



*Photo of a homeless man taken by Sandy Satuloff-Doering on June 16th, 1983.*

During floods, ant colonies will bunch together by the thousands to form a living raft. They link arm to arm body to body on top of each other, constantly rotating and moving so no ant is in the water long enough to drown. This is an instinctual reaction. Ants live in colonies where they form hierarchies, delegate tasks, and depend on each other for their own existence. The ants cannot survive on their own or they will drown. In a society, we depend on each other. If you are not willing to get your feet wet, you can't expect someone else to do the same when you find yourself neck deep in your own storm. Clear skies today will never promise a sunny tomorrow.

Every person living on the street is not just someone we can offer to help; it is someone who is not currently a part of the raft with the rest of us. Each ant left out means the ants included in the raft have to try that much harder and be in the water that much longer to stay afloat.

Being a part of a productive society goes both ways. We move forward together, and we move backward together. Understanding homelessness is the first step towards solving the issue. Spreading awareness and seeing how their shoes fit on your feet is essential. They might be a tight fit, they might be too big, but someday they might be all you're left with when your shoes have soaked through. Whether it's your time, your money, or even your empathy, the question is never if you can help, but if you will.