**Unsheltered homeless people face challenges during summer - June 2018**

​

**Protection for unsheltered homeless people is not just a vital concern during the freezing winter months. Those who face the challenge of homelessness need safe shelter during the hot and humid months.**

​

**While statistics show a slight decline of the homeless population, cities like**

**Omaha and across the nation must still better serve those who remain unsheltered.**

​

**On any given night, more than 175,000 people are unsheltered, sleeping outside or in places not meant for human habitation. This leaves many at risk for possible dehydration, severe sunburns or even heat stroke, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness.**

​

**On average, nearly 554,000 people in the U.S. experience homelessness on a given night, according to the most recent**[**National Point-in-Time**](https://sitebuilder.homestead.com/~site/builder/stage.jsp?pageId=x4e6577732d616e642d4d656469612e787066)**estimate in January 2017. Each one of these individuals is at high risk for many dangerous health issues, even including death.**

​

**In addition to the dehydration, most homeless people have no choice but to be on their feet all day, this can lead to severe athlete’s foot, pitted keratolysis, (a painful skin condition) and ingrown toe nails.**

​

**Some of the homeless might try to find shade from the sun in a wooded park or forest area. Finding shade will help prevent against possible dehydration or heat stroke but insects also a major threat to the homeless. An infestation of insects in park areas such as mosquitos and ticks can transfer infections and diseases.**

​

**Without the essentials of shelter and water, all homeless people remain venerable during the hot summer months.**

​

**How you can help the homeless in summer**

**\*Information taken from the Thrive DC website at infothrivedc.org**

​

**• Collect summer necessities such as travel-size sunscreen, water bottles**

**and Gold Bond powder and donate them to a shelter.**

**• Donate new socks, hats and visors.**

**• Pass out water bottles to people you see on the street.**

**• Help set up cooling stations.**

**• Hold a donation drive.**

​

**Written by:**

**Courtney E. Smith**

**MaverickPR Associate**