



# NATIONAL HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

**NOVEMBER 10-18, 2018**

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week is held each year the week before Thanksgiving. This is a time for us all to start to think about what we are thankful for, a perfect time to share our compassion with our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, and work toward a world where no one has to experience Hunger and Homelessness. Did you know now that the average age of a homeless person is **9**? Many students become homeless for various reasons; fire, flood, domestic violence, loss of income for the family. Students are homeless by living in shelters, cars, campers/tents, and even living with family or friends due to lack of housing.

From **November 12<sup>th</sup> through November 16<sup>th</sup>**, let's show our support to our friends by collecting food, hygiene items, and backpacks with school supplies to donate to our homeless students and the local rescue mission. **Donations will be picked up on the morning of November 16, 2018.**

HASD is asking students, parents, and staff to bring in non-perishable **food items** (such as cereal, mac & cheese, spaghetti, peanut butter, canned meats, canned soups, boxed meals, etc.) hygiene items (soap, shampoo, deodorant, tooth brushes, tooth paste, etc.), **backpacks with school supplies**, or gift cards to be donated to homeless students and the Rescue Mission by **11/15/18**.

Please drop off your donations in the main office for your school building during school hours. You can also drop off donations at the Fullington Bus Garage at 240 Patchway Road, Duncansville, PA 16635 (call Sally at 693-7630) from 11/12/18 to 11/15/18 for drop off between 10 am and 1pm. Our goal is to fill a small school bus with donations.

**Thank you for your support!**

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## *My Days of Now*

*Five wood beams support my back while I sleep. They seat my bottom and seven beams support my back while I'm awake.*

*The nights are frozen; my blanket is near itchy Swiss cheese. I wake through the night cold, so I cling tighter, as I fold a hole to keep some warmth.*

*In the morning when I rise, I sneak off to the gas station to wash up and change. From there I walk down the street and stop in front of a dumpster. I look up, down, and up the street again. On top sits a half-eaten piece of pizza that has a banana peel and soup can sleeping in the cheese. Once more I look, then pick off the can and the peel. The pizza satisfies for now, though my stomach hurts later.*

*If I am lucky, I'll find something else before the night comes and I return to my metal arched rail sided bed.*

*My back is stiff and hurts. I arch back till I hear and feel a crack. I then sigh and grab my blanket from a tree. My bed is cold and my heart is crying.*

*This is my life. But once it wasn't. Once it was filled with love and warmth.*

*Oh how I wish to return.*

*-Unknown Author*