



ONE ROOF

CENTRAL ALABAMA

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Our Mission

One Roof's mission is to equip and empower our community to prevent and end homelessness through advocacy, education, and coordination of services.

What We Do

We lead the community by connecting and collaborating with others to strengthen the continuum of services that address the challenges of homelessness, from street outreach to long-term housing.

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Fact Sheet

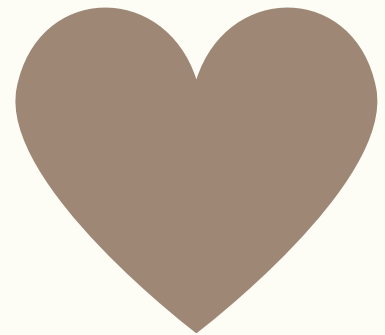
THE DANGERS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

One Roof Alabama offers various housing assistance programs to help individuals and families secure safe and stable housing.



Between 22% and 57% of women experiencing homelessness report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness.

One Roof Alabama conducts outreach programs to raise awareness about homelessness and educate the community about ways to get involved in ending homelessness



One in four women and one in the line men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner contact sexual violence, or intimate partner stalking with impacts such as injury, fearfulness, post-traumatic stress disorder, use of victim services, of sexually transmitted diseases

Issue Backgrounder

Domestic Abuse and Homelessness

Introduction

When women get themselves out of situations experiencing domestic abuse, they are often forced to leave their homes, with nowhere else to return. Domestic abuse is more common among poor women, who are also more susceptible to homelessness, says [NNEDV](#). Abusers often use violence to manipulate and control their partners leading the victims to be isolated from outside connections. This results in victims having little or no access to money and minimal people to flee to after leaving this relationship.

Overview of the Social Issues

Women are frequently forced to remain in or return to violent relationships due to a lack of suitable housing options. For example, in [Minnesota in 2003](#), 46 percent of homeless women reported that they had previously stayed in abusive relationships because they had nowhere else to go, says [Wilder Research Center](#). Housing is the key to decreasing intergenerational poverty and improving economic mobility. Because of this issue, the likelihood of women stuck in relationships experiencing domestic abuse will keep increasing.

Women experiencing financial distress, who are more susceptible to becoming homeless, are more likely to experience domestic violence, says [American Bar Association](#). Women in poverty have fewer options and find it more difficult to leave abusive situations. According to [Intimate Partner Violence](#), women with household incomes of less than \$7,500 are 7 times as likely as women with household incomes over \$75,000 to experience domestic abuse. This can be a result of a lack of available jobs or debt individuals have to pay off throughout their life.

The stigma for homelessness negatively affects anyone experiencing it, or on the verge of it. Women who know they are not financially stable on their own will stay in violent relationships just to have access to food, water, and a roof over their head. This never ending cycle will keep repeating until victims have come to terms with accepting that being homeless may be better than staying in these relationships. [Spreading awareness](#) to these situations and getting rid of the stigma of poverty and homelessness will allow women to stray away from these kinds of relationships.

Potential Solutions to Address the Issue

Supporting local non-profit organizations

One way to address homelessness relating to domestic abuse, is supporting nearby non-profit organizations. An example of a nearby non-profit organization is One Roof, located in Birmingham, AL. One Roof was founded in 1991 with a mission to “equip and empower our community to prevent and end homelessness through advocacy, education, and coordination of services.” One Roof wants to connect

individuals within the Alabama public to give them appropriate sources related to their housing needs. They provide funding opportunities, support groups and services to make sure citizens of Alabama know they have a voice. For more information regarding this non-profit visit [One Roof's website](#). Auburn University also has a group called [Domestic Violence Intervention Center](#), which assists women in the surrounding counties experiencing abuse.

Acknowledging the roots

The combined effects of affordable housing shortages and domestic abuse make life extremely difficult for those who are affected. We have the chance to develop solutions at the junction of the two problems by realizing the close relationship between them, which impacts millions of people, families, and communities. The lack of affordable housing enables victims to stay in abusive relationships, which ultimately lead to homelessness. Working with state, federal, and local officials to address this issue and provide policies that allow more options for government funded housing, can be a good step in the right direction. [The Domestic Violence Housing First](#) concept has been in place in the state of California since 2016. It provides financial support to victims of domestic abuse so they can afford options that directly affect their safety, well-being, and stability in housing. This shows how California sets a good example for the rest of the country.

