

What are *you* thankful for?

A Warm Bed to Sleep In?

Did You Know?

- **1.6 to 1.7 million young people will experience homelessness this year**
- **79% of homeless youth were regularly attending school before entering a shelter**

Food on the Table?

Did You Know?

- **60% of homeless youth report inadequate food consumption**

A Family Who Cares?

Did You Know?

- **63% of homeless youth are never reported or sought after by guardians**
- **22% - 44% come from guardians who abuse drugs or alcohol, often leading to domestic violence and conflict**
- **50% of youth interviewed during shelter stays report that their parents told them to leave or did not try to stop them**
- **17% were forced into unwanted sexual activity by a member of their household**

Common Characteristics of Homeless Youth

- **lack of self-sufficiency skills**
- **lack of financial resources**
- **mental health problems, often post-traumatic stress disorder**
- **substance abuse**
- **declining physical health**



Meet Jamal (Fleeing/Runaway)

- **15 years old**
- **identifies as gay**
- **left home because of family conflict**
- **has struggled with depression and attempted suicide**



Meet Jessica (Episodic/“Couch Surfer”)

- 18 years old
- comes from a low-income community
- emotionally and verbally abused by her mother growing up
- attends school

Note: LGBTQ and people of color are strongly represented in this category of youth homelessness





Meet Daniel (Street Dependant/Traveler)

- 21 years old**
 - struggling with drug addiction**
 - removed from home for neglect**
 - “aged out” of foster care and has been living on the streets since age 18**
 - engages in “survival sex”***
 - attends school**
- *survival sex = prostitution out of necessity**

A person is sitting on a sidewalk, hunched over. They are wearing a dark jacket and dark pants. They have a large brown sleeping bag or blanket spread out on the ground in front of them. They are holding a blue and white patterned blanket or bag. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Meet Tara (Unaccompanied/Shelter Hopper)

- **19 years old**
- **sexually abused by her uncle as a child**
- **identifies as bisexual**
- **has been living on the street for 2 months**
- **plans on seeking a temporary home with her aunt**

3 Main Solutions to Youth Homelessness

Early Intervention/Prevention:

- **Make sure a homelessness episode doesn't turn into long-term homelessness**
- **Improve family dynamics & mental health**

Intervene with Already Homeless Youth:

- **Reunite youth with their families as quickly as possible**
- **Strengthen family stability**
- **Utilize Peer Outreach – train young people to go out on the street (Homeless youth trust people ages 16-21 more easily than adults)**

Intervene with Long-Term Homeless Youth:

- **On-the-Street Outreach**
- **1-on-1 Connections**
- **Address the Housing Need first**
- **Provide Financial Aid & Career Services**
- **Equip them with tools for self-sufficiency & independent housing**

Homelessness in Our Community

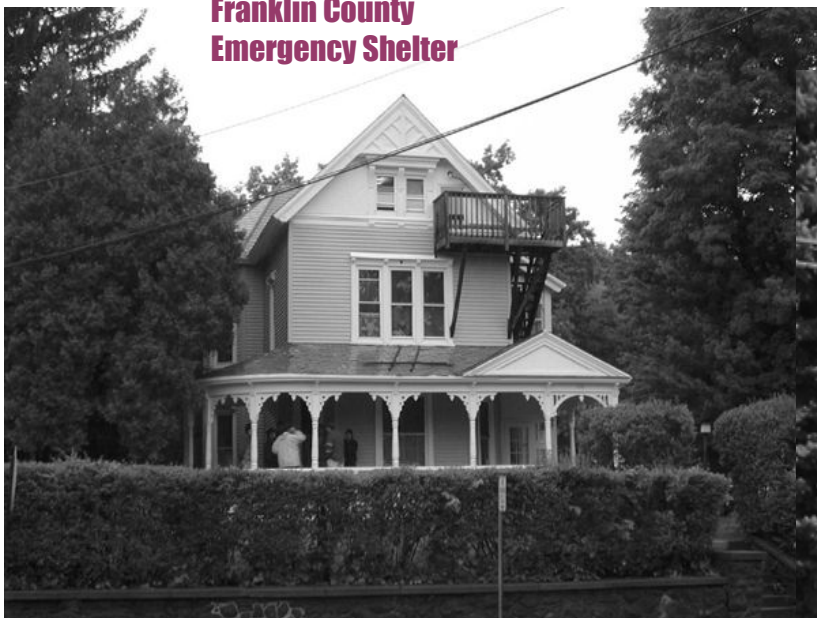
According to a 2008 survey:

- **1,076 individuals and 1,018 persons in families are homeless within the Tri-County region**
- **84% have at least 1 chronic or disabling condition**
- **62% have a history of alcohol or drug dependency**
- **40% have a history of violence in their family**

What Can *You* Do To Help?

ServiceNet, a human service agency in Northampton, MA is always accepting volunteers (for one-time or regular commitment) to help in any of their 4 homeless shelters or work at a fundraising event. To learn more, e-mail volunteer@servicenet.org

**Franklin County
Emergency Shelter**



Grove Street Inn, Northampton



- **Jessie's House in Amherst also accepts volunteers on an on-going basis from anything from fundraising to translating to hair styling**
- **Other local shelters who could use a helping hand include:**
 - **Community Cot Shelter, Northampton, MA**
 - **Hampshire Outreach, Northampton, MA**



You can also donate items from their shelter wish lists:

Franklin County Emergency

Shelter:

First Aid

Aspirin
Non-aspirin
Cold tabs
Decongestants
Band-Aids
Gauze
Medical tape
Antibiotic ointment
Vitamin E
Peroxide
Hand wipes
Alcohol

Personal Care Items

Towels
Face cloths
Shampoo
Shavers & shaving cream
Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
Soap
Deodorant
Feminine products
Clothing
Winter hats & gloves
Winter coats
Socks
New undergarments
Latex gloves

Household Items

Sheets (twin-size) and pillow cases
Blankets
Dish towels
Toilet paper
Paper towels
Large pots
Large casserole pans
Knives, forks, spoons
Coffee cups and mugs
Heavy-duty large garbage bags
Coffee cups & mugs

Cleaning Supplies

Cleansers
Dishwashing detergent
Dishwasher soap
Laundry detergent
Towels
Sponges
SOS pads
Disinfectants
Bleach
Window cleaner

Miscellaneous

Note pads
Postage stamps
Tape
Markers & Pens
Batteries
Flashlights
Phone calling cards

Silver Street Inn:

Twin-sized sheets, flat & fitted
Regular-sized pillowcases
Towels
Toilet paper
Paper towels (preferably tri-fold)
Napkins
Large freezer storage bags
Toothbrushes
Shampoo/conditioner
Trash bags, all sizes
Vases
Water glasses
Plastic coffee mugs (with tops, if possible)
Pillows
Cotton blankets--twin
Comforters--twin
Large sauce pans
Casserole dishes
Baking pans
Skillets
Toiletries for men and women
Art supplies
Loveseat/couch
Curtains/drapes (63" or longer)
Framed artwork
Phone cards
CVS gift cards

Greenfield Family Inn:

Cleaning products & disinfectants
Paper products
Linens & towels
Phone cards
Supermarket gift cards
Diapers
Baby products
Clothing
Food
Small kitchen appliances (in working condition)
School supplies

Grove Street Inn:

Pillows and pillowcases
Sheets
Towels
Toiletries
Cleaning supplies
Broom, dustpan, mops
Vacuum cleaner
Sponges and Brillo Pads
Computer with Windows 95 or better
Lawnmower
Artwork for the walls
Long distance phone cards

