



# TOOLKIT



Dear Friend,

#### Welcome to your Sleep Out ICT Toolkit!

Thank you for deciding to Sleep Out—by doing so you are making a powerful statement of solidarity with your homeless neighbors. This toolkit will help you get the most out of your sleep out by building awareness, education, and empathy for the homeless community—three incredible tools that lead to true *advocacy*, which leads to *change*.

Conversations about issues such as homelessness become more comfortable the more we have them, especially when we make them fun. We hope these **ACTIVITIES**, **RESOURCES**, and **FUN & GAMES** mark the start of some regular, important conversations.

We're always here to help make these conversations even more manageable. To arrange a campus tour, speaking event, or other ways we can help, please contact <a href="mailto:Greer@HumanKindWichita.org">Greer@HumanKindWichita.org</a>. For volunteer opportunities, visit HumanKindWichita.org/GetInvolved.

On behalf of the 15,000 Wichitans we serve each year, thank you again for being a part of Sleep Out ICT. We hope you have a great night!

The Team at HumanKind





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⊕ = Great for kids!





#### There's No Place Like "Home"

Word Association with a Twist!

Activity ©

This quick-fire game will establish your own perceptions of the concept of "home." There are no right or wrong answers, and no skills are required! We recommend you complete this activity first as you will refer to it later.

Time: 15 minutes You will need:

- Pens/pencils
- Paper
- A timer

#### Step 1

One person should read the list of words below out loud. After each word, everybody has twenty seconds to *write down* as many words as they can that they associate with that word.

#### Step 2

Go back to the top of the list and read the words again. This time, everybody has one minute to *draw* what comes to mind when they hear that word.

#### Step 3

Go back to the top of the list and read the words a third time. This time, everybody must *say* one feeling they experience when they hear that word.

#### **Step 4 - Group Discussion**

MINID

Compare your lists, drawings, and feelings. How did you all interpret these words? How were your responses similar or different? How do you think your responses would change if you lived somewhere else, had a different job or a bigger/smaller family? Keep your notes from this activity because you will refer to your answers later.

CDATITUDE

KIND	GRATITODE	ПЕЦР
SHELTER	FAMILY	HOUSE

HELD





## Life on a Budget

How Hard Can It Be?

Activity

In this scenario, you'll make choices through the lens of a young couple trying to make ends meet.

Time: 15 minutes You will need:

- This worksheet
- Pens/pencils

You are a single mother with 3 small children, ages 9,7,6. You work for a local fast-food restaurant making \$7.25 an hour, but they will only let you work 30 hours a week. You pick up a second job at a laundry mat working 15 hours a week, making \$8.00 an hour. You also receive \$255 in monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to help cover the cost of food.

#### Can you make it through the month?

**Step 1**Complete Table 1 to work out your combined monthly income.

Table 1			
	Hourly rate	Hours per week	Total
Job at Fast Food Restaurant	7.25	30	
Job at Laundry Mat	8	15	
Combined gross weekly income			
Subtract 20% for taxes			
Total weekly income			
Multiply by 52 to get your annual income			
Combined annual income			
Divide by 12 to get your average monthly income			
Combined monthly income:			





#### Step 2

Make your way through the following choices, then complete Table 2 to work out what you have left after your monthly expenses:

#### Rent

<u>Choose</u> one of the following:

- 1-bedroom close to one of your families: \$750
- 1-bedroom close to work: \$700
- 1-bedroom low-income: \$550

#### **Utilities**

<u>Total</u> the following:

- Electricity: \$100
- Water: \$30
- Internet (optional): \$50
- Cable (optional): \$75
- Cell Phone for 2: \$60
- Laundromat: \$25

Table 2	
Combined monthly income	
Rent	
Utilities	
Healthcare	
Transport	
Food	
Total expenses	
Remaining	

#### Healthcare (for you)

<u>Choose</u> one of the following:

- Plan A: \$150 per month, \$0 copay
- Plan B: \$100 per month, \$25 copay
- Plan C: \$50 per month, \$50 copay

## Transportation - you can drive or use public transport. Buses runs 6am-7:30pm.

If you choose to drive, <u>total</u> the following:

- Combined car insurance: \$150
- Car payment for one car (the other is paid off but very old and in need of repair): \$200
- Gas: \$80

If you choose to use public transport, <u>add</u> the following:

• Monthly Bus Passes x 2: \$110

#### Food

Groceries: \$150 if you also eat out, \$180 otherwise

Eating out (optional): \$50

Step 3





You're feeling sick and your boss won't let you work around food without the all-clear from a doctor. You don't have a family doctor, so you must make a trip to urgent care for a rapid strep test.