Conclusion

In conclusion, domestic abuse has a strong correlation to homelessness because of the environment the victims are put through. Through manipulation by the abuser, victims are left with minimal outside relationships and little to no money. Fewer options to affordable housing and the likelihood it is for women to stay in abusive relationships because of their lack of money, increase the rates of homelessness. Domestic abuse is often more common among poor women, leaving them more susceptible to homelessness. Hopefully, with a spread of awareness on this social issue, more affordable housing options will become available in the future.

Further Reading

[Doorways, "About the Issues"](#)

[National Center for Homeless Education](#)

News Release

OneRoof Hosts Inaugural Community Health Fair

Birmingham, AL - April 5 - OneRoof, a leading advocate for community wellness, announces their inaugural Community Health Fair event scheduled for April 22.

OneRoof's mission is to promote health and well-being. One Roof's Community Health Fair aims to provide vital resources and information to residents, fostering a healthier and more informed community.

One Roof, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing community health, proudly announces their inaugural Community Health Fair, scheduled for April 22. The event will take place at The Harbert Center, Birmingham, Al.

The Community Health Fair will feature a wide range of interactive booths and informational sessions covering topics such as preventive care, mental health awareness, nutrition education, and access to healthcare services. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with local healthcare providers, wellness experts, and community organizations, fostering meaningful connections and empowering individuals to take charge of their health.

Sarah Milling, Executive Director at OneRoof, said: "This event underscores our commitment to promoting health equity and empowering our community with the resources and knowledge needed to lead healthier lives." In addition to informative sessions and exhibits, the Community Health Fair will offer free health screenings, wellness workshops, and interactive activities for all ages. Attendees can also enjoy healthy snacks and refreshments provided by local vendors.

"We believe that access to health education and resources is fundamental to building a healthier, more resilient community, through events like the Community Health Fair, we aim to address health disparities and create opportunities for all residents to thrive" said Milling. The Community Health Fair is free and open to the public. For more information and to RSVP, please visit

<https://www.oneroofonline.org/need-help-2>

Feature Story



Breaking Barriers: Navigating the Digital Divide in the Realm of Journalism

Auburn, Ala. — On the plains of Auburn University, where the sunsets scream orange and blue and the eagles soar, much more brews on campus. It is not all about Saturday in Jordan Hare or lemonade at Toomer’s Corner; it’s about access and equality. The digital divide is very real for some students. Whether they can complete assignments on time is a question they struggle with everyday. Connectivity is an issue for many students that cannot afford Wi-Fi at their house or cannot get to campus easily to use their Wi-Fi.

Imagine a student sitting in their house, laptop open, ready to conquer their assignments. But wait—there’s no Wi-Fi signal, no high-speed internet. All that’s there is a loading icon mocking their aspirations. This is the reality for many students, especially those from rural areas or economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

“We often assume that everyone has equal access to technology, but that’s far from true. The digital divide affects students’ ability to learn, research, and participate fully in today’s interconnected world,” said Dr. Sarah Aghazadeh, Associate Professor of Communication.

For lots of people the internet is a privilege, not a right.

Sarah Cater is a first-generation college student majoring in journalism at Auburn University. Her family lives in a small town with limited internet options. When she returns home for breaks, her academic life grinds to a halt.

“I can’t access online resources, submit assignments, or even join virtual study groups,” Jasmine said. “It’s like I’m in a different universe and I’m scared to fall behind.”



Journalism student, Sarah, working on her degree at Auburn University.

However, Auburn University’s School of Communication isn’t sitting by. Professor Mike Milford, a passionate advocate for bridging the digital gap, said, “We’re not just teaching communication; we’re empowering our students to be digital citizens. That means addressing the barriers head-on.”

Auburn University is advocating for students to all have equal access to the internet. Whether that is ensuring that housing offers free Wi-Fi, or helping to establish Wi-Fi in local businesses around Alabama, they are on it.

These new Wi-Fi hotspots allow students to continue their education when they are home for holidays or breaks. Students like Jasmine are able to access courses, collaborate, network and stay informed while home.

Blog Post

One Roof: Building a Community of Hope in Alabama

One Roof is a light of hope for the homeless people in the center of Birmingham, Alabama, surrounded by bustling streets and tall buildings. One Roof, founded on the principles of collaborative action and compassionate care, exemplifies the power of community in addressing homelessness.

