

The Age of Homelessness: A Needs Assessment of the Elderly Homeless Population in Davis, California

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Getting by on remnants of medical and social services, the elderly homeless population of Davis is an increasingly underserved group of people. Struggling philanthropic organizations are working tirelessly on providing the health care, nutrition and shelter necessary to maintain the quality of life of this population. My research merges data collection with needs assessment of the available services in the local Davis community in hopes that patterns will emerge as to efforts are still required to assist this population. Records from organizations such as Davis Community Meals, Emergency Winter Shelter, and Davis Senior Center will serve as the foundation for the potential solutions for the deficits in both man power and money. In summary, there is a three step process to my project. First, I will conduct interviews with the appropriate presidents of the relevant organizations to obtain statistics on the number of elderly homeless they work with, as well as the specific services they designate for them. Secondly, I will take my data and determine where the most prominent needs remain for both the elderly homeless and the organizations designed to serve them. Finally, I will discuss feasible solutions with the organizations which could be put into action in the near future.