



HOMELESSNESS IN MARIN

MISSION: EDUCATING AND INSPIRING COMMUNITY ACTION TO HELP PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS IN MARIN.

Homelessness in Marin

- On a single day in January 2013, 933 persons were counted as homeless.
- Families and individuals in Marin who become homeless are living in different states of homelessness; roughly 30% can be found in places not meant for human habitation such as streets, cars and camps, many live with family or friends after losing housing; others live in motels, shelters and transitional housing programs.
- Over 4,300 Marin residents were counted as "precariously housed." The majority of these individuals represent households with children. This number has increased 8% since the last Once Day Count in 2011.

Causes of Homelessness in Marin

- Marin has the highest rental market of any other county in America.
- A renter household needs one full-time job paying \$35.25 per hour in order to afford a two-bedroom rental unit in Marin. This means that rents are out of reach for many Marin workers. Those working in the retail or service industry, teachers, police and fire dispatchers, social workers, and paramedics are just some members of Marin's workforce who are struggling to make ends meet.
- A renter earning the minimum wage must work 176 hours a week (more than 24 hours a day) to afford a two-bedroom rental unit at average rent in Marin.
- The lack of affordable housing is the top reason for homelessness in Marin.

Challenges To Moving Out of Homelessness

- It is a myth that homelessness is a choice. When surveyed, the majority of those experiencing homelessness in Marin overwhelmingly say they want housing.
- The ability of an individual or family to move out of homelessness is almost solely dependent on their ability to find housing which is affordable for their income.
- The longer a person spends in homelessness the more difficult it is to move out of homelessness.
- Many individuals and families who become homeless often have poor housing histories meaning they have had frequent moves, evictions or problems establishing credit. These issues may pose a barrier to accessing housing.
- Individuals who are living in places not meant for habitation such as cars, camps, or streets—struggle to find work or secure housing as everyday is often consumed with meeting the basic needs of shelter and food.
- Families and individuals who have experienced homelessness for long periods of time often have health needs which are unmet; many suffer from chronic health issues like heart disease, diabetes and are medically fragile.

For a list of volunteer and other opportunities to help cure homelessness in Marin, visit: www.homeforallMarin.org