

Books about Homelessness

Informative:

Encyclopedia of Homelessness: The Encyclopedia of Homelessness is the first systematic effort to organize and summarize what we know about this complex topic which impacts not only the homeless but all of society. The Encyclopedia focuses on the current situation in the United States, with a comparative sampling of homelessness around the world.

Address Unknown: The Homeless in America: Address Unknown emphasizes the large-scale social and economic forces that have priced an increasingly large segment of the urban poor completely out of the housing market. Seen in this light, the problem of homelessness is that there are too many extremely poor people competing for too few affordable housing units.

Voices from the Street: Truths about Homelessness from Sisters of the Road: Taken from over 500 interviews with those experiencing homelessness, *Voices from the Street: Truths about Homelessness from Sisters of the Road* is an exploration of their narratives with photographs and family maps.

Designing for the Homeless: Architecture That Works: *Designing for the Homeless* recounts how various communities have addressed the problem of housing the homeless, beginning with one of the most ambitious plans, the St. Vincent de Paul Village in San Diego, which opened in 1987.

Homeless Mothers: Face to Face with Women and Poverty: *Homeless Mothers* follows the lives of mothers on the margins and asks where they fit into the increasingly black-and-white model of motherhood set up by society.

The Homeless (By Christopher Jencks): How widespread is homelessness, how did it happen, and what can be done about it? These are the questions explored by Christopher Jencks, America's foremost analyst of social problems.

Reckoning With Homelessness (The Anthropology of Contemporary Issues): Beginning with his own introduction to the problem in New York, Hopper uses ethnography, literature, history, and activism to place homelessness into historical context and to trace the process by which homelessness came to be recognized as an issue.

The Working Poor: Invisible in America: Braced by hard fact and personal testimony, Shipler unravels the forces that confine people in the quagmire of low wages. And unlike most works on poverty, this book also offers compelling portraits of employers struggling against razor-thin profits and competition from abroad.

Rachel and Her Children: Homeless Families in America: *Rachel and Her Children* is an unforgettable record of the desperate voices of men, women, and especially children caught up in a nightmarish situation that tears at the hearts of readers.

Finding Grace: The Face of America's Homeless (Photographic Journal): During Blodgett's travels over the last few years, he began keeping a photographic journal of the homeless people he met, along with their stories, in every city he visited. The result is this powerful collection of words and images that show

how people who go through life ignored and reviled manage to endure, often with grace and humanity, the grimmest of life's circumstances.

Homeless Culture and the Media: How the Media Educate Audiences in their Portrayal of America's Homeless Culture: This book explores how the homeless are portrayed by the media and, consequently, how public perceptions of the homeless are shaped. By analyzing how the media informally educate their audiences, interviewing homeless people and journalists, and conducting content analysis of news stories, this research uncovers the reality that the issue of homelessness is not a media priority because it does not provide the requisite ratings boost.

Inequality, Poverty, and Neoliberal Governance: Activist Ethnography in the Homeless Sheltering Industry (Teaching Culture, Utp Ethnographies for the Classroom): Combining the rich detail of an ethnographic study with the systemic examination of political economic studies, this book offers a view of homelessness and inequality that is rarely explored elsewhere.

Daily Bread: A Portrait of Homeless Men & Women: DAILY BREAD is a simultaneously heart-breaking and heart-warming elegy to the poignancy and tragedy of the homeless. Burd's moving, lyrical prose poems and Strayer's stark and penetrating companion photos eloquently depict the nuances of pride, suffering, and fellowship of the severely impoverished among us.

Out Of Sight, Out Of Mind: Homeless Children and Families in Small-Town America: Drawing on interviews with and case studies of three hundred children and their families, with supporting statistics from federal, state, and private agencies, Vissing illustrates the impact this social problem has upon education, health, and the economy

For Children:

Lives Turned Upside Down: Homeless Children in Their Own Words and Photographs: A photographic essay, highlighted by firsthand accounts of life as a homeless child, captures the extraordinary and poignant worlds of four children from various parts of the country who are themselves living in that situation.

Fly Away Home (By Eve Bunting, Illustrated by Ronald Himler): In this timely and touching work, Bunting and Himler present a naturalistic look at the plight of the homeless--their tale of a boy and his father living in a busy airport is all the more disturbing for its lack of a pat resolution. Ages 5-8.

A Kids' Guide to Hunger & Homelessness: How to Take Action! Kids explore what others in the world (including young people) have done and are doing to address the issues, find out what their community needs, and develop a service project. The workbook includes facts, quotations, real-life examples, write-on pages, resources, a note to adults—and a lot of inspiration to get out there and make a difference in the world.

