While there are several reasons for homelessness, some factors are more prevalent than others. In order to solve a problem, it is important to better understand some of its most common causes and/or contributors.

Lack of Affordable Housing

The median home price in Omaha increased by 11% last year, and the average price of a new home was almost \$470,000. To rent a two-bedroom apartment in Omaha, residents must earn more than \$22 an hour.

- Individuals and families are being foreclosed and evicted from their homes.
- People are being displaced from lower-cost shelters because of condominium conversions, urban renewal, and gentrification.

Inflation

Inflation has contributed to the rise in homelessness, as costs continue to rise and aid that was available during the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer available. People are overextended on several fronts.

Poverty

In light of housing and inflationary cost-of-living increases, poverty is even more crippling. Poverty is more concentrated in minority populations, and this pattern is amplified among Omaha's homeless.

Mental Illness

Those suffering from mental illness, especially those who are not provided adequate follow-up care after being institutionalized, are forced to live in shelters or on the streets.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is another factor that contributes to homelessness. Abused or battered women, with or without their children, are often forced into homelessness.

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What Can I Do?

While the causes and contributing factors are formidable and the need is staggering, the GOOD NEWS is that, working together, we can stop and reverse this trend in Omaha! Each of us has a role to play. Thank you for looking through the options below . . . and rolling up your sleeves.

1 Get Involved

Open Door Mission has a variety of ways you can get involved and make a difference in somebody's life today. Find the right way YOU can help, right now.



Get started at opendoormission.org/get-involved

2 Volunteer

At the heart of Open Door Mission is its volunteers. We have no shortage of volunteer needs—whether you've got an hour or a week to invest, by working hand in hand, members of the community can make a difference at Open Door Mission.



Get started at opendoormission.org/volunteer

3 Donate Items

We've got a list of urgently needed items. Find out what's needed in your area and how you can make donations to Open Door Mission.



Get started at opendoormission.org/ways-to-give

4 Events

See what's happening in your community and find out how you can get involved to make a difference.



Get started at opendoormission.org/upcoming-events

5 Donate Money

Each day, Open Door Mission serves 4,747 meals to men, women, and families experiencing hunger. Every \$2.15 provides a meal for someone with nowhere else to turn and empowers people toward lasting change.



Give now at opendoormission.org/donate

Let's love our neighbors, Omaha!

