

**HOMELESSNESS AND  
EDUCATION/  
UNACCOMPANIED  
YOUTH**

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# HOW DO YOU DEFINE HOMELESSNESS?



# HOMELESSNESS DEFINITION

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homelessness as **“individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence”**

Examples:

- Doubling up with family and/or friends
- Living in a hotel, motel, or trailer park
- Living in a shelter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLwoChkTpNE>

# WHAT LEADS TO HOMELESSNESS?

- Rising cost of rent/eviction and foreclosure
- Lack of affordable housing/ Poverty
- Domestic Violence/Divorce or Separation
- Unemployment/Loss of Income
- Substance abuse
- Health issues/Mental health
- Fires/Natural Disasters
- Family Conflict

# REGIONAL DATA

- Allegheny County reported during 2020-2021, 2,277 identified homeless students or about 12% of the population
- Nationally, its estimated that there are 2.5 million children a year that face homelessness, which represents approximately 1 in 30 children

# HOW DOES THIS AFFECT GATEWAY?

- In the current school year:
  - Approximately 85 students K-12 that have been identified as homeless or displaced

# IMPACTS OF HOMELESSNESS ON EDUCATION

- A youth who experiences homelessness is 87% more likely to drop out of school
- Dropping out of school makes a youth 4.5x more likely to experience homelessness as a young adult
- Average national graduation rate is 85.8%
- Average national graduation rate for homeless students is between 49% to 67.7%

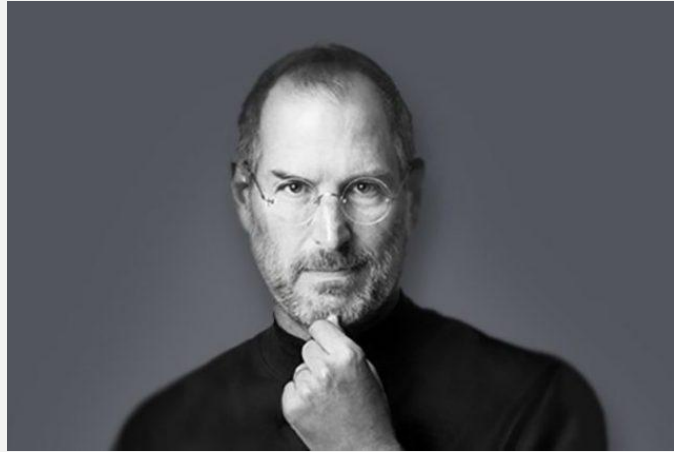
# WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

- School districts have homeless liaison to help identify and support students and families with resources and agencies to help assist
- Don't judge!
  - This is important because homeless families and students are going through enough. They are often scared and embarrassed by their situation.
- Be a Helper!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32iaLFbnS3U>



# SUCCESSFUL CELEBRITIES WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS



Steve Jobs, the Apple entrepreneur, had to sleep on the floor of his friends' rooms, collect and return Coke bottles to earn money for food and walk for miles to get a good meal while studying in college. Anyway, Steve left college and all his hard work done over the job paid off. He built the empire, Apple, one of the World's most profitable companies.

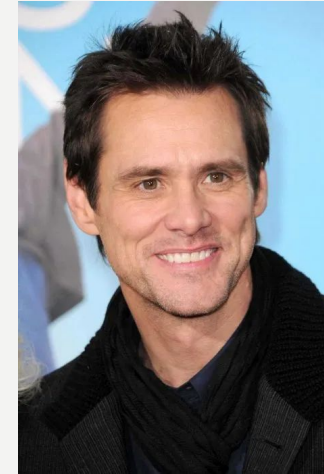


Michael Oher, the NFL player was homeless before he became a Super Bowl-winning lineman. He lived on the streets as a child, while his mother was struggling due to drug addictions and lived in public housing. He was adopted by a rich family and boarded on his football journey. The hit book and movie *"The Blind Side"* that inspires the world was the story of homelessness and struggle of Michael Oher.

# SUCCESSFUL CELEBRITIES WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS



Shania Twain, the Canadian singer-songwriter spent much of her childhood living in a shelter with her family in Toronto. At the age of eight, Shania started singing in bars to support her family. However, she overcame the situations and earned five Grammys for her eminent country power ballads.



Jim Carrey, the famous comedian became homeless at the age of 12 when his father lost his job. He dropped out of high school, slept in a VW camper van and a tent during this time, along with his family. Jim started his acting career in *"In Living Color"* and soon become a famous comedic star on the big screen.

# HOW CAN THE LEADER ACADEMY HELP?

- By collecting donations and funding for our dedicated space
- Purchase of items;
  - Nonperishable food
  - School supplies
  - Toiletries
  - Clothing/Shoes
  - Small furniture/Kitchen items
  - Presents for the holidays
  - female products
  - leggings undergarments
  - peer mentoring