

RESOURCES for the Unhoused in Cleveland

Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless

Since 1987, NEOCH has sought to break the cycle of homelessness in Northeast Ohio. We exist to eliminate the root causes of homelessness while loving our diverse community through organizing, advocacy, education, and street outreach.

Address: 3631 Perkins Ave, Suite 3A-3, Cleveland, OH 44114

Office Phone: 216-432-0540

Email: neoch@neoch.org

Hours: Our office is open from 9 am-5 pm, Monday through Friday. We are closed on New Year's Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Thursday, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

Contacting Other Agencies: For referrals to shelter: Call Coordinated Intake at (216) 674-6700

For referrals to other health & social service providers: Call 2-1-1

Cleveland, Ohio Homeless Shelter List <https://www.shelterlist.com/city/oh-cleveland>

Family Promise of Greater Cleveland 3470 E 152nd Lisa Fritz, Volunteer and Donor Relations Coordinator at 216-325-1390

We provide families facing the crisis of homelessness with a safe place designed to engage, inspire, and guide them toward a future where they feel empowered to control the course of their lives.

Homeless Stand Down. April 26, 2025 • 10AM-2PM • Cleveland Public Auditorium

Hosted by Business Volunteers Unlimited, this powerful event unites dozens of local nonprofits and hundreds of volunteers to provide resources, respite, and reconnection to individuals experiencing homelessness. To Volunteer, contact Jack Breisch.

Labre Outreach Ministry of FHC

An outreach ministry under the auspices of FHC, served in East Cleveland for more than a decade — first with the Salvation Army street-canteen and then as a sponsoring partner at Our Family Home Center, a drop-in community center at the corner of Euclid and Lee. In January 2020, Our Family Home Center was destroyed when a van crashed through its front wall. Since that time, Labre ministry leaders have been seeking new mission partners. One opportunity was working with Pastor Anthony Mattox at the Empowerment Church in East Cleveland, assisting with outreach projects, and helping to restore their historic building on Euclid Avenue.

Then in the spring of 2023, a new opportunity for ministry emerged at North Presbyterian Church, one of the last urban churches in our Presbytery. North Church has its origins in the mid-19th century, thriving for many years in an historic building at the corner of Euclid and East 40th Street, a building now empty. In its struggle to exist and without a building of its own, North has been “adopted” by both the Presbytery of the Western Reserve and by Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, a social service agency located just a few blocks east of the original North church. In the new LMM building, North has its own entrance, a dedicated worship space and common room, and it has access to a large, industrial, multi-purpose kitchen. North Church's less than 100 members, are mostly men and women who are experiencing deep poverty and homelessness. Many of them come from the nearby shelters and off the street. The longtime pastor of North Church is the Reverend Charles Hurst.

To learn how to join our team at First Church speak to Jack Breisch.

Learn more by reading

Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder

Tracy Kidder has been described by *The Baltimore Sun* as “a master of the nonfiction narrative.” In *Rough Sleepers*, Kidder tells the story of Dr. Jim O’Connell, a gifted man who invented a community of care for a city’s unhoused population, including those who sleep on the streets — the “rough sleepers.” After Jim O’Connell graduated from Harvard Medical School and was nearing the end of his residency, the hospital’s chief of medicine made a proposal: Would he defer a prestigious fellowship and spend a year helping to create an organization to bring healthcare to homeless citizens? That year turned into O’Connell’s life’s calling. Tracy Kidder spent five years following Dr. O’Connell and his colleagues as they work with thousands of homeless patients, some of whom we meet in this illuminating book.

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City (2016) by Matthew Desmond

Sociologist Matthew Desmond explores the experiences of eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep their housing. Supported by years of research and fieldwork, these personal stories of tenants and landlords demonstrates how much housing access affects the poor. While there’s still a misconception that homelessness is always the result of certain choices, *Evicted* shows that isn’t the case. The majority of poor renters spend over half of their income on housing and are constantly faced with the risk of eviction. In addition to chronicling the families’ stories, Desmond presents solutions for one of modern America’s most serious social issues.

