

Have you ever had to skip meals because there was nothing to eat? or find a place to sleep because you had no bed? That's the situation for about 1.5 million kids in the United States every year. Because many people have lost jobs and homes, there are now more kids who are homeless than ever before. Destiny, age 11, said her family at one time lived in their van. Her parents would park the van in a Walmart parking lot, and the kids would go into the store's restroom to clean up before going to school. Her family of five eventually moved into a motel room.

Being homeless is hard, but it is easier when others help. Some kids are doing just that. Julia in Massachusetts asked her friends to donate canned goods to a food pantry. Christian in Arizona collected coats from family members and gave the coats to a homeless shelter. Annie and her classmates in Washington make sandwiches for people who are staying in shelters. Together, these kids are making a difference.

*Think about it...*

- How do you think it would feel to be homeless?
- How do you think people who are homeless manage to get along?

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# The Beat

## Take Actions!

There are many ways to reach out and help others in difficult times. As a group, brainstorm a list of problems people might have. Write each problem on a separate slip of paper. Fold and put the papers in a container.

Choose partners and have each pair select one of the problems written down. Take turns acting out the problems. Have one partner pretend to be the person with the problem written on the paper; have the other partner pantomime a way to help in the situation. See if the group can guess what the problem is and what action is being taken.

What will you do to help someone this week?

