

# 10 THINGS YOU CAN DO

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## To Help Prevent and End Homelessness in Greater Richmond:

1. **Fund programs that have good and consistent results for people in crisis.** Visit [www.giverichmond.org](http://www.giverichmond.org) for information on local nonprofits and the work they do to end homelessness.
2. **Provide affordable housing to someone exiting out of homelessness.** List rental properties on [www.virginiahousingsearch.com](http://www.virginiahousingsearch.com), making affordable housing more accessible.
3. **Volunteer your time or talent with organizations that serve people in crisis.** Visit [www.handsongr.org](http://www.handsongr.org) to find volunteer opportunities and connect to client and agency needs.
4. **Learn more about homelessness.** Invite a speaker to your civic, neighborhood, business or religious gatherings to give an update on homelessness in Greater Richmond. (804-343-2045 ext. 18)
5. **Promote employment opportunities and other resources.** Collaborate with local agencies by providing your employment resources.
6. **Use the following phone numbers to get or give help:**
  - a. **648-4177** Commonwealth Catholic Charities Homeless Point of Entry – comprehensive intake and referral for area shelter programs and related services.
  - b. **211 Virginia** – always toll free call for utilities/rent/mortgage and other human and social service assistance (Call “2-1-1” – just like dialing 911).
7. **Please do not give money to panhandlers.** It is much better to give your money to programs that are proven to help people in crisis return to stability.
8. **Show compassion to people who are experiencing homelessness.** Most men, women and children who fall into the crisis of homelessness are traumatized and embarrassed by the experience. Like you, they never thought it would happen to them.
9. **Recognize that change is difficult, but possible.** Think about how you can be a change agent in our community.
10. **Find out more.** Whether you are a policy maker, a student, an executive, a tradesperson or stay-at-home parent, learn more about this issue and our region’s unified vision for preventing and ending homelessness at [www.homewardva.org](http://www.homewardva.org).