Family Homelessness: An Annotated Bibliography

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. 2015.

Haber and Toro are psychologists and in their paper they examine the dynamics of homeless people. I focused on the section of family homelessness. They examine why and how people get caught up in homelessness and how families become homeless. They use statistics of homelessness and the increase of homeless families as well as studies done on homeless families and how they got on the street. Most families are driven to the street by an abusive or unstable father and husband. Women and children need a safe place off the streets to live because many homeless families are ravaged by drugs and mental instability. Homeless mothers also show less compassion and warmth to their children which can cause problems in child development. After addressing the causes and effects of family homelessness, Haber and Toro introduce multiple ideas for intervention and policy. They examine different types of housing that a shelter could implement into their program. The most common type of housing is emergency housing because it is short-term and relatively cheap for the shelter due to its small nightly capacity. The paper ends with a call to action to aid homeless families and adolescents. This paper is a bit dated, but it holds information that is still valuable today. The ideas introduced by Haber and Toro can still be implemented in homelessness aid today.

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

This is the website for the Seattle Union Gospel Mission, which is the main focus of my paper and will therefore provide me with background information on this organization. The website has many different resources to learn more about their purpose, history, and services. On their page on “homelessness,” they describe their efforts to give transitional housing, meals, and emergency housing to anyone living on the streets. Families are given three “nutritious” meals a day and are able to have a safe place to sleep in their Belltown and South Seattle shelters. The website is mainly directed at those who are currently homeless or those wanting to help the homeless. They also post their annual report, which consists of their efforts that year and their financial report. Food and shelter accounts for about 82% of the annual budget. There is not much specification of how much goes towards the women and children shelters. This website is particularly helpful when researching what types of aid this organization offers to homeless families living on the streets of Seattle.

Brush, Barbara, Elizabeth Grim, Laura Gultekin. “Do Policies Aimed Toward the Homeless Help Families? The Detroit Experience”. *Journal of Policy Practice* 14.1 (1-13): Jan. 2015. Web. 11 Feb. 2015.

Brush, Grim, and Gultekin examine policies implemented in order to deal with homelessness and the impact they have on homeless families. The researchers focused on housing policies and how to make the policies known at the shelter. They researched focus groups of homeless mothers, who discussed their views on homelessness policies. The research found that policies need to be advocated for mothers to understand what kind of help their family will be given at the shelter. They argue that policymakers must collaborate to make policies that are effective and efficient in improving the health and well-being of homeless families. The piece concludes with a call to all policymakers to improve policies surrounding homelessness. This study will help drive my argument because it was found that homeless shelters do not advertise their policies and mothers of homeless families are unsure of what they will get from the shelter. I can use this information to build my case about implementing policies that are easy to understand and are clearly stated in the shelter. All three authors work in the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan. Barbara Brush is an Associate Professor, Laura Gultekin has a Ph.D. and is an Associate Research Scientist, and Elizabeth Grim is a Policy Analyst. Their professions all bring a new insight to policies surrounding homeless people’s well-being.

The National Center on Family Homelessness. *American Institutes for Research.* Jorley Media, 2015. Web. 16 Feb. 2015.

This webpage is a helpful site for investigating the basics of family homelessness and how it occurs. In the article “What is Family Homelessness?” the causes and effects of family homelessness are examined. The basic argument of the article is that family homelessness is growing and there needs to be some way to stop it. This site is concerned with the health and well-being of homeless families, it explains that homelessness can cause the family to “dissolve” due to the high amounts of stress put on the mother to take care of the family. The site also contains some of the projects that are underway by the National Canter on Family Homelessness. One of which is called SHIFT, a study on the types of housing that can be offered by homeless shelter and their effectiveness in getting families off the streets. This is a study that I will use in my paper because it deeply examines three different levels of family housing; emergency housing, transitional housing, and permanent housing. I am able to look at this study for some answers as to what kind of housing should the Union Gospel Mission implement. The site is authored by the National Center on Family Homelessness which is an institution that is dedicated to helping families struck by homelessness. The NCFH has multiple projects that are currently involved with housing for homeless families. They provide emergency, transitional, and permanent supportive housing for women and children of all ages.