### <u>Add</u> the following:

- Urgent Care bill: \$190
- Copay add the copay amount from the healthcare plan you chose (\$0, \$25, or \$50)

Subtract these emergency expenses from your remaining income.

## Did you make it through the month?

#### Did you know?

- The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour and it has not been raised since 2009
- The average rental cost in Wichita is between \$704 per month for a studio apartment, \$804 for a 1-bed, and \$972 for a 2-bed
- Many of our homeless clients are employed—some of them full-time—but they don't make enough to make ends meet on minimum wage
- If you spend more than half of your income on rent, you are considered "severely cost burdened"
- There are only 40 affordable homes available for every 100 extremely low-income households. Of those 44, 71 percent are "severely cost-burdened" income households.
- 13.5% of Wichitans live below the federal poverty line. Living below the poverty line means you are often only one accident, domestic incident, or job loss away from life on the street.
- 19% of children under 18 in Wichita live below the poverty line. Poverty often impedes children's ability to learn and contributes to social, emotional, health, and behavioral problems.

HumanKind

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NLIHC tabulations of 2021 ACS PUMS



Crumple It Activity

A Game of Choice or Luck?

This short simulation activity will put you in the shoes of someone having to make difficult choices with very little time. Here you will examine the importance of possessions.

Time: 15 minutes You will need:

- Pens/pencils
- Three small sheets of paper per person (Post-it notes are perfect)

#### Step 1

Everybody must write down three items (one on each piece of paper) that have great sentimental value to them. These must be tangible items such as photos, jewelry, etc., and not the names of children, money, credit cards, or pets.

#### Step 2

Discuss as a group what items you chose. How do they compare? Why did you choose them? Did anyone think of something you wish you had thought of?

#### Step 3

Now imagine you must suddenly flee a situation. You must gather as many belongings as you can in a hurry, but you can't take everything with you. Everyone must pick one of their three items to leave behind. Crumple up the Post-It and put it aside.

Take a few minutes to reflect as a group, or internally, on how it would feel to lose that item.

#### Step 4

After you left your previous situation, you didn't have a safe place to go so you bounced around a few friends' houses. Now, you've overstayed your welcome, but you don't have the funds for a hotel room. You end up sleeping outside, and the weather takes a turn for the worst. During a rainstorm, one of your items is ruined. Pick up your two remaining Post-its and crumple up the one in your left hand. That item has been lost in the storm.

Take another few minutes here for discussion or self-reflection.

#### Step 5

You make your way to a nearby public park and find a shady spot to catch up on some much-needed sleep. As you sleep, your last item gets stolen. Crumple up your last Postit and throw it away.





## **Step 6 - Group Discussion**

Many people experiencing homelessness only own what they can carry each day, so the items they keep are important to them, much like the ones you chose for this activity. Unfortunately, it is also common for these valued possessions to be lost due to situations outside of their control such as weather or theft.

- How did "losing" your meaningful possessions make you feel?
- How do you think homeless people manage not only without necessities but without the possessions that are most meaningful to them?
- Do you think you would value these items more if they were all you owned?
- Consider how our possessions make up part of our identity. Does that change the way you feel about them being taken?





Dinner Time Activity

Dinner on a budget

This short activity will put you in the shoes of someone having to make dinner for their family of four on a very tight budget. Can you successfully stay under budget?

Select food from each of the categories below and enter it into the Dinner Menu. Try your best to make dinner for a family of 4 under \$5.

