

Homelessness in the United states



By Amora Johnson

And Faliku Sanoe



Table Of Contents

Page #3 Amora's Poem

Page #4 Kou's Poem

Page #5 Amora's Collage

Page #6 Kou's Collage

Page #7 Amora's Poet Spread

Page #8 Kou's interview

Page #9 Contribution page

Page #10 Amora and Kou's artist statements

Page #11 References page

The purpose of this zine is to not only help provide an organized answer to the question “What is the reality of Homelessness here in the United States?” But to shine light onto situations others may be going through.

The Reality Of It by Amora Johnson

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sitting alone on the cold dirty sidewalk
Wandering aimlessly wondering if there's a place for me
Hope to find that place soon
Hoping to be back to where i was before all this happened
No one told me it would be this hard
No one told me how scary life could get

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

No one prepares you for this
They scream and shout “Don’t end up like them”
But when you do they don’t help you find a way out
No one tells you life can change in the blink of an eye
No one tells you a thing
At all



Out On The Streets by Faliku Sanoë

Only seen as a Hobo
or the one that Begs
“nothing more than a Bum”.
They are just down-and-out.

Roaming around, a Drifter.
A floater that is barely Afloat.
A hitchhiker that is never given a ride.
Displaced person but wont
Give them a place to stay.

Throwing rude remarks,
Breaking my soul with every word.
Treating me as if I was dirt on the ground.
Beating me with your stares.

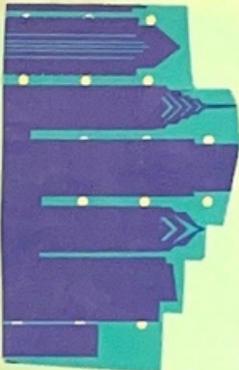
Just a bum
Just a beggar
Just a nobody





American problem.

Time after time



CHANGE

NO GOOD CHOICES

'I try not to judge people's behavior because I don't know the backstory.'

Find your resilience.

Environment

WORK HARD

AMERICA

REAL

I wanted to be back."

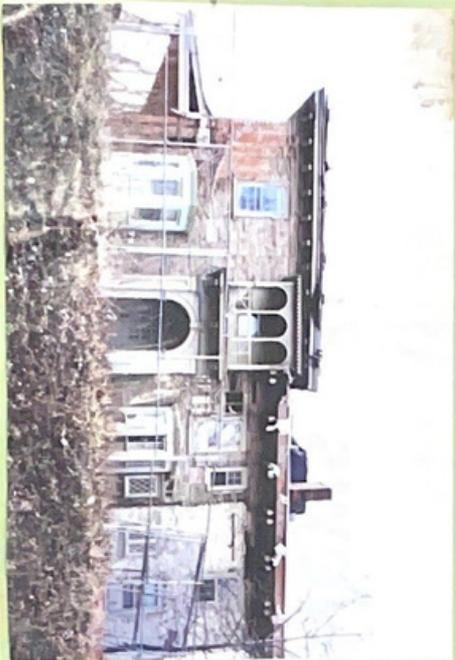
HELP HEAL

the truth

Words into ACTION

'I believe this is for the best.'

mistrust



Every day. All year long.

MONEY

What is it?

'IT'S O.K. TO NOT BE O.K.'

FREE World

Nation THE TRUTH CRISIS

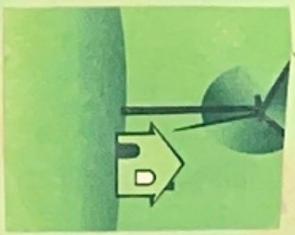


RISK ANXIOUS TIMES

'IT WAS SUPER ISOLATING AND VERY LONELY.'

WE KNOW WHERE WE NEED TO GO. NOW WE JUST NEED TO GET THERE

I CAN'T BELIEVE



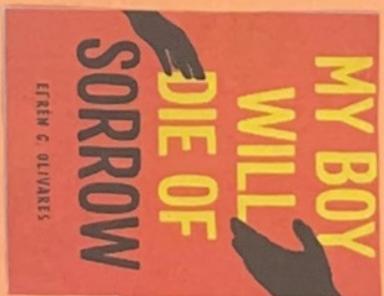
Move past pain



We need a new world order

FATIH

scared.



NO HOME

A SHADOW

Hollow Soul

127.1 million

Quit

scary

poor, Inequality

NO way of living

NIBBLING FROM THE FOREST FLOOR

cold

victim



Jacob Folger - Friend to the Homeless - Amora

Jacobs's life

Jacob Folger, homeless at the age of 14, grew up in an unsuitable living space causing him to break and choose Homelessness over coexisting with a violent father. Jacob states that he was glad he made this choice but not for long. The "glad" soon wore off and just basic survival was a battle everyday. Jacob claims he nearly starved on more than one occasion and the cold of the winters tore into his very being. Jacob joined the army at 18 to get away from the homelessness. When Jacob had completed his tour of duty in the military, he became a handyman and soon thereafter, He felt a strong urge to work with Homeless People. He began working with a project in Herndon Virginia. It was a home for Homeless People set up much like any typical home any family would have. In 1983, he began his own project, a home for Homeless People. Jacob's personal life began to falter he took to drinking to cope. His life soon spiraled out of control and he ended up Homeless again. But still, as a Homeless Person, he continued to reach out to others like him by giving Homeless People care packages of clothing and other necessities. He eventually got sober in 2007 and launched Friend to the Homeless. Its purpose is to help those who have never been homeless to connect with those who are through Homeless stories, poetry, images, video and the sharing of personal experiences as a Homeless Person.

