

Cold weather across America is overwhelming homeless shelters

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Image 1: A homeless man bundles up for winter weather. Many cities organize coat drives to help people stay warm over the wintertime. Photo from AP.

Melinda Bowyer lives in Pennsylvania. She is an Uber driver. Usually, she gets paid to give people rides. She gives free rides to homeless people. She takes them to warm shelters.

Ms. Bowyer is known as the "Uber Queen." She gives her tip money to homeless people she meets.

The winter has been very cold for much of the country. Ms. Bowyer made a decision. She turned off her Uber app. She lets the homeless ride for free. Helping them "is the best feeling in the whole, entire world," she said. "You wouldn't believe the amount of homeless people there are."

People Step Up To Help The Homeless

Many people are stepping up. They help find a warm place for homeless people to stay on very cold nights.

Some homeless shelters are getting crowded. The shelters need food, hats, scarves and gloves. They also need more volunteers.

"It's something I don't understand. We're the richest country in the world, and yet we have to face situations such as these," said Alfred Harrison. He is a reverend in North Carolina. It has been below freezing in his area at night.



Many People Have Experienced Homelessness

People have a lot of ideas about those who are homeless. They may think all homeless people are older men. They may think that all homeless people have trouble with drugs or alcohol. These things are not true.

In fact, a new study tells a different story. The study looked at homelessness in the United States. It shows that 1 in 10 young adults has been homeless. A young adult is someone 18 to 25 years old.

Many homeless young adults are well-educated. Some have college degrees.

Some young adults are escaping a bad situation at home. Others are having a hard time finding a job and a place to live. Then, they become homeless.

A Hidden Problem

The findings "are alarming, but they're not necessarily surprising," said one of the researchers.

"Homelessness is young. It's more common than people expect, and it's largely hidden."

Homelessness is a difficult problem to solve. That's because there are so many parts to it. Which programs actually get people off the streets? What are the causes of homelessness?



Many Americans are coming together to try and fix the problem.

Quiz

- 1 Read the section "Many People Have Experienced Homelessness."
- Select the paragraph from the section that explains why some people become homeless.
- (A) People have a lot of ideas about those who are homeless. They may think all homeless people are older men. They may think that all homeless people have trouble with drugs or alcohol. These things are not true.
 - (B) In fact, a new study tells a different story. The study looked at homelessness in the United States. It shows that 1 in 10 young adults has been homeless. A young adult is someone 18 to 25 years old.
 - (C) Many homeless young adults are well-educated. Some have college degrees.
 - (D) Some young adults are escaping a bad situation at home. Others are having a hard time finding a job and a place to live. Then, they become homeless.
- 2 Which sentence from the section "A Hidden Problem" BEST explains why homelessness is a difficult problem to solve?
- (A) It's more common than people expect, and it's largely hidden.
 - (B) Homelessness is a difficult problem to solve.
 - (C) That's because there are so many parts to it.
 - (D) Many Americans are coming together to try and fix the problem.
- 3 Which event happened FIRST in the article?
- (A) Ms. Bowyer took people to homeless shelters.
 - (B) The U.S. had an abnormally cold winter.
 - (C) Homeless shelters started getting very crowded.
 - (D) Shelters needed more food and clothes.
- 4 Which sentence from the section "Many People Have Experienced Homelessness" BEST explains that homelessness has been important for young people in the United States?
- (A) It shows that 1 in 10 young adults has been homeless.
 - (B) A young adult is someone 18 to 25 years old.
 - (C) Many homeless young adults are well-educated.
 - (D) Some young adults are escaping a bad situation at home.