Evicted was named one of the best books of 2016 by several publications including NPR, The New Yorker, Fortune, and The New York Times Book Review. Matthew Desmond is a sociology professor at Princeton University and recipient of a MacArthur Genius Fellowship. As the principal investigator at The Eviction Lab, Desmond focuses his research on American poverty, housing insecurity, racial inequality, and more.

No Room Of Her Own: Women’s Stories of Homelessness, Life, Death & Resistance (2011) by Desiree Hellegers

Hearing directly from people who have experienced homelessness is the best way to learn what it’s really like. In this collection, fifteen women share their stories. The accounts come from interviews held in Seattle, Washington over 20 years. The women come from across the United States and recount experiences like living in the South at the end of the Jim Crow era, surviving childhood abuse, and growing up gay and black in the 1960s. Their stories are about much more than just being homeless; they are activists and survivors.

Desiree Hellegers is a co-founder of the Collective for Social and Environmental Justice at Washington State University Vancouver, where she is also an affiliated faculty. She is also an associate English professor.

Tell Them Who I Am: The Lives Of Homeless Women (1993) by Elliot Liebow

Though published almost 30 years ago, this book about homeless women in Washington, D.C. still has a lot to offer. It provides an intimate look at the lives of women and the relationships they build while staying in shelters. The book takes an hour-by-hour approach, putting the reader right there with the women. It smashes the myth that homeless Center for the Study of Work and Mental Health at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Throughout his career, he earned many awards, such as the John W. Macy Award from the National Alliance to End Homelessness. He died in 1994.

Housing First: Ending Homelessness, Transforming Systems, and Changing Lives (2015) –by Deborah Padgett, Benjamin Henwood, and Sam Tsemberis

Housing First is an evidence-based approach to ending homelessness. It began in New York City in 1992 and has since been adopted in cities both nationally and internationally. HF represents an alternative to shelters and transitional housing programs. This book explores the history of homelessness, the “homeless industry” of religious, nonprofit, and advocacy organizations, and research on HF’s results. Anyone interested in learning more about different solutions to homelessness should read this book.

Dr. Deborah Padgett is an author and qualitative methodologist recognized for her research on homelessness. Dr. Benjamin Henwood, assistant professor of social work at the University of Southern California, is an expert on mental health and housing services research. Dr. Sam Tsemberis is the originator of Housing First and on the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry at the Columbia University Medical Center.

No House To Call My Home: Love, Family, and Other Transgressions (2015) by Ryan Berg

Written from his experiences at two group homes for LGBTQ+ youth, Ryan Berg brings attention to the seriousness of homeless LGBTQ+ youth. These young people are often forced to choose between coming out or losing their homes, families, and other basic needs. Violence is also an issue. In addition to sharing stories of the youth he’s worked with, Berg discusses issues like institutional homophobia and transphobia, which fuel the homelessness crisis.

Ryan Berg is an activist, writer, and program manager for the ConneQT Host Home Program of Avenues for Homeless Youth. *No House To Call My Home* won the 2016 Minnesota Book Award for General Nonfiction and was listed among the Top 10 LGBTQ Books of 2016 by the American Library Association. Berg’s writing has appeared in publications like Salon, The Sun, Slate, and Dignity.

Dignity by Chris Arnade

After abandoning his Wall Street career, Chris Arnade decided to document poverty and addiction in the Bronx. He began interviewing, photographing, and becoming close friends with homeless addicts and spent hours in drug dens and McDonald’s. Then he started driving across America to see how the rest of the country compared. He found the same types of stories everywhere, across lines of race, ethnicity, religion, and geography. With stark photo essays and unforgettable true stories, Chris Arnade cuts through “expert” pontification on inequality, addiction, and poverty to allow those who have been left behind to define themselves on their own terms.

When We Walk By by Kevin F. Adler and Donald W. Burnes

Think about the last time that you saw or interacted with an unhoused person. What did you do? What did you say? Did you offer money or a smile, or did you avert your gaze? *When We Walk By* takes an urgent look at homelessness in America, showing us what we lose — in ourselves and as a society — when we choose to walk past and ignore our neighbors in shelters, insecure housing, or on the streets. A necessary, deeply humanizing read that goes beyond theory and policy analysis to offer engaged solutions with compassion and heart.