Food Bank (prices are for a serving size for 4 people):

Carb:

Spaghetti noodles- \$.070

White Rice - \$.50

Hamburger Buns - \$1.25

**Protein:** 

Ground Beef, (73% lean)- \$4.75

Chicken - \$2.75

Beans - \$.75

Sauces/Seasoning:

Store Brand Marinara Sauce -

\$1.60

Taco seasoning - \$.50 Salad Dressing - \$.50

Chicken Marinade - \$1.00

Vegetable:

Iceberg salad bag - \$1.50 Canned Green Beans - \$.75 Fruit:

Frozen mixed fruit - \$2.60

Fresh grapes - \$3.25 Fruit cups: \$2.00

### **Dinner Menu:**

Dinner Budget		
Food Type	Selection	Cost
Ex: Carb	Rice	.50
Carb		
Protein		
Sauce/Seasoning		
Vegetable		
Fruit		
Other		
<b>Total Budgeted for Dinner</b>		\$5.00
Total Cost		
Amount Remaining		





#### **Discussion Guide for Families**

Tips for talking to your children of any age about poverty and homelessness.

Poverty and homelessness can be difficult concepts for anyone to grasp so it's especially important to remember that your children's reactions and questions are perfectly natural and likely driven from genuine curiosity. To them, this is not a complex overwhelming issue, they are simply asking questions about a population they probably have not had contact with. Try to encourage their questions and take time to really listen. Be honest with answers but remember to keep things age appropriate.

Above all, make sure to reassure your children that their home and family are safe. It is easy for children to start to worry about their own home security, so remind your children that they have a family who loves and cares about them.

Here are some tips for talking about homelessness with children\*.

**Small children (ages 2-6)** are quite literal, so your discussions with them need to be simple and to the point. To effectively explain such a complex subject:

- 1. Express empathy and sadness for the person. By emphasizing how you feel sad that some people don't have a place to live, you provide an opportunity for children to understand the importance of recognizing others' hardships while modeling empathy.
- **2. Provide a simple explanation to their question.** We've all been asked questions by small children about our homeless neighbors (Why? How come?). It's best to respond with an answer that a small child can understand, i.e. "Some people don't have enough money to pay for a house."
- 3. Avoid discussing additional components such as mental illness or disability. Unless your child has specifically asked, adding in this layer will only confuse a young child.
- **4. Encourage your child to discuss how to help.** At this age, donating toys or picking out items to give to a nonprofit may make more of an impact than donating money, which may be too abstract for some young children. That said, depending on your level of involvement, it may be appropriate to provide opportunities for your children to give through family activities like hosting a donation drive, or collecting donations in lieu of birthday gifts or holiday gifts.
- 5. Assure your child that there are options for those struggling with homelessness. Young children may have feelings of sadness or worry after hearing that some children don't have a place to live. Assure them that organizations like HumanKind help homeless people find places to live and reassure them of their own safety and security.





**School-aged children, ages 7-12,** are becoming more interested in the world around them and have the capacity for a deeper understanding about homelessness and poverty. They are likely to have more questions and want to really get involved. Here are some tips to keep in mind.

- 1. Try to gauge what your child understands by asking them to explain what homeless and poor mean to them. This provides an opportunity for an interactive discussion, rather than a lecture, and will keep them engaged.
- **2. Prepare messages you can convey to your child on the spot,** such as appropriate responses to interacting with people who are homeless, and ways your family can be involved with helping those in need.
- **3. Be aware that your physical cues are as important as your verbal ones.** A child will pick up on any negative feelings you convey each time you encounter a homeless or mentally ill person on the street and will subconsciously learn to emit those feelings without understanding why.
- **4. Encourage empathy by talking about your own feelings** and discussing what a homeless person might be feeling. With older children, you can begin talking about some bigger issues that can relate to homelessness and poverty such as mental illness and addictions.
- **5. Don't avoid questions.** Use their curiosity as an opportunity to create a conversation around homelessness and poverty. Watching the news or reading the newspaper together may spark conversations and questions, as may walking around in urban areas where you are likely to see homeless people. It is important to address any questions your child may have to emphasize that it is a significant topic that should be discussed.
- **6. Talk with your child about your own personal responses.** For example, if you don't give directly to people asking for money on the street but instead choose to donate to a nonprofit, explain to your child about your reasons for doing so in a positive manner (e.g. "There are several nonprofit organizations that provide services to help homeless people get what they need, so that's why we support places like HumanKind.")
- **7.** Address your child's concerns by becoming more proactive. One of the best qualities children have is their ability to become immediately inspired to help others less fortunate. Helping your child identify and connect to a cause they care about is a great next step, which brings us to...
- **8. Encourage your child to act on their concerns.** Once your child has identified a cause they care about, there are numerous ways for them to act, from volunteering, to donating toys, to saving a portion of their allowance to donate to their organization of choice. Volunteering as a family is another excellent way to continue the conversation and develop a lifelong habit of giving back.





