

Introduction:

Community Conversations at Pikes Peak Library District invite the public to discuss current events and issues impacting the Pikes Peak region, with a goal of promoting civil dialogue and greater understanding of different perspectives.

In commemoration of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month, join Pikes Peak Library District as we welcome local experts and community leaders to discuss homelessness and housing insecurity in the Pikes Peak region. After a facilitated question and answer session with the panel, there will be time for questions from the audience.

Please see the discussion guide below to find out more about the panelists and explore additional resources on homelessness, housing insecurity, and food insecurity.

Panel Members:

Crystal Karr, City of Colorado Springs

Beth Roalstad, Homeward Pikes Peak

Angela Roberts, Pikes Peak Community Health Partnership

Joel Siebersma, Springs Rescue Mission

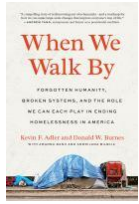
Sgt. Olav Chaney, Colorado Springs Police Department Homeless Outreach Team

Panel Questions:

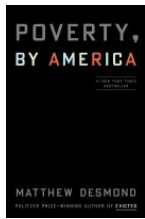
- Please take a moment to introduce yourself and explain why you feel addressing homelessness, housing insecurity, and food insecurity in the Pikes Peak Region are important topics.
- Each January, the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care conducts the Point in Time survey to determine how many people are experiencing homelessness in El Paso County. How have those numbers changed in recent years? Why do you think those changes are happening?
- What do you think are the biggest factors contributing to housing insecurity and hunger in the Pikes Peak Region, and what steps are being taken to alleviate some of those factors?
- What is working regarding the county and city's response to homelessness in the area?
- Where are there areas for improvement regarding the county and city's response to homelessness and housing insecurity?
- What are common stigmas associated with those experiencing homelessness, and what can be done to address those?
- What are the best ways people can help those experiencing homelessness or food insecurity in our community?
- Please share your hopes or concerns for the future, and any final thoughts.

Resources to read, watch, listen and explore:

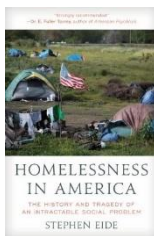
Read



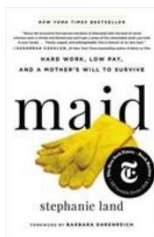
When We Walk By: Forgotten Humanity, Broken Systems, and the Role we can Each Play in Ending Homelessness in America, by Kevin F. Adler and Donald W. Burnes, available soon at the Library and on OverDrive



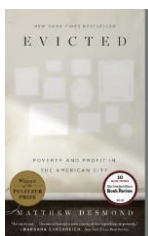
Poverty, By America, by Matthew Desmond, 362.50973 DESM
Also available on OverDrive at <https://ppld.overdrive.com/media/9080553>



Homelessness in America: The History and Tragedy of an Intractable Social Problem, by Stephen Eide, 362.592 EIDE
Also available on OverDrive at <https://ppld.overdrive.com/media/8976204>



Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive, by Stephanie Land, 331.4 LAND
Also available on OverDrive <https://ppld.overdrive.com/media/3983628>



Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, by Matthew Desmond, 339.460973 DESM
Also available on OverDrive <https://ppld.overdrive.com/media/2381413>



United States of Grace, by Lenny Duncan
Available on OverDrive <https://ppld.overdrive.com/media/6197787>

In the News

“Trending homeless count in Colorado Springs provides optimism, but concerns remain”, Debbie Kelley, The Gazette https://gazette.com/homeless/trending-homeless-count-in-colorado-springs-provides-optimism-but-concerns-remain/article_c1e3b66c-0af6-11ee-8575-f7c72349ebe5.html

“Colorado Springs considers agreement with El Paso County for homeless camp cleanups”, Scott Harrison, KRDO <https://krdo.com/news/local-news/top-stories/2023/10/27/colorado-springs-considers-agreement-with-el-paso-county-for-homeless-camp-cleanups/>

“Westside neighborhood demands action to curb homelessness crisis”, Pam Zubeck, Colorado Springs Indy https://www.csindy.com/news/westside-neighborhood-demands-action-to-curb-homelessness-crisis/article_5fe2513e-06f6-11ee-afc9-e3bc79d6237c.html

“Homelessness falls 10 percent in Colorado Springs according to new survey”, Andy Koen, KOAA <https://www.koaa.com/news/covering-colorado/homelessness-falls-10-percent-in-colorado-springs-according-to-new-survey>

