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Art Piece Representing Homelessness in Casper, WY.



Homelessness in Casper

I can't imagine the level of sadness, rejection, judgment, and hurtness an individual can feel when living on the streets. Never having a space where you can be comfortable. When I arrived at Casper College for my academic and athletic career, a specific moment had a big impact on me. I went to eat with friends in Downtown Casper. As we were waiting in line to enter, I saw homeless people on the sidewalk. At this moment, I noticed how everybody was looking at them full of judgment. I think it is not acceptable for a human to live in such conditions. I research about the homelessness in Casper, and it is an issue getting more serious everyday.

An important fact I discovered while doing my research is that the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), an organization whose goal is to end homelessness, claims that one of the causes of homelessness is domestic violence. Domestic violence causes women and children to enter shelters to escape from an abusive relationship.

A quote from the *Oil City News* magazine in the article *Casper's homeless issue: Separating fact from media frenzy* says: "...the Casper City Council directed local Homeless Coalition members and city staff to continue looking for solutions for growing problems caused by homelessness in Casper and return with specific actions for the council to consider.". The article is talking about a coalition that the city of Casper created to try to end homelessness in the city. Homelessness is a growing problem in the community and creates social problems. Downtown businesses and organizations, service agencies and health organizations along with city councilors and city department representatives make up the coalition. They have been collecting data since November 2022 to better understand the problem. The coalition is looking to mitigate any people suffering from the homelessness.

Living on the streets in Casper is not illegal, unfortunately, some homeless people are committing illegal acts. That is making the city a most hostile and dangerous place. The book "The Homeless" points out an example of the mayor of New York City made concerning homeless people...: " ...Rudy Giuliani, the mayor of

New York City, has proposed that homeless people who refuse offers of shelters should be arrested, and that able-bodied homeless people should be required to work in return for their shelter.”. Homeless people refusing shelters are only making the city a more dangerous location, since they are the ones committing illegal acts.