



# Homeless Sensitivity Poster & Essay Contest

Enter for a  
chance to win a  
**\$300** gift card!

Winning posters  
will be exhibited  
at The Bass  
Museum of Art



To Learn More,  
**SCAN ME!**

## Deadline: January 17, 2025

In partnership with:

THE  
BASS



# Homeless Sensitivity Poster and Essay Contest

## **THEME: HOPE and Youth Homelessness!**

### BACKGROUND

Project UP-START, the Homeless Education Program of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), has identified more than 10,800 students who live in unstable housing situations in Miami-Dade. The Homeless Trust data indicates the most prominent issue contributing to youth homelessness is racial inequities: people of color represent 17% of the county's population, but youth of color represent 69% of the youth homeless population. The second risk factor is domestic violence. The third risk factor is sex trafficking and the fourth risk factor is being in the foster care system.

### PROMPT

In your artwork or essay, expound upon the idea of hope - how providers and volunteers extend hope to Miami's homeless youth through time, support, presence, services, prevention and encouragement.

### CONTEST CATEGORY OPTIONS

- **Poster Contest:** Open to all grade levels
- **Essay Contest:** Open to High school students **only**.

### CONTEST RULES

#### Posters:

We welcome creative artwork, designs, comics, and storylines that illustrate a powerful message.

- Posters must be the vision and original creation of the student.
- Poster sizes (physical and digital) **must** measure 22 x 28 inches.

#### High School Essays:

- Essays must be written with the student's authentic voice and ideas.
- Essay length must be 500 words, typed or handwritten (legible writing only).

**\*\*The Homeless Trust discourages the act of giving money to individuals on the street. Posters or essays that encourage panhandling will not be selected.\*\***

## SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS

- Posters and essays must be electronically submitted to [sydne@m.network](mailto:sydne@m.network), no later than January 17, 2025. **All submissions must be accompanied by a completed *Contest Entry Form* (found on page 4).**
- To submit posters, take a picture of the artwork and email the image, along with the *Contest Entry Form* to [sydne@m.network](mailto:sydne@m.network).
- **Upon submission, posters become the property of the Homeless Trust.**
- Students who submit a poster or essay will receive **TWO** community service hours for their school.

## PRIZES!!

- All student winners will receive a **\$300 gift card** (one per student).
- Homeless Liaison or sponsoring teacher will receive a **\$200 gift card** (one per Project UP-START Liaison).

## JUDGING

The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust and Bass Museum partners will judge entries in February 2025 and notify winning teachers and students.

A Homeless Trust's representative will contact the sponsoring teacher/School PROJECT UP- START Liaison to schedule a pickup day and time of the winning posters.

Winning art and essays will be presented during a Homeless Trust board meeting in March 2025 – date is TBD. Students are invited to come in person with family and friends to display their art to the community at the meeting and receive their cash prizes.

Good luck!



**Homeless Sensitivity  
Contest Entry Form**

**Deadline: January 17, 2025 by 5 p.m.**

Please email forms to: [sydne@m.network](mailto:sydne@m.network)

**\*\*Upon submission, posters become the property of the Homeless Trust\*\***

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSORING TEACHER/ School UP-START LIAISON INFORMATION**

Teacher/ School UP- START Liaison's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/ UP-START Liaison's Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School Location #: \_\_\_\_\_

School Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

School Principal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Principal's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_