“Denver’s homeless population grew 31.7% in one year, annual survey finds”, Tatiana Flowers, Colorado Sun <https://coloradosun.com/2023/07/25/denver-homelessness-grew-2023-pit-count/>

“Homelessness continues to rise in metro Denver. Here are 5 solutions, according to an expert”, Rachel Estabrook, Colorado Public Radio <https://www.cpr.org/2023/08/03/metro-denver-homelessness-solutions/>

“Excluded: Denver’s unhoused transgender population faces violence and barriers to housing”, Alison Berg, William Peterson, Rocky Mountain PBS <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/rocky-mountain-pbs/excluded-denvers-unhoused-transgender-population-faces-particular-struggle-for/>

Learn more about the unhoused community in Colorado Springs from Rocky Mountain PBS

“The godmother of the ‘West Side’: How one Colorado Springs unhoused woman carries a community”, Alison Berg <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/rocky-mountain-pbs/the-godmother-of-the-west-side-how-one-colorado-springs-unhoused-woman-carries-a-community/>

“In Colorado Springs, home-cooked food provides much-needed normalcy for the unhoused community”, Alison Berg <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/rocky-mountain-pbs/colorado-springs-food-truck-for-homeless/>

“The Commons: An affordable housing journey”, Alison Berg, <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/news/the-commons-an-affordable-housing-journey/>

“Unhoused friends and family members describe life together in Colorado Springs”, Alison Berg, <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/rocky-mountain-pbs/friends-and-family-members-describe-life-experiencing-homelessness-together-in-colorado-springs/>

“Unhoused residents of Colorado Springs say pets keep them grounded”, Alison Berg and Zach Ben-Amots, <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/rocky-mountain-pbs/unhoused-residents-of-colorado-springs-say-pets-keep-them-grounded/>

“On Colorado Springs’ west side, unhoused population build community to survive daily challenges”, Alison Berg and Zach Ben-Amots <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/rocky-mountain-pbs/west-side-colorado-springs-homeless/>

“Stimulants and survival: Unhoused Coloradans turn to methamphetamine as a form of protection”, Alison Berg and Zach Ben-Amots <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/news/stimulants-and-survival-unhoused-coloradans-turn-to-methamphetamine-for-protection/>

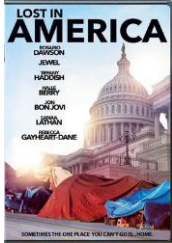
“Colorado Springs is getting its first youth permanent supportive housing complex”, Alison Berg <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/news/the-launchpad-colorado-springs-youth-housing/>

“A Colorado Springs man’s journey from living on the streets to advocating for homeless youth”, Alison Berg <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/rocky-mountain-pbs/the-place-colorado-springs/>

“Colorado Springs touts itself as a national leader on homelessness. Unhoused people beg to differ”, Alison Berg <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/news/colorado-springs-homeless-response/>

Watch

Colorado Experience: Living Unhoused Parts 1 and 2, Rocky Mountain PBS,
<https://www.rmpbs.org/coloradoexperience/season-10/living-unhoused/>



Lost in America (DVD), directed by Rotimi Rainwater, 362.592083 LOST 1-DISC

Also available on Kanopy

<https://www.kanopy.com/en/ppld/video/12102150>



A Road to Home – available on Kanopy

<https://www.kanopy.com/en/ppld/video/293404>



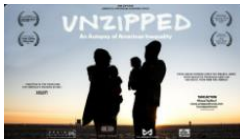
30 Seconds Away: Breaking the Cycle – available on Kanopy

<https://www.kanopy.com/en/ppld/video/11181610>



Hunger in America – available on Kanopy

<https://www.kanopy.com/en/ppld/video/126723>



Unzipped: An Autopsy of American Inequality – available on Kanopy

<https://www.kanopy.com/en/ppld/video/13206542>

Listen



Understanding Homelessness Podcast with Dr. Zapata, available through Apple Podcasts <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/understanding-homelessness-podcast/id1578806023>

Explore

Find a list of local resources and agencies, curated by Pikes Peak Library District, with the Helping Hands El Paso County Community Resource guide

<https://research.ppld.org/HelpingHands>

From the National Alliance to End Homelessness, explore homelessness in America and in Colorado <https://endhomelessness.org/>