



Preble Street

**Homeless Voices
for Justice**

Some of the structural forces and situational causes of homelessness

Structural Forces

- Minimum wage below livable wage
- Failed deinstitutionalization of mental health institutions
- Hospital discharges to homelessness
- Lack and destruction of affordable housing
- High cost of health care
- Lack of employment
- Lack of safety-net and support services for people struggling with poverty, mental illnesses and addictions

Situational Causes

- Job Layoff
- Evictions and Foreclosures
- Fires and Natural Disasters
- Domestic Violence
- Alcohol and substance use
- Physical illness of self
- Physical illness of family members or dependents
- Mental illness
- Family break-ups
- Teens fleeing abuse and neglect

Indignities of Homelessness

- Having to ask for help - this is difficult for many people. In fact, being homeless often means **having to ask for everything, all day long - and being expected to be polite and appropriate each time.**
- People avoiding eye contact or staring, and the looks and comments you get from people.
- Lack of access to bathrooms.
- What to do when you're sick - no place to lie down during the day, lack of resources for medication and health care.
- Having to carry all your belongings around as well as difficulty finding storage. Having a backpack on all the time is a perceived indication of homelessness.
- Trying to get a job and having to give your shelter address or phone number to employers.
- Trying to find an apartment, sometimes having to deal with landlords who have negative stereotypes of homelessness.
- Feeling you have to panhandle (**although most homeless people do not**) – and the things people say to those who do panhandle.
- Excessive walking to avoid staying in one place.
- **Lack of safety** - having no place to be out of the public (and homeless people are too often the target of harassment and violence)

You can take a stand for the homeless



Contact your city councilors, state legislators, and your congressional delegates to tell them you care about the homeless

Sign up for e-mail action alerts

at www.preblestreet.org

or e-mail endhomelessness@preblestreet.org