Invisible Child by Andrea Elliott

In *Invisible Child*, Pulitzer Prize winner Andrea Elliott follows eight dramatic years in the life of Dasani, a girl whose imagination is as soaring as the skyscrapers near her Brooklyn shelter. In this sweeping narrative, Elliott weaves the story of Dasani’s childhood with the history of her ancestors, tracing their passage from slavery to the Great Migration north. As Dasani comes of age, New York City’s homeless crisis has exploded, deepening the chasm between rich and poor. She must guide her siblings through a world riddled with hunger, violence,

racism, drug addiction, and the threat of foster care. When she finally escapes city life to enroll in a boarding school, she faces an impossible question: What if leaving poverty means abandoning your family, and yourself?

The Broken Ladder by Keith Payne

The levels of inequality in the world today are on a scale that has not been seen in our lifetimes, yet the disparity between rich and poor has ramifications that extend far beyond mere financial means. In *The Broken Ladder* psychologist Keith Payne examines how inequality divides us not just economically; it also has profound consequences for how we think, how we respond to stress, how our immune systems function, and even how we view moral concepts such as justice and fairness.

Invisible Americans by Jeff Madrick

By official count, more than one out of every six American children live beneath the poverty line. But statistics alone tell little of the story. In *Invisible Americans*, Jeff Madrick brings to light the often invisible reality and irreparable damage of child poverty in America. Keeping his focus on the children, he examines the roots of the problem, including the toothless remnants of our social welfare system, entrenched racism, and a government unmotivated to help the most voiceless citizens.

Hand to Mouth by Linda Tirado

Linda Tirado tells what it's like, day after day, to work, eat, shop, raise kids, and keep a roof over your head without enough money. She also answers questions often asked about those who live on or near minimum wage: Why don't they get better jobs? Why don't they make better choices? Why do they smoke cigarettes and have ugly lawns? Why don't they borrow from their parents? Enlightening and entertaining, *Hand to Mouth* opens up a new and much-needed dialogue between the haves and have-nots.

Rachel and Her Children by Jonathan Kozol

As one of America's foremost education scholars, Jonathan Kozol (known for *Death at an Early Age* and *Savage Inequalities*) also recognizes the challenges that homelessness brings to bear on American families. This 1988 title remains sadly relevant almost thirty years later. Pulling from his months he spent interacting with homeless men, women, and children, Kozol paints a stark portrait of life on the streets. The immediacy of his writing brings an unflinching eye to the issue of homelessness as a nightmare that cannot be ignored.

Palaces for the People by Eric Klinenberg

In *Palaces for the People*, Eric Klinenberg suggests a way forward. He believes that the future of democratic societies rests not simply on shared values but on shared spaces: the libraries, childcare centers, churches, and parks where crucial connections are formed. Interweaving his own research with examples from around the globe, Klinenberg shows how "social infrastructure" is helping to solve some of our most pressing societal challenges. Richly reported and ultimately uplifting, *Palaces for the People* offers a blueprint for bridging our seemingly unbridgeable divides.

Tales of Two Americas Stories of Inequality in a Divided Nation Edited by John Freeman

From Appalachia to the Rust Belt and down to rural Texas, the gap between the wealthiest and the poorest stretches to unimaginable chasms. In *Tales of Two Americas*, some of the literary world's most exciting writers look beyond numbers and wages to convey what it feels like to live in this divided nation. Their extraordinarily powerful stories, essays, and poems demonstrate how boundaries break down when experiences are shared, and that in sharing our stories we can help to alleviate a suffering that touches so many people.

Kicked Out edited by Sassafras Lowry

An anthology of stories about homelessness amongst LGBTQ youth, this book is an important vehicle for the voices of youth who have experienced homelessness because of their sexual orientation or transition. The stories touch not just on the homeless epidemic faced by teens within the LGBTQ community, but also address topics like access to mental health services, high rates of suicide by LGBTQ youth, and the violence gender nonconforming people face in society.