



HOMELESS YOUTH: FINDING HOME **Companion discussion guide to documentary**

Homeless Youth: Finding Home features six young adults who share personal stories of being homeless as teens. The documentary reveals stories of instability, coping with abuse and neglect, and hopes for the future. This study guide includes questions to help prompt reaction, elicit questions and guide discussion during a viewing session. It can be adapted for use with youth or adults in a variety of settings.

BEFORE VIEWING

1. What do you know about youth homelessness?
2. What are some of the stereotypes of youth homelessness?
3. How does youth homelessness affect you or your family?

AFTER VIEWING

1. How do you feel after watching the video?
2. Was there anything about the video that surprised you? Why?
3. Did you learn anything new about youth homelessness? What specifically?
4. Did the video change your ideas or attitudes about homeless youth? Why?
5. What questions do you have after watching the video?
6. Did you connect with any of the personal stories in the video? Explain.
7. Are there any similarities between you and any of the youth in the video?
8. Are there any differences between you and any of the youth in the video?
9. What were the common themes among the youths' stories?
10. How were their stories different?

11. What were some of the reasons why the youth became homeless?
12. What other reasons might contribute to youth homelessness, not mentioned in the video?
13. What was the role of family in the video? What lessons did youth learn from their families?
14. How did these youth cope? What kept them going? What gave them hope?
15. What types of services are available to homeless youth?
16. What are the aspects/elements of service that make the most difference for homeless youth?
17. What are some of the challenges of getting homeless youth the help they need?
18. What can you do personally to help homeless youth?
19. What can your family do to help homeless youth?
20. What can your school/place of worship/business/community do to help homeless youth?
21. What would you recommend to law-makers about how to help homeless youth?
22. What can you do to help end homelessness?

For more information

To watch this documentary, or learn more about youth homelessness, go to
www.wilder.org/homelessyouth.html

NOVEMBER, 2008