

*The Committee to Put the Heart Back into the Heart of the Bay  
2997 Hardeman Street, Hayward 94541  
(510) 342-2510*

***POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS IN OUR MIDST: END THEM NOW!  
(NOT BY CRIMINALIZING THEM!)***

*According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, over 640,000 people experience homelessness on any given night in the US.*

About 62,000 or 13% of all homeless persons are veterans

According to estimates from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a family with a full-time worker making minimum wage could not afford fair-market rent for a two bedroom apartment *anywhere* in the U.S.

The lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest factors behind homelessness.

Veterans are a specific demographic when it comes to homelessness, frequently caused by disabilities from their experience on the battlefield. Physical injuries, post-traumatic stress and mental suffering are just a few of the wartime after effects that drive the population of homeless veterans.

The Torah: "Tzedakah," or "righteousness" -- doing the right thing.  
"Tzedek, tzedek you shall pursue" -- justice justice you shall pursue (Deut. 16:20).  
Reach out to others. Do what you can to help. Tikkun Olam: repairing the world.

Isaiah 58:7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Matthew 25:35: For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'...

Hinduism, via Gandhi: Poverty is the worst form of violence.

Islam: the Prophet Mohammad Sallalallahu Alayhi wa Sallam is reported to have said, "*He is not a Muslim who goes to bed satiated while his neighbor goes hungry*".

Baha'i: You must turn attention more earnestly to the betterment of the conditions of the poor. Do not be satisfied until each one with whom you are concerned is to you as a member of your family. Regard each one either as a father, or as a brother, or as a sister, or as a mother, or as a child. If you can attain to this, your difficulties will vanish, you will know what to do. This is the teaching of Bahá'u'lláh.