

# Information Guide

## Topic: Emergency Shelters

**Who?**- The amount of time people stay at a homeless shelter can range from a few months to a few years. People who stay at homeless shelters usually stay for enough time until they can get a job and back on their feet.

**Where?**- Emergency shelters can be anywhere and the number of them in the United States is steadily increasing.

**When?**- To know when to volunteer, look up the hours of the shelter you will volunteer at. Also, meals are good to volunteer to host and usually the holidays like Christmas are the best times to serve a meal to the homeless.

**What?**- Emergency shelters can range in sizes and content. Some shelters have only a few rooms and some have many rooms and activities like tutoring.

**Why?**- It is important to help your community. Put yourself in the shoes of a homeless person. Wouldn't you want someone to help you?

**How?**- Emergency shelters rely on funding whether it be the government or private donations. They also rely on volunteers to run the shelters and provide food.

### Before:

Talk about the activity you will be doing and come up with some conversation starters if you will be interacting with people. For example, "What's your favorite book?" or "What's your favorite sport?"

### During:

Take notes about the different experiences you had.

## After:

Talk about your influence on the community and how you helped. Discuss what you learned and what else you can do to help emergency shelters.

## Resources:

- *A Shelter In Our Care* By Monica Gunning

This book is about a mother and her daughter living in their car while going to school and trying to make a better life for themselves. Grades 1-3