

Gerardo Ramos

November 29, 2021

ENG1121

Artist Statement

Today we are facing one of the biggest issues we have ever seen, homelessness. The homeless crisis is a major issue to worry about. With the number of those being homeless on a steady rise in recent years, we must push to stop the trend. It is our biggest moral obligation to help those who are struggling. If morality is not a moving enough point for you, then think about it in a societal way. The United States is supposed to be this great, rich, developed country, yet we have many shortcomings. If we are so rich and developed then how come we can not set the standard and make sure everyone has a roof over their head, a place to call home? To make a right to housing an actual thing across the states. If that does not move you, think about it in an economical way. There are many different ways homelessness affects the economy. For example, stress on the medical sector. Those who are homeless, whenever they get sick, they run to the emergency room. This puts strain on the emergency department, which lowers quality of care for those who need the emergency services. Which is also a reason why emergency department visits are so expensive. There are other ways solving the homeless crisis can help economically, since homelessness is a multi-tier problem that is caused by multiple factors.

This body of work is to bring more attention to the issue of homelessness. It is a collection of posters that have statistically data or other information on it that relates to homelessness. It is meant to be shown all around where it can be shown, so that people's attention is caught by it and start thinking about the issue. Then hopefully one of two things

would happen after. Either one; the person who see the work gets invested and does more research and then wants to join the fight to help end the crisis, or two; people are exposed to the issue, and next time if there is a law up for a vote or a politician going for elections, they choose the option that helps the homeless. That is the hope of the work. To plant a seed so that people can start helping end the crisis. Like mentioned above, it is a multi-tier problem and will take many people from different levels of society to help end it. More people need to be more aware of the issue, and not feed into the negative narrative that surrounds the homelessness. People tend to fall into the fallacy of thinking those who are homeless are lazy individuals. That is not the case. There are many reasons why someone is homeless. Hopefully, they can start to see that it is for the best to fight to end this crisis. To see that anything can happen and that they themselves might even be in that situation one day. No one deserves to be in the streets living, not today in the country we live in, we must aim for a better standard and surpass it.