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## Helping the homeless: Why doesn't anyone care? | Opinion | The Press and Standard

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Posted: Sunday, April 26, 2015 5:00 pm | Updated: 5:03 pm, Sun Apr 26, 2015.

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Just imagine switching places with a homeless person. Close your eyes and imagine living in a world where you're the outcast. People walk past, looking past you, not wanting to help or talk to you. To them, you're trash, nothing more than a useless human being, so useless no one wants to even look at you. Nobody even thinks about helping you. You don't deserve to be given food because you are repulsive and disgusting to those around you. This would make all of the parents tell their kids that they can't help the homeless because they are people like you who make bad decisions.

What people don't realize is that the homeless are capable of doing extraordinary things. They still have the capabilities and dreams that we do — we aren't that different between them and us is that something tragic happened during their lifetime. With a little help their dreams can be achieved.

At the very least, noney, the least you can do is to acknowledge them. A little hello will go a long way. Letting them know that they are special to you.

There are people in the world who don't care at all. There are also people who start caring for an issue, but then find it unimportant stuff, they forget what is important in life. Some are ignorant and irrelevant; others are helping and being good citizens. Others simply don't care about the homeless.

We humans have a natural empathetic thought and feelings when we hear the word "homeless." We think of homeless people as terrible individuals who don't deserve the right to live a good life. Why do we think like this? Maybe it's because people feel as if the homeless got themselves in that position, so it is their job to get themselves out. Have you ever thought that they could have been put in that situation through domestic violence or having to do what was best for themselves or their children? What if they had to give up everything, including their kids or even their lives, just to do what was best for their kids? If you had to make a decision like this and you became homeless, would you then feel like you needed help? Would you stand by the road with a sign? Or would you stay hidden

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and just live by a dumpster?

It's sad to think that it comes down to that ... being without the opportunity to have a house or a place to live. We, as humans, become insensitive to the way that the homeless feel. For us, being the people that we are, we are able to not care about the homeless because they seem to be lesser than us.

To support our actions come by and see us at the Rice Festival. We will be selling baked goods and tickets for a raffle. The grand prize winner will win a basket full of candy.

(Brooke Hudson is a student at CCHS' Cougar New Tech. She is part of a group working on a project to help the homeless in Colleton County.)

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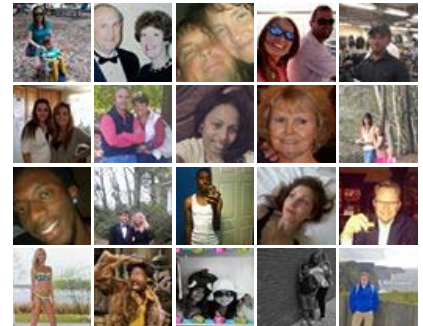
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