

# 10 Ways to Help Homeless Individuals

**1) Resist the urge to give cash to a panhandler.** Cash contributions to solicitors often enable self-destructive behaviors. Give a hand up, not a hand out. Most panhandlers are not actually homeless.

**2) Smile.** Homeless individuals are used to body language and words that chip away at optimism and hope. Civility and politeness can help restore dignity.

**3) Encourage homeless people to get help through local service providers.** Free meals, shelter, clothing, medical care and other services are available every day right in our community. Refer people who need help to service providers to get help from trained professionals.

**4) Get to know what programs are out there.** Many organizations provide for daily needs including mental health care, childcare, job training and addiction recovery services. Contact existing providers to learn more and see how to support the good work they are already doing.

**5) Give generously to support homeless service providers.** Service providers depend on help from caring individuals, churches, businesses and civic groups from our community to care for homeless individuals. Your contributions will help homeless people rebuild their lives. You can donate directly to the organization of your choice listed below or through **slchost.org**.

**6) Donate food and other supplies.** Individuals sometimes offer food, clothing or toiletries directly to homeless individuals. While it may feel like you are helping, it's better to coordinate directly with service providers to make sure that your donation will do the most good for the most people. For food donations, please donate directly to the *Dinner at Vinny's* program to help them provide meals to all who need it 365 days a year.

**7) Volunteer.** Many of the service providers rely on volunteers to help run their programs. Serve dinner or help with activities or other programming. There are many ways to help, find out how by contacting a provider below.

**8) Start a community service project.** Organize a donation drive or put on a fundraiser. Ask service providers about the greatest needs right now and organize your friends, family and neighbors to help support larger community efforts.

**9) Become informed and advocate.** Homeless individuals are not all the same. The person you meet may be mentally ill, struggling with addiction, or someone who's lost a job or their housing. Tell your elected representatives that you value programs that reduce poverty and assist people in recovery.

**10) Involve the police.** If you witness a crime or are concerned for someone's safety or your own, call Salt Lake City Police dispatch at 801-799-3000. Dial 911 for emergencies.

Contact one of the listed service providers for more ideas, they are always looking for help:

**CCS Weigand Homeless  
Day Center**

[www.ccsutah.org/programs](http://www.ccsutah.org/programs)

**Dinner at Vinny's**

[www.dinneratvinnys.org](http://www.dinneratvinnys.org)

**Crossroads Urban Center**

[www.crossroadsurbancenter.org](http://www.crossroadsurbancenter.org)

**Fourth Street Clinic**

[www.fourthstreetclinic.org](http://www.fourthstreetclinic.org)

**Homeless Youth Resource Center**

[www.voaut.org](http://www.voaut.org)

**Rescue Mission**

[www.rescuesaltlake.org](http://www.rescuesaltlake.org)

**The Road Home**

[www.theroadhome.org](http://www.theroadhome.org)

**Utah Food Bank**

[www.utahfoodbank.org](http://www.utahfoodbank.org)

**Veterans Affairs**

[www.saltlakecity.va.gov](http://www.saltlakecity.va.gov)

**Volunteers of America  
Homeless Outreach**

[www.voaut.org/services](http://www.voaut.org/services)

Visit **SLCHOST.ORG** for more information on how to donate or learn more about our local homeless service providers.



**HOST**  
Homeless Outreach Service Team

# Some Great Things are Already Happening

## Salt Lake City's Homeless Services Strategy:

- **House 20.** Based on the successful Housing Veterans initiative of November 2013, Salt Lake City and its partners will get 20 individuals most in need into housing.
- **Housing First.** Salt Lake City and partners will develop 300 new housing units for homeless individuals and families.
- **Weigand Center.** Enhanced programming, hours, services to entice people to the homeless resource center and off the streets.
- **Metro Support Bureau.** 79 police officers in Pioneer Park neighborhood 24/7, practicing community policing.
- **New Community Activities.** New programs at Pioneer Park, including the Utah Trapeze company, Yappy Hours at the off-leash park, and vintage car rallies.
- **HOST Campaign.** Increasing the number of HOST meters and expanding ways to give.
- **Resource Guide.** New groups will know the best ways to give back by learning what's already happening in homeless services.
- **Community Services Planning.** Homeless services community is creating a central vision so services are coordinated and not duplicated.
- **Resource Fair.** Salt Lake City Library and VOA are teaming up to offer a resource fair at the Main Library in November. Different employment, housing and service providers will be in attendance.
- **Leonardo Exhibit.** In November, the Leonardo is hosting an exhibit showcasing the voices of homeless individuals to humanize the issue.
- **SET Teams.** New outreach effort in the Pioneer Park neighborhood to engage people into services and off the streets. It's a partnership between The Road Home, Volunteers of America, Salt Lake County, Council of Governments and Salt Lake City.
- **Downtown Clean Team.** Employment program that employs currently or formerly homeless individuals to clean up the Pioneer Park Neighborhood and surrounding area.

Visit **SLCHOST.ORG** for more information on how to donate or learn more about our local homeless service providers.



**HOST**  
Homeless Outreach Service Team