Sketches (By Eric Walters): After fleeing her suburban home, 15-year-old Dana struggles to survive in the alleys, squats, and subway stations of downtown Toronto. This gritty, honest portrayal of street life from acclaimed author Eric Walters is a testament to the healing power of art.

Novels:

Out There: The Homeless Years: Based on a true story, this work traces Dr. Dee's descent into homelessness. We are with her as she discovers the Rules of the Street: how to panhandle, how to feed herself from dumpsters, how to run from fights, how to find places to sleep. We meet her cohorts and come to understand the world as viewed by street people. The book shows her miraculous re-emergence as a professional woman who is able to reunite with family and friends and to cope with mental illness and alcoholism.

Under the Overpass: A Journey of Faith on the Streets of America: By his own choice, Mike's life went from upper-middle class plush to scum-of-the-earth repulsive overnight. With only a backpack, a sleeping bag and a guitar, Mike and his traveling companion, Sam, set out to experience life on the streets in six different cities—from Washington D.C. to San Diego— and they put themselves to the test. Gritty, challenging, and utterly captivating.

Breakfast at Sally's: One Homeless Man's Inspirational Journey: Once a happily married businessman, avid golfer, and the proud owner of several luxury cars and three boats, conservative-minded Richard LeMieux saw his fortune change almost overnight. In this astonishingly heartfelt memoir, he describes his descent into homelessness and his struggle to survive personal and economic disaster.

Ivy: Tale of a Homeless Girl in San Francisco: Ivy is the story of a 12-year old girl who finds herself homeless on the streets of San Francisco when she and her father are evicted from his artist loft. Living outdoors because there no adequate shelters for single fathers, they chance upon the rundown house of an eccentric elderly couple. Filled with realistic touches and magical moments, the book is bound to touch all readers.

Adventures of the Homeless (By Jagdish Singh): Adventures of the Homeless is a lively, fictional story that describes the struggles of a Jewish man who sets out to liberate his friends and himself from poverty, and to overcome his mental illness. Amid these undertakings, he is confronted with violence, discrimination, and problems associated with drug and alcohol abuse.

Homeless Hearts (By Leroy Maclin): Leroy Maclin has never been desensitized to the sight of homelessness. As a paralegal in downtown Houston, he could never get over the homelessness that he witnessed on a daily basis. The characters were from all walks of life, and Leroy knew that he was always one check away from being just like these people. His homeless roots ran deep. As a boy growing up in Detroit, Leroy, his mom, and his ten brothers and sisters did everything possible to keep a roof over their heads. In Homeless Hearts, success is the story of the homeless.

FOR Grades K-3:

A Castle on Viola Street

By DyAnne DiSalvo, HarperCollins (2001)

Andy and his family live in a worn out apartment building until they learn of an organization (similar to Habitat for Humanity) that fixes up houses for those in need. The family volunteers their time to help other families and eventually earn a house of their own.

A Shelter in Our Car

By Monica Gunning, Illustrated by Elaine Pedlar, Children's Book Press (2004)

Tells the story of a Jamaican immigrant who is working to save up money for an apartment for herself and her daughter. In the meantime, the two are forced to live in their car. By the end, the mother secures a job and the two move into a motel room.

Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen

By DyAnne DiSalvo, Harper Collins (1997)

Willie's nephew accompanies him on an after-school excursion to a local community kitchen. Gives a real-life portrayal of what it is like to work in a soup kitchen.

Fly Away Home

By Eve Bunting, Illustrated by Ronald Himler, Sandpiper (1993)

Depicts the tale of a boy and his father living in the airport. Follows the boy and his father as they try to remain unnoticed in the unusual environment.

The Lady in the Box

By Ann McGovern, Illustrated by Marni Backer, Turtle Books (1999)

Tells the story of two children who take an interest in a woman named Dorris who is living in a box outside of the Circle Deli. The two children get their mother involved when the Deli tries to have the woman moved away from the storefront.

Lily and the Paper Man

By Rebecca Upjohn, Illustrated by Renee Benoit, Second Story Press (2007)

Shows the evolution of a young girl's feelings (from fear to empathy) regarding a nearby homeless man.

FOR High School / College:

Rachel and Her Children: Homeless Families in America
by Jonathan Kozol

Breakfast at Sally's: One Homeless Man's Inspirational Journey
by Richard LeMieux

Without a Net: Middle Class and Homeless (with Kids) in America: My Story
By Michelle Kennedy

Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America
by Barbara Ehrenreich

There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in The Other America
by Alex Kotlowitz