



Homelessness & Poverty

Unit description: KidzCare's unit on *Homelessness & Poverty* will help your child begin to understand why some people experience homelessness, how many people experience homelessness (both in our community and in the nation), how a homeless shelter operates and what they can do to help. Some of the organizations we study will include Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, Manna Food Center, and Habitat For Humanity. Your child will also learn about poverty in third world countries and what international relief organizations do to help. Organizations studied include Project Hope, World Vision, Amman Imman, and others.

A sense of community and compassion will be developed in students as they learn that a person's economic circumstances are not a reflection of that person's character or value. The KidzCare curriculum is also designed to help students feel a sense of gratitude for what they have and the circumstances in which they live.

Each class will include age-appropriate instruction on the topic of the day, plus a hands-on service project for your child to complete in class that will help your child feel a sense of empowerment and hope when learning about these difficult social issues.

Academic subject alignment: KidzCare's *Homelessness & Poverty* unit includes instruction that aligns with some of the academic curriculum objectives in the following areas:

- Social Studies-Peoples of the Nation and World (Maryland State Curriculum Standard 2.0)
- Social Studies-Geography (Maryland State Curriculum Standard 3.0)
- Social Studies-Social Studies Skills and Processes (Maryland State Curriculum Standard 6.0)
- English-General Reading Processes (Maryland State Curriculum Standard 1.0)
- English-Comprehension of Informational Text (Maryland State Curriculum Standard 2.0)
- English-Comprehension of Literary Text (Maryland State Curriculum Standard 3.0)

Service Learning Credit: Your child will receive 10 hours of service-learning credit for attending all sessions of the *Homelessness & Poverty* unit, and will receive a Certificate of Completion at the end of this unit. We encourage all students in KidzCare programs to set a goal of completing at least 50 hours of service between September and May, which will qualify them to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Eligibility to attend volunteer events: By registering for this unit, students will be eligible to attend all of KidzCare's one-time homelessness/poverty volunteer events. Examples of such events include: boxing food at Manna Food Center, making/serving dinner at the men's homeless shelter, gardening at the men's homeless shelter, "lunch bunch" (making brown bag lunches for men's homeless shelter), Amman Imman's Walk For Water, etc. These events have been among our most popular because many of them give children the ability to see the inside of a homeless shelter and to have direct contact with the population they are serving.