

HIGHSCHOOLS HELPING THE HOMELESS

THE ISSUE

At least 150,000 Canadians per year use a homeless shelter. This increasing number is the result of the cumulative impact of a number of factors, rather than a single cause. Since there is a lack of support and care for the homeless population, they are more susceptible in their daily lives to higher death rates, suicide and drug abuse, abductions, sex trade, violence, and subjected to theft in order to survive.

IMPLEMENTATION

We can bring the initiative to change the lives of these people, to schools. Implementing curriculum standards to now include empathy practice and mandatory volunteer hours dedicated to the homeless. Opening more opportunities to participate in helping the lives of the homeless via community centers and workplaces we can strive to make a positive difference for the future.

EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY

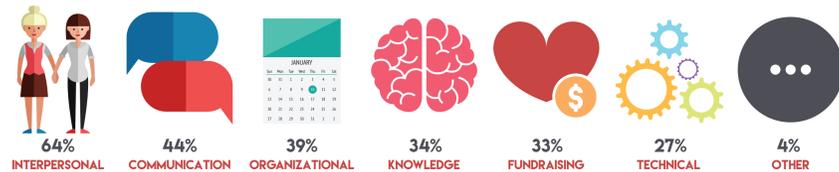
The youth will have gained knowledge and understanding as they continue to grow into adulthood within the community, the volunteer hours and hospitality rates will rise as will the lives of the people being helped. Homeless people are a part of the community, helping them is helping make our community, town and country better. We can make a positive change to the homeless lives.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Students are essential to our initiative because they represent the future generation. High school students are required to complete community hours in order to graduate. Though, surveys have shown that most students do not actually complete their hours but instead just sign off on them. With our initiative we can implement that these hours are not wasted and that the youth can take pride in the part that they played in helping their community.



SKILLS ACQUIRED THROUGH VOLUNTEERING



Gathered from statistics of high school students volunteering within community charity organizations it was found that the students gained various skills while volunteering. These skills consisted of building relationships with people at a professional level, which will help them later in life when it comes time to networking in relation to job searches.

Another skill is organization and time management, helping them to plan their tasks ahead of time and allow themselves the resources in order to complete the given task. Depending on the student's placement it may also help them gain technical skills, whether at a desk, on a computer or physical labour. The fundraising aspect will be important later in life and will

help the students develop a sense of empathy.

The communication skills and knowledge gained will have long lasting positive effects on the students, as well as providing opportunities for them in the future.

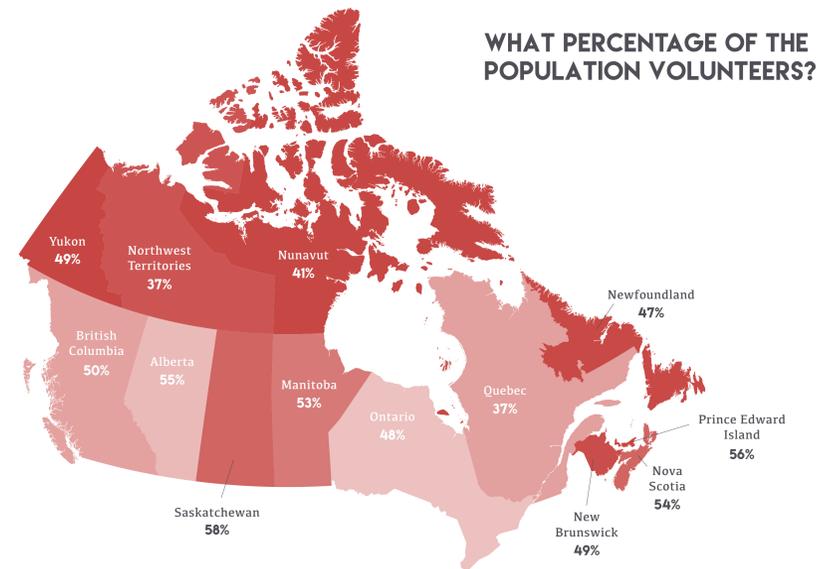
VOLUNTEER RATES BY AGE



Displayed here are 3 different age groups, highlighting that the high school demographic has the highest volunteer rate. Just 66% of high school students are completing their mandatory high school community hours. This exemplifies that this is the prime age to take initiative and put the 34% unused hours too good by helping the homeless. The volunteer rates and positive acts in the community can be raised by a whole third of the high school population.

VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER RATES ACROSS CANADA



WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION VOLUNTEERS?

REASONS FOR NOT VOLUNTEERING



These are the top five most said reasons for not volunteering. All of which can be determined as valid. The truth of the matter is that most of these candidates were age 25 and up. This range of people simply do not have the time to give or the time management skills to handle the extra tasks. This is contributing to the reason that homeless shelters are lacking in their efforts because they need the support of their volunteers. High school students on the other hand

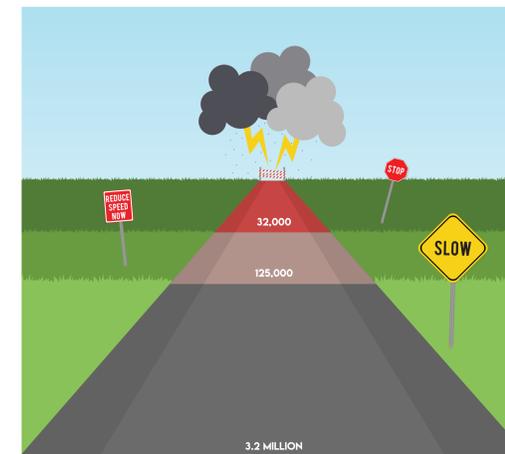
do not have these problems and are able to successfully complete these tasks and volunteer their time without any repercussions. The issues that most adults face cannot be attributed to the average high school student, this is why it should be mandatory to make the effort to greaten the community while its feasible and without hassle. The impact this would have is something we could not do without the students.



Community volunteers are doing what they can daily in striving to make their community a better, safer place. The issue is that volunteer work cannot be a full time job for many, leading to a lack of volunteer work and even initiatives going on unnoticed or worse, failing. The volunteer workers of today need help, some shelters, kitchens and clothing drives have the resources but do not have the workers to reach their goals.

THE HOMELESS

HOMELESS CRISIS



There are three phases that people face while at the risk of becoming and being homeless. Out of Canada's entire population this includes; 3.2 million people at risk of poverty. 125,000 people are in the transitional phase; this means these people are either newly homeless or have the resources to not be homeless but are still living on the streets. And 32,000 people are chronically homeless. Meaning, they are expected to be homeless for the rest of their lives. This is considered to be a crisis because the homeless community is going without recognition, leading to larger numbers and a greater affect in our country.

The homeless on average, have not finished high school and are classified in below poverty level. Their income ranges daily depending on how much money gets donated to them by passing by civilians. Our initiative would reduce their susceptibility to mental illnesses due to the amount of care and love that they are receiving. The taboo of homelessness, or the stigma that exists will slowly dissipate as more students are accustomed to helping and understanding the homeless.



HOMELESS MORTALITY RATES



The data being displayed are the concepts of total deaths, deaths outside of a shelter, and the deaths inside a shelter of homeless Canadians. As shown there are higher rates of deaths outside of a shelter compared to being inside a shelter. This is important to acknowledge their deaths and also realize the potential that volunteering work inside of shelters helps extend and brighten the lives of the homeless.