



Pajama Pants Challenge

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

Did you know that thousands of children in Georgia do not have a home or bed of their own to sleep in at night?

The Center for Children & Young Adults – also called “CCYA” – is a youth shelter and home that provides food, clothing, and a safe place to sleep for children and youth who need a home.

How you can help homeless youth in your community:

1. Take the CCYA Pajama Pants Challenge:

Coordinate Challenge at your school or civic group. Pick a designated day for students to donate \$1.00 each to wear pajamas pants to school or civic event and raise awareness and support for homeless youth.

2. Read the FACTS ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

on this page to learn more about what is happening in *your* community.

3. Tell other people about the problem of homeless youth in your community.

Go go to www.ccyakids.org to learn more.

FACTS ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS AND SCHOOL

Families with children are by most accounts among the *fastest growing segments of the homeless population*. Of every 200 children in America, three (3) will be homeless today and more than double that number will be at risk for homelessness. Poverty, co-occurring with *caregiver abandonment* that results from abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and/or untreated addiction, can all too often create unsafe, unwilling and/or unavailable caregivers.

Homelessness has a *devastating impact on children and youths' educational opportunities*. Residency requirements, guardianship requirements, delays in transfer of school records, lack of transportation, and lack of immunization records often prevent homeless children from enrolling in school.

Living arrangements for homeless children can be highly improvisational. These situations are often *precarious, unstable, and, at times, dangerous*. Of children who schools identified as homeless during one school year: 22% lived in shelters; 65% lived “couch to couch” with friends, relatives or acquaintances; 7% lived in motels; and 6% lived without shelter. Being *unsheltered*, they lack access to soap, showers and toiletries.

High mobility associated with homelessness also has severe educational consequences for youth. Homeless families *move frequently* due to: limits on shelter stays; search for safe and affordable housing or employment; or to escape abusive family members. Others have caregivers who are deceased, are incarcerated, or suffer untreated addiction or mental illness.

According to the Institute for Children and Poverty, homeless children are nine times more likely to *repeat a grade*, four times more likely to *drop out of school*, and three times more likely to *be placed in special education programs* than their housed peers. All too often these youth *lack hope and self efficacy*, a belief that they can succeed.

FACTS about Homeless Youth in America:

Did you know that 39% of the entire homeless population in the U.S. are children?

Did you know that children ages 12-17 are more likely to become homeless than adults?

Did you know that the number of homeless children in the U.S. has surged in recent years to an all-time high, amounting to one child in every 30?

CODE BREAKER

Use the coded letters to complete the Declaration:

1=A F=5 L=9 R=13
 2=C G=6 M=10 S=14
 3=D H=7 N=11 T=15
 4=E I=8 O=12 U=16
 V=17 W=18

Fill in the blanks to solve the definitions below:

Causes and Effects of Youth Homelessness:

State of being extremely poor = P _ V _ _ _ Y

Without shelter or home = H _ _ _ L _ _ _

Unsafe, unwilling or unavailable caregivers = A _ _ _ _ D _ NM _ _ T

Lack of access to soap, shower & toiletries = U _ S _ _ L _ _ _ _ D

Leaving school before graduation = D _ _ P _ U _

Living with different people for short periods = "C _ _ C _ to C _ _ C _ "

Basic Needs of Homeless Youth:

Free from risk of harm = S _ F _ _ _

Food, shelter and clothing = N _ C _ S _ _ _ i _ _

Students learning from teachers in school setting = E _ _ C _ T _ _ _

Person who cares for child = C _ R _ _ _ _ R

Assistance getting from place to place = T _ _ _ P _ _ T _ T _ _ _

Needs for Self-Sufficiency:

Any shelter, lodging, or dwelling place = H _ U _ _ _ G

State of being safe, healthy & happy = W _ _ _ B _ _ _ _

Steady stream of income = E _ _ _ Y _ _ T

Connections in the community = S _ PP _ _ T S _ S _ _ M

A belief one can succeed = S _ _ F E _ FI _ _ _ Y

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25 U

Everyone has the 13 8 6 7 15 to a standard of 9 8 17 8 11 6 adequate for the 7 4 1 9 15 7 and 18 4 9 9-being of him/herself and of his family, including 5 12 12 3, 7 12 16 14 8 11 6, 2 9 12 15 7 8 11 6 and 10 4 3 8 2 1 9 2 1 13 4 and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

-General Assembly of the United Nations December 10, 1948

Each year, CCYA shelters, feeds & clothes more than 100 homeless youth ages 11-17. Every donation helps a child:

\$1.00 = 1 after school snack

\$3.00 = 1 dinner serving

\$5.00 = 1 bed pillow

\$8.00 = 1 haircut

\$10.00 = 1 pair of shoes

\$12.00 = 1 towel set

\$15.00 = 1 set of twin sheets

\$20.00 = 1 twin blanket or comforter