\*Thank you to Dr. Nancy Owen of Wellspring Counseling for these tips. Learn more at: https://wellspringfs.org/blog/14-ways-effectively-explain-homelessness-and-poverty-your-child





## **Word Scramble**

Fun & Games ©

Test your knowledge of common terms associated with HumanKind's work.

Unscramble the words below to uncover words found throughout this toolkit.

IADUHMNNK	
HEOMSELS	
YVOTEPR	
НРОЕ	
KISSNNDE	
VLONTUREE	
GRTEIUTAD	
AONTED	
SOLDRAYITI	
SELEP TOU	
AEPTTMARN	
DTEBUG	
SHREELT	







## Words in a Word

How Many Will You Find?

How many words can you make out of the following saying?

## HUMANKIND SLEEP OUT ICT

1.	16.
2.	17.
3.	18.
<ul> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5.</li> <li>6.</li> <li>7.</li> <li>8.</li> <li>9</li> <li>10</li> </ul>	19.
5.	20.
6.	21.
7.	22.
8.	23.
9	24.
10	25.
11.	26.
12.	27.
13.	28.
14.	29.
15.	30.





## **Coloring Pages**

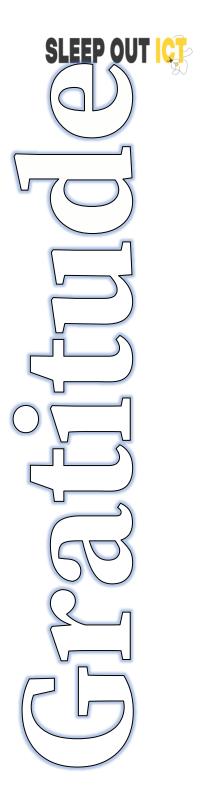
Get Creative with Your Kindness

Fun & Games ©

## Share your masterpieces on social @HumanKindWichita









## SLEEP OUT ICE







#### **Learn More**

Broaden Your Perspective

From picture books to scholarly articles, there are lots of resources available to further your discussion about homelessness and the power of kindness.

#### **Useful Websites**

- National Alliance to End Homelessness: endhomelessness.org
- National Low Income Housing Coalition: nlihc.org
- National Census Bureau: <u>census.gov</u>
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: <u>hud.gov</u>
- United Way of the Plains Point in Time Count: unitedwayplains.org
- Talk Poverty: talkpoverty.org
- Spent: playspent.org
- Invisible People: Invisible people.tv

#### **Social Media Accounts**

- Homeless Alliance
- Love Beyond Walls
- Haven for Hope
- Impact

#### **Podcasts**

- Understanding Homelessness
- Nobody Chooses Homelessness
- Narrative Shift by Love Beyond Walls

#### **Articles and Programs**

- American Psychological Association
- Bridges out of Poverty

#### **Videos**

- Sold Out: Affordable Housing at Risk: tpt.org/sold-out-affordable-housing-at-risk/
- YouTube Playlist: "Low-Barrier Shelter Education and Success Stories"
- Voiceless: A Documentary on Systemic Poverty





#### **Books**

#### **Non-Fiction**

#### Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, by Matthew Desmond

Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Evicted transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America's most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

#### Poverty, by America, by Matthew Desmond

The United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why? Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages? Elegantly written and fiercely argued, this compassionate book gives us new ways of thinking about a morally urgent problem. It also helps us imagine solutions. Desmond builds a startlingly original and ambitious case for ending poverty. He calls on us all to become poverty abolitionists, engaged in a politics of collective belonging to usher in a new age of shared prosperity and, at last, true freedom.

