

Top 10 Things You can do TODAY To Fight Against Poverty and Homelessness in the Upper Valley

1

READ ABOUT THE ISSUES

Two local authors have written powerful accounts of their own experience with poverty: Mary Childer's *Welfare Brat* and Michelle Kennedy's *Without a Net: Middle Class and Homeless (with Kids) in America: My Story*. We also recommend Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*.

2

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE A LOCAL ORGANIZATION'S NEWSLETTER

Call or check out the web site of a task force member's organization that calls out to you.

3

WRITE TO YOUR FEDERAL AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Support a significant increase in the federal and state minimum wage (currently \$5.15 per hour). Support federal housing assistance (Section 8 vouchers).

4

TALK WITH YOUR LOCAL PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS

Support affordable housing initiatives in your town. Support zoning that allows for cluster developments that are varied in home prices. Do not support the creation of socio-economic ghettos.

5

TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS

Tell them that you care about these issues and educate them. Share resources such as the Educational Task Force (information below).

6

GIVE TO YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL CHARITY

There are many ways of giving: financially, through clothing and food donations, or your time.

7

VOLUNTEER

There's nothing like first hand knowledge of the issues. Most organizations welcome an extra hand!

8

SUPPORT EDUCATION INITIATIVES

The cure for generational poverty is education.

9

GIVE SOMEONE IN NEED A JOB

Employers can help by hiring and mentoring individuals who want to change their lives but need to "get their foot in the door" and to receive a little guidance.

10

LISTEN

Open up to experiencing the reality of poverty. Hear the stories and the frustration so you can imagine and develop the solutions. We need new ideas.

The Educational Task Force on Homelessness and Poverty

Mission: To provide thought-provoking educational programming to inspire Upper Valley citizens to work toward eliminating poverty and homelessness in their communities.

For more information, please contact Sarah Sennott at the Upper Valley Haven:

(802) 295-6500 or sennott.uvhaven@gmail.com