

## HOMELESSNESS and OUR COMMUNITY

- A high school honors student and athlete.
- A close-knit family of four.
- A blue-eyed, blonde girl entering first grade.
- An accounting professional.
- A minister with a master's degree.
- A technical engineer.
- A U.S. Army veteran.
- A single mom raising an infant while enrolled in college.

**These are our homeless neighbors.  
Not who you expected?**

Homeless people are fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters. They are friends, neighbors, co-workers and fellow congregants. They are young, old and all ages in between. Some have been homeless for many years, some for just a few months. Some "had it all," but due to a series of unfortunate circumstances, they found themselves on the streets.

Homeless people are real people who, more often than not, share upbringings, experiences and aspirations with each of us. Read their stories at [www.unexpectedfaces.org](http://www.unexpectedfaces.org).

### HOMELESSNESS IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

The 2009 Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County's Homeless Count Survey reports:

- 9,566 men, women and children are homeless in Hillsborough County on any given night
- 23 percent are children
- 57 percent are Caucasian
- 36 percent are African-American
- 14 percent are Hispanic/Latino
- 17 percent are veterans
- 88 percent became homeless in Florida
- 41 percent are homeless for the first time
- 81 percent do NOT have drug and alcohol addictions
- 63 percent do NOT suffer from mental illness
- 3 percent have the HIV/AIDS virus
- 38 percent have a physical disability
- 40 percent have some kind of income; of these, 25 percent are employed

### HOMELESSNESS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

The Florida Department of Children and Families' Office on Homelessness' *2009 Report on Homeless Conditions* in Florida States that in Florida...

- 57,687 people are homeless on any given night
- 16 percent are children
- 32 percent are women
- 9 percent report being in foster care during their lifetime
- 50 percent have never been homeless before
- 38 percent have been homeless for less than 3 months
- 68 percent have lived in their community for more than 1 year (prior to becoming & during homelessness)

Turn over for more information

*"MANY DIRECTIONS. ONE GOAL. END HOMELESSNESS."*

## HOMELESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES

The 2008 Annual Homeless Assessment Report on Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless found that in the United States:

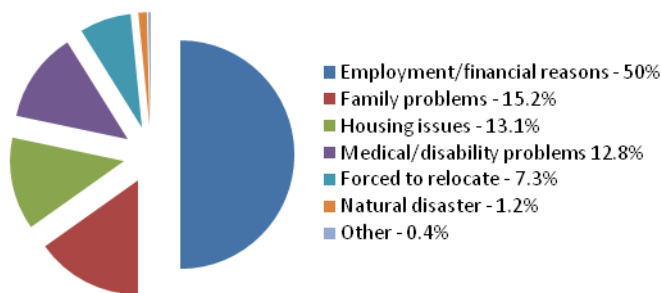
- 664,414 people were homeless on a single night in January 2008
- Three-fifths of homeless people stay in emergency shelters for less than a month and one-third stay less than a week
- Nationwide, there are approximately two beds for homeless and formerly homeless persons per 1,000 people in the United States

A report released by the National Center on Family Homelessness in early March 2009 found “more than 1.5 million children homeless annually in the United States – one in every 50 American children.”

## CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

While there is no one single cause of homelessness, the biggest contributing factor to the rising number of homeless people is **the shortage of affordable housing** for people with limited incomes and low incomes.

According to the 2009 homeless count in Hillsborough County, when asked what caused their homelessness, homeless people said:



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing is considered ‘affordable’ when a household spends no more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs (rent and utilities / mortgage, taxes, insurance and utilities).

Hourly Wage	Annual Income	Affordable Monthly Housing Cost	Hours PER week to afford FMR* <sup>2</sup>
\$ 7.25 (Minimum Wage)	\$15,080	\$377	100
\$ 8.54 (30% of AMI)	\$17,760	\$444	85
\$ 9.96	\$20,720	\$518	73
\$12.81	\$26,640	\$666	57
\$14.23	\$29,600	\$740	51
\$17.08	\$35,520	\$888	43
\$18.19 (Housing Wage)	\$37,840	\$946	40

\*Based on a 2-bedroom apartment at FMR

- A person in Hillsborough County must earn \$18.19 per hour to be able to afford a modest, two-bedroom apartment and utilities at the average market rate of \$946 per month. That is two and a half times minimum wage.<sup>1</sup>
- A disabled person, who depends on Social Security Income (SSI) and receives \$674 per month, can afford rent of no more than \$202 per month.<sup>1</sup>
- A family’s annual income with two minimum-wage earners is \$30,160, which is less than the Housing Wage in Hillsborough County.
- The Tampa Bay area will need at least 160,000 new affordable housing units by 2010; 196,000 by 2025. (Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing at the University of South Florida)

<sup>1</sup>National Low Income Housing Coalition 2009 Out of Reach Report Calculation

<sup>2</sup> 2009 Fair Market Rents (FMRs) in Hillsborough County, as determined by HUD, are:  
1 bedroom -- \$782; 2 bedrooms -- \$946; 3 bedrooms -- \$1,199; 4 bedrooms -- \$1,447