

# How can WE end homelessness in Porter County?

## 10 Things You Can Do to Join In

1. **Help raise funds:** for the plan to succeed additional resources are needed to support innovations in service delivery, expansion of key services, and creation of new responses. Help raise funds for the plan by hosting fundraisers or making personal donations to local foundations or service providers.
2. **Spread the word:** share the plan with your social networks, keep solutions in the discourse, and write letters to the editor about the importance of the plan.
3. **Volunteer your time:** attend the Coalition on Affordable Housing monthly meetings, join a Plan to End Homelessness committee, help out at service providers, or become a board member of a non-profit working to end homelessness.
4. **Develop affordable housing:** a key contributor to the growth in homelessness is a lack of affordable rental units in Porter County. Builders and housing developers can work to create or set-aside affordable housing units in new developments to help end homelessness in Porter County.
5. **Sponsor a talk on homelessness:** raising awareness is a first step in the solution. Help raise awareness of homelessness by focusing a talk, meeting, sermon or event with groups you are affiliated with such as your church, library, book club, Rotary Club, Kiwanis, or Junior League.
6. **Link those in need to services:** If you know someone who is struggling connect them with 2-1-1 to learn about what services they may be eligible for. 2-1-1 is a three-digit phone number anyone can call to get information on health and human services.
7. **Advocate:** Raise the issue with people running for local office, respond to state and federal action alerts about funding and policy for homeless programming and affordable housing.
8. **Assess your business:** If you have employees assess the wages you pay relative to the local cost of housing. If you are a landlord, think about ways to maintain quality housing while lowering rents. Think about how your business expertise can help advance the plan to end homelessness.
9. **Garner donations:** people experiencing homeless in Porter County often lack even the most basic things needed to get by from day to day. Work with a local nonprofit to determine what items are needed and collect donations.
10. **Treat people experiencing homelessness with dignity and respect:** People often fall into homelessness when a crisis occurs that could happen to any of us: a job loss, a health crisis, poor mental health, alcohol/substance addiction or domestic abuse. It is important not to judge as you don't know what that person has experienced, make eye contact and give them the same respect as you would to any other person that you come across during your day.

## Participation Commitment

I commit to helping to end homelessness in Porter County through the following activities (check all that apply):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help raise funds               | <input type="checkbox"/> Link those in need to services        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spread the word                | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer your time            | <input type="checkbox"/> Assess your business                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Develop affordable housing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Garner donations                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a talk on homelessness | <input type="checkbox"/> Treat people with dignity and respect |

## Sign Up Contact Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact:  Mail  Email  Phone

**Please mail or fax this completed sheet to:**

Housing Opportunities  
2001 Calumet Avenue  
Valparaiso, IN 46383  
406 Franklin  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
Fax: (219) 548-2807

**Thank you for your contributions to ending homelessness in Porter County!**