

We've all been there.

You walk or drive past someone holding a sign asking for help. Your heart breaks for them. But you're not sure how best to help them.

Do you give them money? What's the best way to show them true compassion?



Changing the Future of the Homeless...
One Life at a Time

HOW TO (REALLY!) HELP A HOMELESS PERSON

Here's what to do (and NOT to do) when you see a homeless person on the street.

WHAT TO DO

1. ACKNOWLEDGE THEM/TREAT THEM WITH DIGNITY

Say hello. Make eye contact. Smile. If the situation feels safe (public, in daylight), take a little time to talk with them. A brief conversation in a friendly, respectful manner often restores their dignity and may also lift their spirits, as many of them battle depression, loneliness and other struggles.

2. BE PREPARED TO HELP BY GIVING FOOD/SUPPLIES

Offer an alternative to giving money by keeping "help packs" with important food and supplies in your car trunk, purse or other carry-all bag when you go out. When you encounter someone who needs help, you'll be ready!

3. DIRECT THEM TO THE UNION RESCUE MISSION

Print and include the following form in your "help pack" – it lists some of the Union Rescue Mission's services and programs.

WHAT NOT TO DO

1. HAND OUT MONEY

You want to help them because your heart breaks. But the gift from your heart may go toward drugs or alcohol – exactly what you don't want! Giving them money often means they won't get the help they really need.

2. GO SOMEWHERE PRIVATE

Use discernment, especially if you're alone. Stay in public areas, in daylight when possible, and make sure other people can see you. Don't give anyone a ride – it's better to provide a bus pass and directions to the Union Rescue Mission.

HELP IS HERE

Check out help available to you at the Union Rescue Mission.

no alcohol/drugs policy on our premises.

CREATE A HELP PACK!

The following form (pages 2-3) is a printable handout with important information about services and programs at the Union Rescue Mission. Combine it with a bus pass and a food item like a protein bar or crackers, and give this "help pack" to the men and women you encounter on the street.

BY BEING PREPARED, YOU'LL OFFER HOMELESS PEOPLE REAL HELP, NOT A HANDOUT.

cut along line

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(316) 687-4673 | urmwichita.org

All services are provided free of charge because of the caring and generous people in Wichita.

cut along line

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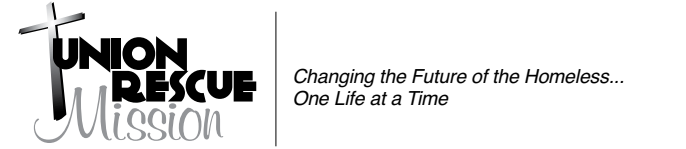
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Meals | 2800 N. Hillside, Wichita, KS 67219

Breakfast, lunch & dinner provided daily for men staying at the shelter or in the New Beginnings program

Overnight Shelter for men | 2800 N. Hillside; private buses provide free transportation between downtown Wichita (pick-up at 2nd & Topeka) and the shelter twice each evening and twice each morning

Other services available at 2800 N. Hillside, Wichita
Free food boxes | Call **(316) 687-4673** on Monday mornings to schedule an appointment to receive a box Wed-Thurs afternoon of the same week

To ensure safety and comfort for others, there is a no alcohol/drugs policy on our premises.

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