Helping Homeless Families in the Seattle Area

Homeless families ARE defined as “young women with children under age 10,” and are steadily increasing throughout the country (Haber et al.). Most homeless families are found in urban areas but tend to be homeless for only short bursts of time (Haber et al.). They also tend to come from homes that are abusive of drugs or physically abusive (Bassuk). The Union Gospel Mission (UGM) in Seattle, Washington is dedicated to aiding homelessness as effectively as it can. The organization provides temporary housing, food, and rehabilitation for homeless people who are accepted into their program.

I have experience working in the Reno Gospel Mission while on a mission trio in Reno, Nevada. I saw many homeless families and their presence sparked my interest in how the Union Gospel Mission works to end homelessness in Seattle. I am from the Seattle area and I enjoy working with women and children when I have the chance. These are the main reasons why I would like to research the impact UGM has on homeless families.

Homelessness can occur from many different issues. Families struck by homelessness are in desperate need of help because the children within those families are usually very young. Children who are members of a homeless family will most likely not have a father, and the mother tends to be a younger woman (Haber et al.). The UGM is a necessary resource for those living on the streets, especially those with children.

The main question of this essay is: what are the best ways to aid homeless families and, more specifically, how can the Union Gospel Mission of Seattle improve their aid to homeless families? How can UGM use their funds to best cater to the needs of homeless families in the Seattle area? Efficiently and effectively aiding homeless families can be difficult. because each family has specific needs depending on the ages and physical conditions of the children. Homeless children tend to be infants and toddlers (Haber et al.). This means that the UGM must have resources that can cater to the needs of young children, such as a safe shelter and good nutrition. The research I will be conducting will be centered on how to best allocate funds and resources to better aid the homeless families that come through the Union Gospel Mission each day.

Considering my preliminary research, the UGM provides housing, food, and addiction counseling for the people who live in their shelters. According to WHAT, the Union Gospel Mission “offers diverse, compassionate options for people seeking shelter from the streets, a place to live and re-build their lives, or a place to call home and raise their family” (Union). The Union Gospel Mission serves three meals a day to women and their children, and provides an emergency housing center specifically for women and children (Union). In 2014, the UGM brought in $21,786,000, $18,915,000 of which paid for food, housing, and counseling (Union). I am looking deeper into how much of their expenditures impact the women and children’s services and to see how they can better allocate their funds to give these people the best care they can get.

Using my own experiences paired with new research of homeless families in general and the information on the Union Gospel Mission of Seattle’s website, I will dig deeper into the needs of homeless families and how to give them the best aid they can get from the funds of the UGM. I also am striving to learn more about this issue and how I can help to give aid to homeless children and families. I want to shed light on this issue and hope to educate more people about it and how it is made possible. I hope to study this topic and bring new information to the table about how to give homeless families a chance in the world and the ways that it is possible to give them concrete support.

Works Cited

Bassuk, Ellen, Carmela DeCandia, Alexander Tsertsvadze, Molly Richard. “The effectiveness of housing interventions and housing and service interventions on ending family homelessness: A systematic review.” *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 84.5 (457-474): Sep. 2014. Web. 8 Feb. 2015.

Haber, Mason, Paul Toro. “Homelessness Among Families, Children, and Adolescents: An Ecological–Developmental Perspective”. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review* 7.3 (123-156): Sep. 2004. Print. 8 Feb. 2014.

Union Gospel Mission. *Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission*. n.p. n.d.Web. 8 Feb. 2015. <<http://www.ugm.org/site/PageServer?pagename=about>>.

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|  | Outstanding | Strong | Good | Acceptable | Inadequate |
| The rhetorical choices you make are appropriate for your intended audience, which should scholars in a specific academic discipline |  |  | X—there are a lot of good rhetorical moves here appropriate for an academic audience, while there are still some that are too conversational or more appropriate for a larger audience and/or general public. Be mindful of the audience you are writing for when deciding what information to include or not and how to phrase that information. |  |  |
| You do a good job of summarizing the research you’ve already read and include only information relevant to your project to prove that it is a worthwhile and rich issue to pursue. You use MLA citation and formatting correctly. |  |  | X—you give some good information from your sources, but I would have liked to see more general/cited information on the best practices for serving homeless families specifically. |  |  |
| Your proposed topic is clear, complex, and specific as are your research questions, working thesis, and road map. |  |  | X—it is very clear that you want to research how UGM serves homeless families and how it can improve its allocation of funds and services in order to better meet the needs of this community. A few points: I wouldn’t rely on your personal experience to make this case, but better incorporate information from reputable sources on serving these communities. Also: the organization of this proposal was a bit stream of consciousness and could have been structured a bit more effectively and with more focus and with maybe a bit less personal experience. |  |  |
| Your writing is concise and precise and it flows well from sentence to sentence, paragraph to paragraph. There are few mechanical or grammatical errors |  | X-strong writing, a few spots with awkward phrasing, wordiness, and a couple run ons, but it was over all fine. |  |  |  |