

7 MYTHS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION

MYTH #1
HOMELESSNESS
AFFECTS ONLY
MIDDLE-AGED MEN.



FACT The fastest growing segments of the homeless population are women and families with children.



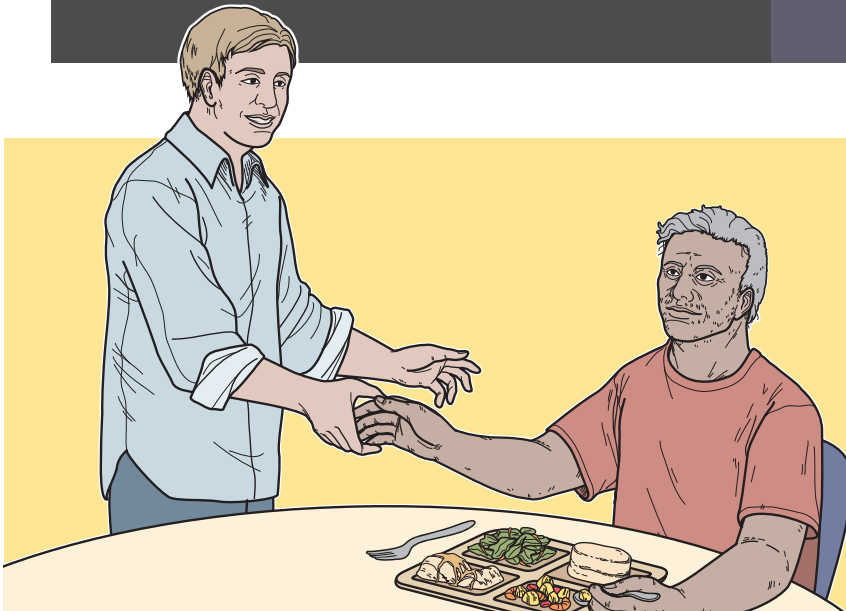
MYTH #2 HOMELESS PEOPLE
SHOULD "JUST GET A JOB."

FACT Getting a job is especially challenging for a homeless person who lacks clean clothes, showers, transportation, and a permanent address. Others have a criminal past, learning disabilities or lack of education. Even if they find work, their low income often cannot sustain them.



MYTH #3 PEOPLE ARE HOMELESS
BY CHOICE.

FACT No one starts life with a goal of becoming homeless. Yes, poor choices often contribute to it, but circumstances such as job loss, mental illness, domestic abuse, and trauma strongly influence those choices.



MYTH #4 HELPING PEOPLE
ENABLES THEM TO STAY
HOMELESS.

FACT Food and shelter are essentials for life. By offering these and other outreach services like restrooms, showers and mail service, we build relationships with people in need. Then we're able to offer more through our recovery programs, like counseling, addiction recovery, life skills and job training.



MYTH #5 SUFFICIENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING WILL END HOMELESSNESS.

FACT Housing can help people who are homeless due to poverty. But many people still struggle to function in a normal life, and may return to homelessness.

MYTH #6 HOMELESSNESS WILL NEVER HAPPEN TO ME.

FACT Talk to the hundreds of homeless men and women we serve each day and they'll tell you they never intended or expected to become homeless. Many had solid jobs, houses and families. But at some point, life fell apart. Now they're desperate for a way back home.



MYTH #7 HOMELESSNESS WILL NEVER END.

Many U.S. cities have established ambitious goals with 10-year plans to end homelessness.

While these efforts are important in reducing the scope and duration of homelessness, they will not completely eliminate it everywhere for all time.

But homelessness does end—one life at a time. With your help, we continue to restore the lives of hurting men, women and children every day.



Compassionate support from friends like you helps Portland Rescue Mission to provide meals, shelter and recovery care to hurting men, women and children. WWW.PORTLANDRESCUEMISSION.ORG



**Portland
Rescue Mission**
Giving Hope. Restoring Life.®