A Home for All

Homelessness is more than just a statistic; it affects countless individuals and families. Every number represents a story of struggle, resilience, and the search for stability. In Birmingham, One Roof acknowledges this reality and aims to provide more than just shelter. They use a comprehensive approach, addressing both current housing needs and long-term stability.

Building Futures

One Roof's mission is based on the concept that everyone has inherent dignity and potential. They go beyond providing temporary assistance, encouraging people to restore their independence and rebuild their lives. One Roof provides complete support services to its clients, including job training, mental health counseling, and educational possibilities, to help them break the cycle of homelessness.

Collaboration for Change

One Roof recognizes that no single group can address homelessness alone. That's why they work so hard to encourage collaboration among local government agencies, NGOs, businesses, and volunteers. By bringing together multiple stakeholders, they can successfully address the multifaceted concerns of homelessness.

Nurturing Hope for Tomorrow

When confronted with severe societal concerns such as homelessness, it is easy to feel overwhelmed or powerless. However, One Roof demonstrates that transformation is achievable, one life at a time. Their dedication to promoting optimism and resilience encourages us to believe in the transformational power of collective action.

Get Involved

If you're inspired by One Roof's purpose and want to make a difference, visit their website at oneroofonline.org. Every donation, whether you choose to give your time, provide resources, or simply raise awareness about their work, is valuable. Together, we can create a future in which homelessness no longer exists for anyone.

One Roof is a bright example of what can be accomplished when a community band together with compassion, commitment, and a common vision for a better tomorrow. In Birmingham, they are not just giving shelter; they are also creating a community of hope, one roof at a time.

Speech Transcript

Good afternoon and welcome to the 5th annual One Roof Volunteer Night. We are so grateful that you are here and took the time out of your day to come help us prepare for this year.

I am Michelle Farly, the Executive Director of One Roof Central Alabama. I am honored to speak with you today. One Roof is a non-profit that equips and empowers our community to prevent an end to homelessness through advocacy, education and coordination of services. Through our volunteer work, donations and education programs, we aspire to equip the homeless community members to thrive and succeed in life. I would like to speak with you today about our upcoming Point-in-Time Count and ways to volunteer and give back to your community through One Roof. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Over the years, I have had the privilege to watch our organization grow and continue to impact more and more lives in our community. One of the ways that we can ensure we are helping the correct ways and the correct people is through our Point-in-Time Count.

The Point-in-Time Count is an annual census of our homeless community in Central Alabama. This census occurs on a single night in January. To get the best results through this census, our dedicated volunteers fan out across Central Alabama, seeking to understand the needs of those experiencing homelessness. We count both sheltered and unsheltered individuals, capturing an idea of their circumstances. We look to see if there are homeless families, veterans, youth and more identifiable traits that can help us better understand what type of help these people need.

The Point-in-Time Count matters because it provides crucial information. It helps us understand the dynamics of homelessness—its causes, patterns, and demographics. When we are able to understand the data, we can tailor our programs and services to meet the specific needs of our homeless population. The census results influence policy decisions and funding allocations. When we advocate for change, we do so backed by hard numbers. This census fosters collaboration among agencies, government bodies, and community partners. Together, we can create lasting impact.

Although, getting these numbers can be challenging at times. Our volunteers venture into the streets, under bridges, and into hidden corners. They meet people who often go unnoticed. Each person we encounter has a story—a life marked by struggle, resilience, and sometimes tragedy. We listen with compassion. We respect their dignity. The Point-in-Time count isn't just about numbers; it's about recognizing humanity and extending a helping hand.

As we move forward, our goal is to move beyond counting and into action. We advocate for housing first approaches—providing stable housing as a foundation for recovery. We are also expanding our outreach efforts, connecting individuals to mental health services, job training, and addiction recovery programs. By understanding homelessness better, we can work on prevention strategies. Early intervention matters.

To continue to make an impact in our community, we need volunteers. That is where you step in. Whether you are already a volunteer or are interested in volunteering, we have so many opportunities for you. Each year, One Roof relies on volunteers for events like the Point-in-Time Count and Cardboard Connect that we would love to have you for. If you are looking for something else, we have regular volunteering where we need help weekly or monthly with organization or outreach. Another opportunity is our special projects and donation drives. We are always open to more help for our drives and any fundraising opportunities.

If any of this interests you, please see someone with a red name tag to learn more about our volunteer opportunities.

As we conclude, let us remember that behind every number lies a person. Let us continue our collective journey towards helping our community and bettering the lives of others. Thank you for your unwavering support, and together, we can make a difference.