#### Rachel and Her Children: Homeless Families in America, by Jonathan Kozol

An unforgettable record of the desperate voices of men, women, and especially children caught up in a nightmarish situation that tears at the hearts of readers.

#### Tell Them Who I Am: The Lives of Homeless Women, by Elliott Liebow

In the late 1980's Elliot Liebow spent a lot of time at homeless shelters for women in the D.C. area. During his time there, he got to know the women personally, and over time the women he saw frequently went to him to talk about their experiences.

#### Homelessness is a Housing Problem, by Gregg Colburn and Clayton Page Aldern

Gregg Colburn and Clayton Page Aldern seek to explain the substantial regional variation in rates of homelessness across the United States. They shift their focus from the individual experiencing homelessness to the metropolitan area and test a range of conventional beliefs about what drives the prevalence of homelessness in a given city—including mental illness, drug use, poverty, weather, generosity of public assistance, and low-income mobility—and find that none explain the regional variation observed across the country. Instead, housing market conditions, such as the cost and availability of rental housing, offer a far more convincing account.

#### **Fiction**

#### The Tortilla Curtain, by T.C. Boyle (for teens)

The Mossbachers are wealthy, white, suburban homeowners living in a gated hilltop





community, while the Rincons are undocumented immigrants from Mexico, living in a makeshift camp deep in the ravine. Their opposing worlds gradually intersect after a freak accident brings together the two couples together.

#### Last Stop on Market Street, by Matt de la Peña

An inclusive ode to kindness, empathy, gratitude, and finding joy in unexpected places. CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from Grandma, who helps him see the beauty—and fun—in their routine and the world around them.

#### A Place to Stay: A Shelter Story, by Erin Gunti

This simple, touching picture book shows readers a women's shelter through the eyes of a young girl, who, with her mother's help, uses her imagination to overcome her anxiety and adjust.

#### The Old Man, by Sarah V.

This is the story of a person with no job, no family, no home—a nobody, who can't even remember what he was once named. But his day changes when he is noticed by a child.

#### A Shelter in Our Car, by Monica Gunning

A moving and authentic story about homelessness in an American city was developed with the help of the Homeless Children's Network in San Francisco.

#### Lady in The Box, by Ann McGovern

It is wintertime in the city and freezing cold, but not everyone is inside and warm. Ben and his sister Lizzie know that there is a lady who lives outside in a box over a warm air vent. The children worry about the kind-looking lady and begin sneaking food and clothes out of their apartment for her.

#### The World Needs More Purple People by Kristen Bell and Benjamin Hart

Purple people bring their family, friends, and communities together, and they speak up for what's right. They are kind and hardworking, and they love to laugh (especially at Grandpa's funny noises)! A purple person is an everyday superhero! How do you become one? That's the fun part!

#### Kindness Makes us Strong, by Sophie Beer

Kindness is a friendly hello. A roaring cheer. A quick boost. Kindness is what makes us strong! This joyful board book shows various children as they extend kindness in all kinds of situations: on the playground, at lunchtime, on a bike path, and on a neighborhood street.





## Share Some Kindness, Bring Some Light, by Apryl Stott

A little girl and her friend Bear learn the true meaning of selfless kindness in this sweet, stunningly illustrated debut picture book. All the other animals think Bear is mean because he's so big. But Coco shares her grandmother's advice: "When life gets dark as winter's night, share some kindness, bring some light."

## Kindness Is Your Superpower: A Children's Book About Empathy, Kindness and Compassion, by Alicia Ortego

This charming story with peaceful rhymes and colorful illustrations will explain to your child that it is okay to make a mistake and say *I'm sorry*.

#### Empathy is Your Superpower, by Cori Bussolari PsyD

This beautifully illustrated storybook teaches young kids how to recognize and practice empathy through simple real-life scenarios that are easy for them to understand.





### **About HumanKind**

Why We Do What We Do

Resource

Our goal is simple but big: make homelessness in Sedgwick County rare brief, and nonrecurring. We believe it can happen if we work together to truly advocate for everyone, including the most vulnerable among us.

