



Myths vs. Truths About Homelessness



Each person has a very different perspective on homelessness. Unfortunately, there are many widespread misconceptions about homelessness and the cause of it.



Myth #1: Homeless people don't want to change.

Truth: Last year, we had 403 people complete a needs assessment upon arriving at our campuses. The assessment helped our staff to identify each person's specific needs in the following areas – physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially, and vocationally. We had 648 people graduate from the Make Progress phase of our program, and participate in services that prepared them to re-enter the world, and 349 people ended their homelessness and are now living self-sufficiently. [You can read about our full Transformation Model here.](#)

Myth #2: Bad choices led them to homelessness.

Truth: People face homelessness for a variety of reasons, and one of the most common things we see is a lack of trustworthy relationships, not bad choices. For many people facing homelessness, there is a history of trauma and unhealthy relationships in their past and they haven't been able to properly deal with it. [Read why building trustworthy relationships is so important to those facing homelessness.](#)



Myth #3: Homeless people don't want to get a job.

Truth: Beginning in June 2019, Atlanta Mission partnered with Cara, a leading Chicago-based workforce development enterprise, to integrate their vocational training and job placement model, which achieves 70% one-year job retention rates at a livable rate of pay. Our implementation of their model is called Atlanta Mission @Work. Our Vocational Training Coaches work to help our clients gain skills, excel in the interview process, and connect with future employers. We've already had 50 graduates and plan to see 100 graduates per year.

Myth #4: The majority of people experiencing homelessness are men.

Truth: Last year, close to 4,000 women and children came to us seeking shelter. [My Sister's House](#) is our shelter for only women and children. We are also opening a new shelter for women and children in August called Restoration House. You can [read more about the new shelter here.](#)

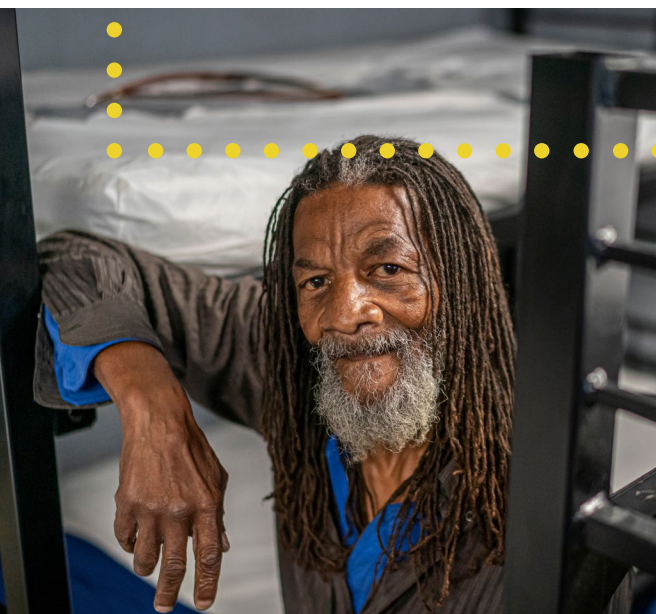


Myth #5: The majority of homeless people abuse alcohol and drugs.

Truth: Of the vulnerable men and women we serve, 28% have experienced drug or alcohol abuse. [The National Coalition for the Homeless](#) reports that “38% of homeless people are alcohol dependent, and 26% are dependent on other harmful chemicals.” It is certainly not the majority, and we have counselors ready to help those looking to overcome their addictions. Plus, [The Potter’s House](#), our facility in Jefferson, GA, focuses on helping men facing alcohol or drug addiction.

Myth #6: If they just got a job, they’d be fine.

Truth: For many, getting a job is difficult without transportation to get to the job. On top of that, many do not have proper clothes to wear to job interviews or a required form of identification. Once they get a job, it may not be enough money to pay for rent. Our goal is to help our clients first address the underlying cause of their homelessness. Then, we can help them find employment and stable housing. Last year, we saw 54 clients obtain employment.



Myth #7: Homeless shelters enable homelessness.

Truth: Our transformation model works to transform, through Christ, the lives of those facing homelessness. Our dedicated staff is committed to helping our clients identify the root causes of their homelessness and overcome any traumatic experiences so that by the time they leave our facility, they are equipped with the tools they need to be independent and the encouragement they need to permanently break the cycle of poverty in their lives.

Myth #8: I can’t make a difference.

Truth: Every single donor, volunteer, and staff member makes a difference in the lives of those facing homelessness. Your donation helps to serve meals and provide services that help others create change in their lives, and that encourages them that someone else believes in them. Your support really does help change the world, one person at a time.