

The aging homeless

Chronic homelessness is an important problem in all major cities of the world. Many of them implement plans to end chronic homelessness because without proper care they soon will start crowding hospital emergency rooms and dying in large numbers. In San Francisco the median age of the city's population is about 50, which in hard time street years is the equivalent of about 65.

- Listen to someone explaining why it is important that a retirement shelter be built for the aging homeless in his community. Which of the ideas below does he mention? What reasons does he give to justify each point?

..... lack of housing for the aging homeless

..... hospitals will soon become overcrowded

..... shelters can provide necessary housing

..... shelters can provide specialized health care

..... aging homeless have poor health from street life

..... the city can create an example for others to follow

- Imagine you have been given the opportunity to speak before the board of directors of a charity foundation about the topic. Give a two-minute speech.

Dear members of the board, I am
..... and I work as a volunteer, helping to find shelter for our aging homeless population.

I would like to express my concern about the lack of housing for the aging homeless in our community. As we all know, the aging homeless population has dramatically increased in recent years and soon hospitals will become overcrowded trying to attend to their health problems. I strongly feel that a retirement shelter must be built to address this growing concern. By this I mean a shelter that can provide necessary housing and specialized health care for these elderly people. This would result in reducing the number of elderly living on the streets and consequently reduce the pressure that would be put on our local hospitals.

I would also like to add that our aging homeless have extremely poor health due to living on the streets, and their health is much more problematic than the typical elderly person. Therefore, their need for health services will become urgent and something we can not ignore.

In conclusion, our community can set an example for other communities to follow. As a society, we have a social responsibility to our elderly and those in need. In building a retirement shelter, we are working to solve the terrible problem of homelessness that plagues our communities.