

*I know there's a problem, but ...*

## WHAT CAN I DO?



### Share Your Experience

- **Tell your friends and other people you know about what you've learned in the Social Justice Reflection.** Suggest they ask for one. Write a story for your school newspaper.
- **Use what you've learned to correct harmful stereotypes.** Talk about the different reasons people are homeless and poor. Share stories you've learned.
- **Use the internet to get the word out.** Share your experience on your personal page or blog, if you have one. Comment on other blogs when they have postings about homeless or low-income people.

### Strengthen Community

- **Commit to some form of regular volunteer service.** Get friends to join you.
- **Reach out to low-income individuals.** Try to get to know homeless and other poor people through your day-to-day contacts and your volunteer work. Encourage them to tell you their stories.
- **Help organize a special project to benefit homeless or low-income people.** Suggest that a group you belong to contribute canned foods, clothing, personal items or toys to an organization that will distribute them. Propose a fundraiser and make a group donation.

### Learn More About the Issues

- **Keep up with developments affecting homeless and low-income people.** Review your daily newspaper or skim a good online news site. Subscribe to Google e-mail news alerts.
- **Choose a relevant topic for a school research paper or presentation.** You'll not only learn more, but educate others too.

### Continue Your Personal Growth

- **Make a habit of treating everyone as an individual human who deserves dignity and respect.**
- **Develop your ability to sympathize with other people.** Reflect on the problems of individuals less fortunate than you. Recall kindnesses you've received. Be an example of caring behavior.

### Influence Public Policy

- **Get ready to vote for candidates who will address the needs of homeless and low-income people.** Voting is the single most important thing you can do to influence public policy. So if you're 18, make sure you're registered to vote at your current address. And get an absentee ballot if you'll be away from home on election day. If you're not 18 yet, plan to register as soon as you can.
- **Support the campaigns of candidates who share your concerns.** Consider circulating their petitions, distributing their literature or volunteering in their campaign offices.

*If you have questions or other suggestions, please e-mail [advocacy@some.org](mailto:advocacy@some.org).*