

Five Facts About Children Experiencing Homelessness in Bellevue



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Right here in the Bellevue School District, there are students and families experiencing homelessness. The past three years have been an especially difficult time for families. Weathering a pandemic and dealing with rising food, housing, and gas costs has exacerbated the hardships for vulnerable families already experiencing housing and food insecurity.

Preventing homelessness for our community's most vulnerable children is a shared responsibility, and it's important to stay informed on the facts.

1. As of August 2022, over 350 Bellevue children are experiencing some form of homelessness. This is just the reported number. Many families may not report due to stigmas or fears associated with homelessness.
2. Homelessness does not always mean children are sleeping in a tent or at a park. Bellevue students experiencing homelessness can experience a number of situations where they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. These children may live in doubled-up housing, hotels or motels, homeless shelters, transitional housing, or domestic violence shelters. They may be living in cars, parks, or other public spaces. They may be living in youth shelters or temporary foster care placement.
3. All 28 schools in the Bellevue School District have students, nearly 4,000 students in total, who are experiencing both food and housing insecurity.
4. Lack of affordable housing is one of the leading root causes of homelessness. Here in Bellevue, we are seeing higher rent hikes than anywhere else in the region, pushing low-income families out and causing

children to be at acute risk of experiencing homelessness.

5. Regardless of the details, unstable housing can often have long-lasting adverse effects on young children's health, development, and school performance.

Meet Kayla

Kayla, a single mother in Bellevue, reached out to Bellevue LifeSpring for move-in assistance. Kayla and her five children were in the midst of experiencing homelessness after fleeing domestic violence and relocating from California. After arriving in Bellevue, they had been couch-surfing

and staying with friends but spending most days and nights living in their car.

"Kayla was trying her hardest to find resources for her children. However, due to stress, frustration, and a lack of sleep and nutrition, it was difficult for her to communicate effectively and understand the various policies and guidelines each organization had," shared Bellevue LifeSpring Human Services Administrator Laura Delmendo. "I spent a lot of time working with Kayla to see how I could refer her directly to places for the right type of assistance. We experienced a lot of pushback in this process, which was frustrating. However, we worked together, and I connected with her on a level she didn't feel any other organization had before – a human level."

Thanks to our community's support, Kayla and her family were able to move into an apartment. Kayla shared these words of gratitude for the assistance she and her children received from Bellevue LifeSpring:

"You went above and beyond for our family. We are so blessed and beyond grateful for everything you have done for us, so thank you." – Kayla

The Good News

Despite these challenges, thanks to the support of our Points neighbors, Bellevue LifeSpring has successfully prevented homelessness for nearly 800 Bellevue children since March of 2020. Your support is helping us match the speed and intensity of the challenges, and we're not giving up until every child in Bellevue has adequate housing.

Visit us at www.BellevueLifeSpring.org for the most up-to-date information regarding the need here in Bellevue and how you can help.