



Homeless Awareness Week is November 12-20, 2016

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Background:

Taking place every November, Homeless Awareness Week is a national effort to raise public awareness about issues relating to homelessness. This observance, which has taken place in Michigan for nearly 20 years, highlights homelessness issues in local communities through events such as Project Homeless Connect resource fairs, Sleep Outs, video screenings and more.

What we know about homelessness in Michigan:

Last year there were over 69,000 who experienced literal homelessness. This is a 6% decrease from 2014. Furthermore, there were over 30,000 who were at imminent risk of homelessness.

Breaking the stereotypes about homelessness:

Contrary to the stereotypes about who is homeless, in Michigan we see a varied mix of people who are homeless. Last year, half of the people who were homeless, or at risk, were families. Primarily single moms with young children (average age 7).

There were over 1200 unaccompanied youth, many of whom fled their homes due to issues of neglect, abuse, and identifying as LGBTQ.

There were over 9,700 seniors, primarily aged 55-65, who were homeless last year. Frighteningly, this is the fastest growing group within the homeless population, with a 9% increase from 2014.

Michigan is seeing successes as well:

There were 4,729 homeless veterans, which is a 15% decrease in the number of literally homeless veterans from 2014.

Over 34,000 people transitioned from homelessness into stable housing, or were prevented from becoming homeless and were able to maintain their housing.