



## Here are some tips to help you truly help the homeless.

### 1. Never give cash to a homeless person.

If the person is hungry, you can buy him/her something to eat or you can give them gift certificates to fast food places. Well intentioned gifts are often turned into drugs or alcohol—even when the “hard luck” stories are true. Be careful to avoid feeding addictions by unwise gifts which perhaps ease our feelings of guilt.

### 2. Talk to the person with respect.

Taking time to talk in a friendly manner helps the homeless avoid being driven into potentially dangerous isolation, depression, or paranoia.

### 3. Take precautions for your own safety.

Some who are living on the streets are criminals and fugitives running from the law. Always be prudent while talking with street people. Stay in areas where other people can see you. Don't take unnecessary chances.

### 4. Recognize that the homeless and their "problems" are unique.

The homeless are as diverse as the colors of the rainbow; from battered wives to con artists ...they are very different from one another.

### 5. Share God's love whenever you can.

If Jesus were walking the Earth today, He would doubtless spend time with the homeless. He would speak with them, heal them, and help them. Today, Jesus works through those who believe and follow Him.

### 6. Pray for the homeless.

Some on the streets are like thirsty sponges looking for love, forgiveness, and compassion. Yet, even those who seem stone cold or apparently happy living on the streets are in great need. Exposure to the elements, disease, dirt, and occasional violence, all sap years off a person's life in a very short time! God can use your prayers and the brutality of the streets to bring many of the broken to Himself. Our prayer calendar is available online at [www.srmission.org](http://www.srmission.org).

### 7. Encourage the homeless to get into an Emergency Shelter and Recovery program to deal with the root causes of homelessness.

The Redwood Gospel Mission offers a wide range of emergency relief and a recovery program. Offer help by (1) talking to the person and letting them see you care, then (2) offer one of our Real Change Certificates to invite them to have a meal (and a bed) at the Mission and the genuine opportunity to get the help they really need. Certificates are available online at [www.srmission.org](http://www.srmission.org).



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