

### **Everybody Needs A Home**

Michelle Kenedy was just 25 years old when she became homeless with three children under the age of six. She began living in her car in Seaside, Maine, and worked extra hours to provide for her children. She was persistent in her search for an affordable apartment, but could not find one. Whenever she found an affordable apartment she was turned down by landlords who were worried she would not be able to pay the rent. She and her children struggled to fight the trauma of homelessness. After a year she was extremely heartbroken about the life they were living and was always in fear of how much longer she could put up with this.

Michelle Kenedy is just one person out of the millions in the United States. According to The National Alliance To End Homelessness, "Over half a million people go homeless on a single night in the United States." Of these people, approximately 33% are families that need a permanent home. When living with a family you need a stable apartment, for the government run shelters shelters will not provide everything you need to thrive, and live a healthy and successful life. Finding a stable apartment can be a strenuous task. "As of 2016, nearly 44 million Americans were burdened by the cost of housing, a figure which has been on the rise since 2003."

NY Mayor Bill de Blasio continuously has said he will do something about affordable housing, but he never followed through. According to a New York Times article, "Mayor Bill de Blasio has faced deepening criticism that his plan to create more affordable housing, a signature effort of his administration, has done little to help people move from shelters into stable homes." De Blasios' plan was to push developers of affordable-housing projects to leave 15 percent of the units for the homeless. Not only was he not living up to what he said he would do, but he was making things even worse, "About 79,000 people now live in New York's shelters or streets, up from about 64,000 people the year before Mr. de Blasio took office."

We need to take a stand and show people in power that they need to create more affordable housing. There are so many ways we can help, by protesting these issues of equal access to affordable housing, writing letters to politicians about creating more space for people in low-income families, and increasing the wage of homeless workers to give them the money they need to buy an apartment. We need to show the government that they have to put more money towards increasing the numbers of affordable housing all around the world.

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