

Community Issue

Why we care about Homelessness

We selected **Homelessness** because it is a big problem affecting the entire world and it's a big problem in our city. Many homeless people die from hunger or bad weather conditions on the daily, and it's time that we do something about it.

The issue affects my own finances because I feel the need to share what I have whenever I encounter an unhoused individual. I end up giving them all I have, and I believe that this issue is too big to be addressed one private donation at a time.

Dallas has one of the largest homeless populations in the state of Texas. Our state has more than 26,000 unhoused people. There are many programs and shelters dedicated to helping the homeless yet the population continues to grow because people fail to address the main root cause, being the lack of financial literacy education.

Citlali Arellano & SirChristian Alexander

Solution

Our proposed solution to reduce homelessness is to create an after-school financial literacy club for Roosevelt High School students. The club will be focused on teaching students about managing their money and making good financial decisions. We believe that this will be beneficial in the long run as it will equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to avoid financial pitfalls that can lead to homelessness.

To achieve this, we plan on inviting financial professionals to the club to teach students about various financial topics such as credit usage, planning to buy a home, investing, and savings. By providing students with these tools, they will be better prepared to make informed financial decisions that can help them avoid falling into financial difficulties that can lead to homelessness.

Ultimately, our goal is to guide the students at Roosevelt towards financial liberation. We believe that by empowering them with the necessary financial skills, they will be better equipped to avoid debt and financial hardships, leading to a more financially stable and secure future. In turn, this will help reduce the number of individuals who experience homelessness, creating a more prosperous community for everyone.

Main Root Cause

Homelessness is a complex issue with many underlying factors, but lack of financial literacy is a significant contributor. According to a study by the National Coalition for the Homeless, 44% of homeless individuals in the US cite job loss and financial hardship as the primary cause of their homelessness. Many of these individuals lack the necessary skills and knowledge to manage their finances effectively, which can lead to debt and financial ruin.

Unfortunately, financial literacy education is not widely taught in schools, and many families do not have the resources or knowledge to provide financial education at home. In fact, a study by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) found that 63% of American adults were unable to answer more than three out of five basic financial literacy questions correctly. This lack of education can have severe consequences, as those who lack financial literacy are more likely to have lower credit scores, higher debt, and are more susceptible to financial scams.

Action Plan

| | |
|---------|---|
| Step 1: | Ask a teacher to sponsor the organization |
| Step 2: | Gather interested students: Advertise the group through school announcements, flyers, and social media, and encourage students to sign up |
| Step 3: | Plan the curriculum |
| Step 4: | Set meeting time and location |
| Step 5: | Fundraise to provide snacks and drinks |
| Step 6: | Invite guest speakers |
| Step 7: | Meet 2 times a month |

Budget (Per meeting)

| Item | Cost per item | Total |
|----------|---------------|---------|
| Sodas 24 | 1.08 | \$25.92 |
| Chips 28 | .53c | \$14.98 |
| Total | - | \$40.90 |

Critical Factor of Success

- Funding
- An approved meeting location
- Permission from a teacher or a sponsor

Obstacles

- If the principal does not allow it
- If no one shows interest in joining the group
- No funding

Lack of Housing Affordability:

Rising Prices

and

Income Stratification

Portland median home sale prices increased **32%** between 2011-2014



Median Household Incomes between 2000-2013...

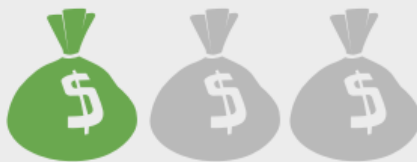
Increased for Whites
2013: \$59,758



Decreased for all communities of color
2013: \$22,000 - \$36,000



Portland rents increased **13.7%** between 2014-2015



Cash offers represented a full one-third of single-family home sales in 2014

Wages have not kept up with cost of living: Since 2009...



Portland RENT PRICES increased by **20.45%**



Portland WAGES increased by **19.53%**

SOURCES:

CNN, "Who's to blame for Portland's soaring home prices?" Feb. 5 2016

Neighborhood Pulse, "Racial and Ethnic Change" 2016

Portland Housing Bureau, "State of Housing in Portland", 2015

Portland Mercury, "Pay Up or Get Out: Unchecked Rent Increases Are Displacing Portland's Most Vulnerable", Jun. 10 2015

United Van Lines, "2015 National Movers Study", Jan. 1 2016