#### Who We Are

For more than 135 years, HumanKind Ministries has demonstrated a commitment to helping those struggling in our community with an emphasis on poverty and housing insecurities. We believe that just like the path to poverty takes many shapes, so do the solutions. From homeless to home, and beyond, we are committed to helping all find their way—providing not only hope but an opportunity to start again.

#### What We Do

We provide outreach, shelter, affordable housing, basic needs, and supportive services to those experiencing housing insecurities or poverty in Sedgwick County. We operate three homeless shelters in Wichita. The Inn, our year-round shelter for individuals, families, and their pets, has been serving the Wichita community since 1984. From November through March, HK operates Emergency Winter Shelters for men and women. These are no-barrier shelters meaning all are welcome to stay with us at this nightly, life-saving shelter regardless of past convictions, substance abuse, or mental health barriers.

HumanKind provides street outreach several times a week from April to October to unsheltered individuals and families. Our Outreach Case Managers provide basic needs including food, water, hygiene items and basic medical care to Wichitans living under bridges, in tent cities, and abandoned bridges, to name a few. This is a critical first step to building trust with our homeless residents so when they are ready to move into shelter, they know HK is there.

HK also manages 155 low-cost apartments to assist in the journey from homelessness to—or back to—independent living. 101 apartments are at The Villas: studio, 1-,2-, and 3-bedroom apartments on our HK Campus for individuals and families in need of permanent supportive housing. The Studios is a 54-unit studio apartment complex for individuals moving directly from the streets. H=Onsite Case Managers work one on one with each client to help them adapt to life in permanent housing and break the cycle of homelessness.

During the holidays, we provide to those living in poverty through Operation Holiday, the region's largest holiday assistance program, operating since 1960. In less than one week in December, we provide up to 15,000 people, including 8,000 children, with





food, pet food, coats, blankets, toys, winter wear, and more.

#### Why We Do It

Every human being deserves access to basic needs, and we recognize the inherent value of each person. We know that our community is only as strong as our most vulnerable neighbor and that by serving them with compassion and kindness, we strengthen the entire community.

#### **How You Can Help**

HumanKind depends on the kindness and generosity of our community, volunteers, and donors. There are multiple ways you can help us on our mission.

*Give.* You've already given so much tonight and we can't tell you how much we appreciate it. If our mission speaks to you, consider becoming a regular donor. Learn more at <u>HumanKindWichita.org/Donate</u>

**Volunteer.** Being a HumanKind volunteer is a truly uplifting experience. Visit <u>HumanKindWichita.org/Volunteer</u> to learn about our year-round opportunities.

Advocate. Our mission cannot be achieved without long-term change. HumanKind will be forever committed to providing basic needs to homeless individuals and their families, but we must also look at the bigger picture. We must address the issues which have led our clients to the streets, such as poor mental health, substance abuse, a lack of affordable housing, and an unlivable minimum wage. Read more about these issues and ways you can advocate for change at <a href="https://example.com/humanKindWichita.org/Advocate">humanKindWichita.org/Advocate</a>.





What Now? Resource

Keep the Momentum!

You've put a lot of time into educating yourself about homelessness. We hope it feels good. Here are some ways you can keep up the momentum.

**Tomorrow morning.** Reflect on the activities you took part in tonight. Have you ever given any thought to life on the minimum wage? How have your interpretations of the words in There's No Place Like "Home" changed? Share your thoughts social media @HumanKindWichita and use the tag #SleepOutICT to keep the conversation going.

#### In the next two weeks.

- If Sleep Out has inspired you, let us know! Reach out with any questions at 316-264-9303 or on social media
- Use the reading list in this toolkit to expand your library

#### In the next month.

Look for volunteer opportunities in the community. In addition to <a href="https://humanKindWichita.org/Volunteer"><u>HumanKindWichita.org/Volunteer</u></a>, some other great places to start are:

- VolunteerMatch.org
- VolunteerKansas.org
- United Way of The Plains
- <u>SedgwickCounty.org</u>

#### Throughout the year.

Commit to regular conversations within your family about social justice. Encourage your children to ask questions and research the answers together.

#### Always.

- Check your privilege
- Lead with empathy
- Choose kindness

**THANK YOU** 