Poetry

A Shiver Is All By Jacob Folger

Summer drops off to Autumn
Leaves change and blow free
Days darken early
A shiver is all

A clear cold night
Wind whistling through trees
Frost keeping me up
A shiver is all

A cold dank stairwell
One blanket not two
No pillow for my head
A shiver is all

A sweet Christmas home
Cozy and warm
Comfort completely
But for me, a shiver is all



Try To Sleep Now By Jacob Folger

Thanksgiving Day toasty warm
Kitchen bustle
Oh Sweet smells
Familiar voices
By the fireside
Sitting in my car
Tired and cold
A chili dog only shared with my pup
Try to sleep now
To forget the Homelessness
Try to sleep.



Why I chose him and his work

I chose to tell Jacob's story because he has experienced homelessness first hand. I also chose to tell his story and show his poetry because in his poetry he often talks about the reality of being homeless and situations he's been in because he's been homeless. Lastly I chose to talk about Jacob because despite everything he's been through he never gave up and I admire how strong he was throughout his journey.



An Interview with Chris, a senior firefighter, by Faliku

To get to the bottom of my question, “What is the reality of homelessness in the United States?” I interviewed Chris from the Philadelphia Fire Department. Chris is a senior firefighter that has been on the job for many years now and has a lot of experience. Knowing all this I figured that he will be well suited for this interview.

What is your definition of homelessness?

“A person without a defined address.”

Do you think homeless people are increasing or decreasing?

“It looks like it's increasing, and that could be due to a multitude of factors such as the economy or Covid, but none of them are the primary reasons for homelessness.”

How many people are homeless in the United States?

“I can't answer that question for you but what I can tell you is that about 6,000 people are considered to be homeless in Philadelphia and 950 of those are unsheltered. That may not seem like a big number but its really a big problem”

In your experience who experiences homelessness the most?

“From all my years I usually only sees young adults mainly affected by homelessness.”

In what parts of Philly do you see the most homelessness?

“I only see homelessness from one side of the city, so if I went to different parts of the city I would Probably get different variables.”

What are some causes to homelessness?

“Drugs play a big part to homelessness, poor education, and mental health.

What are local communities doing to reduce homelessness?

Chris's partner actually chimed in for this question and said “that addressing health like mental health that goes undiagnosed is a problem tied to homeless people. So make more resources like that more available to them. Increasing those resources will make a big difference in making reductions to homelessness.”

How can we spread more awareness to homelessness?

“The problem is in everyone's face, everywhere you go you see homeless people, people are aware of it so, what people need to have healthy conversations about it to make possible solutions to a complex problem.”





Contributors

Kou

Born in New Jersey, Trenton, November 1st. Lived in Philly all my life. Play multiple sports and attends SLA. The relevance of the topic to me is not direct but it is crazy how people in the world can see a homeless person and not even see them a human

Amora

Amora Johnson, born and raised in West Philadelphia. 11th Grade student at Science Leadership Academy. Although I have never experienced homelessness this topic is one that resonates with me a lot. Over the years I've seen a huge increase in the amount of homeless people on the streets. I don't know what caused me to start looking into homelessness but I did. I started doing research on the different struggles people who are homeless face and I slowly became more and more attached to finding a way to help these people. No matter how many ways I thought about how I could help, I always came back to one way. That is one way of spreading awareness. At the moment I'm not able to do much for homeless people considering I am a child but there are people out there who are able to help but they just might not know people are in need of their help. So I think bringing more attention to this topic will eventually help it end.



Artist Statements

Kou

I used creativity as I was making my zine to convey to the reader the main message "What is the reality of Homelessness here in the United States?"

The poet I chose was Danez Smith, and the poem I chose was "Alternate name for black boy". I decided to incorporate his tone of anger and bluntness in my poem. Another structure I used from him was his "figurative language". The creative submission I chose was a collage of pictures and words to make to allow the reader to visualize the idea. This complements my poems written structure, and its theme because homeless people are only seen as shadows so this brings light on it. One creative thing I really liked that I added was choosing to make my collage to my poem because they both are kinda the same in their own ways.

Amora

I used creativity to convey my zine's main purpose and explore my zine's question by adding and shining light on all the different components of homelessness. I also used creativity to convey my zine's main purpose and explore my zine's question by adding the point of view of people who see or experience homelessness first hand. I based my poem on July 4, 1974 by June Jordan. I incorporated how she included important dates and locations. I also used imagery to describe certain things like she did. My creative submission was a collage. In my collage I included a lot of different words and phrases you would often hear from homeless people. I also included phrases you would hear from people who aren't homeless and don't understand the situation of the homeless people. I think this complements my poem because in my poem I was going for 2 different vibes. One being from a homeless person point of view and their current situation and the other being from people who ignore and overlook homeless people. In my collage I think I showed that pretty well.

Reference page

“About Our Mission.” *Friend to the Homeless*,
<http://www.friendtothehomeless.org/about-us.html>. Accessed 20 October
2022.

Jordan, June. “July 4, 1974 by June Jordan.” *Poetry Foundation*, 4 July 1974,
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/48758/july-4-1974>. Accessed 20
October 2022.

“NATIONAL LAW CENTER.” *National Homelessness Law Center*,
[https://homelesslaw.org/wp-
content/uploads/2018/10/Homeless_Stats_Fact_Sheet.pdf](https://homelesslaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Homeless_Stats_Fact_Sheet.pdf). Accessed 20
October 2022.

Smith, Danez. “alternate names for black boys by Danez Smith | Poetry
Magazine.” *Poetry Foundation*,
[https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/56843/alternate-
names-for-black-boys](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/56843/alternate-names-for-black-boys). Accessed 20 October 2022.