

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, every person in our community deserves a place to live that is safe, warm, and stable; and

Whereas, the plight of those without a home is both lonely and difficult; and

Whereas, those experiencing homelessness are at a much increased risk of serious illness and death; and

Whereas, everyone, whatever their status or condition, does better in housing than without it; and

Whereas, homelessness is a complex social problem that has many different causes and takes many different forms;

Whereas, lasting solutions to such a complex problem requires all community institutions – government, service agencies, business, faith organizations, law enforcement, university, private citizens – working together in a community-wide effort; and

Whereas, the costs of homelessness are not only borne by those who directly experience homelessness, but everyone pays at least some of the personal, health, social, economic and governmental costs of homelessness because of the demand upon, and cost of police, health, and other public services; and

Whereas, research demonstrates that it costs less to provide appropriate housing and support to a person experiencing chronic homelessness than to provide that same person with short-term responses, where taxpayer money goes towards hospitalizations, mental health care, alcohol/drug abuse, emergency room visits, ambulance services, jail/prison time, police, and shelter costs; and

Whereas, experience across the country shows that organized community-wide efforts can have a major impact in reducing and even ending homelessness. In the past four years nationally we've seen a 33% decrease in veteran homelessness and a 21% decrease in chronic homelessness; and

Whereas, this experience demonstrates that the strategies to end homelessness are working and ending homelessness is an achievable goal; and

Whereas, everyone in our community has a stake in addressing this problem and all will be served by reducing the number of persons in our community who are homeless;

Now, therefore, I, Jenny Selin, Mayor of the City of Morgantown, do hereby proclaim January, 2015 as

Ending Homelessness Month

in the City of Morgantown, West Virginia, and urge all citizens to participate in efforts to end homelessness in our community.

SEAL:

Jenny Selin, Mayor