

Peace to Homeless

“It takes a society to combat homelessness, and a strong nation to fight poverty.”

(Wayne Chirisa) There are about 1.6 billion people homeless in the world. There are approximately 600,000 homeless in the United States. Furthermore, Modesto has about 1,400 homeless people. Local Rescue gives the homeless the supplies that they need.

The homeless people in the United States were in desperate need of aid before the pandemic, but now the situation is worse. Many stores and restaurants are closing which causes people to lose their jobs and become homeless. According to a new study by a Columbia University professor, both big and small businesses have had to let employees go “leaving millions of Americans out of work.” The study also predicted that homelessness in the United States could increase “as much as 45% in a year.” (Oreskes) During the pandemic, homeless people have greater needs than the general population. Their needs include masks, food, socks, personal hygiene items, shelter and compassion. It is easy to get sick when living outdoors, especially now, without a mask on during this pandemic. People who experience homelessness, age faster and have a greater chance of dying. (State of Homelessness)

Local Rescue, a department of CrossPoint Community Church, is the organization that provides for the needs of the homeless in the Modesto area. Through their program called Monday Night Church, they provide free hot meals every Monday for 200 people in need. The church members donate time, money, and food to help support this program. Kristine Kauffman, the director, says that there is a team that “shops, prepares, and cooks.” There are also others who “come to serve the meals. It takes the team about eleven hours a week working together to serve the meal. In addition, they partner with the Hope Shower Shuttle on Monday afternoons to provide portable showering buses for the homeless. Mrs. Kauffman said that in addition to food, “We try to assist in directing them to housing programs, addiction recovery programs, food

banks, and shelters. We have developed connections in our community in all these areas so we can usually help them get to the next step.” Due to Covid-19, Ms. Kauffman said, “We are no longer able to serve meals inside the building but we have adjusted to serving them to go.”

Local Rescue’s work is vital because the homeless population is increasing along with their needs. It is important to care about this impoverished population and provide for their necessities. The homeless can not afford, and often do not have the ability, to provide for their own basic needs to survive. Local Rescue bridges this gap.

This organization promotes peace because they provide food and the love of God at this time when people struggle to live during the pandemic. Homeless people could get sick and could die because they are hungry. I am familiar with this organization because I helped to collect food with my friends for them to give to the homeless. My family distributes masks and food to the homeless every Monday. The homeless have many needs, and Local Rescue provides comfort in these hard times.

(520 Word Count)

Works Cited

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