



HOMELESSNESS AND HYGIENE

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HOMELESSNESS

What it is like to be homeless

Hygiene concerns

Impact of COVID-19

Design solution: The Local Bath House

TO BE HOMELESS

No permanent residence

Rely on friends, family, shelter

Some sleep outside (no shelter)

Can still have a job or responsibilities (family, children, pets, bills)

Struggle to get out of situation

Can have mental or physical limitations, but not always



LACK OF HYGIENE

Poor hygiene =

Disease/sickness, mental decline

Turn to drug abuse

Criminalized for bodily functions

Unable to obtain a job or housing

Lack of support

STATE SOLUTIONS?

Wash stations in certain areas

Not always maintained

No equal access

Still concern of disease spread

No showers, mirrors, toiletries or feminine products available



COVID-19 IMPACT

Public restrooms closed indefinitely
Crowding in homeless communities
Facilities shut down/shorter hours

Increase in unhoused individuals due to pandemic job loss
Concern over virus spread in homeless population



SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Public urination criminalization

Discrimination

Exclusion from society

Disease outbreaks

Hole gets deeper and more difficult to climb out of



HOW TO SOLVE THE CRISIS?

Lack of sanitation

Poor mental and physical health

No access to basic human rights

Increased disease

Decreased opportunities

Trapped in the cycle of homelessness

THE LOCAL

BATH HOUSE



Mirrors and sinks for handwashing, personal grooming and physical maintenance.

Cleaned and sanitized regularly.

Many daily things that most people don't even have to think about.

Multiple stations decrease crowding and wait time.



Individual lockers to store personal belongings.

Towels are provided and laundered between uses.

Opaque glass shower doors to keep cleanliness and privacy.

Necessary toiletries such as toothbrush, comb, soap, shampoo can be provided upon request.

Showers can be timed to prevent water waste.



Showers include a changing area and bench.

Shower glass is opaque and provides more cleanliness and privacy than a shower curtain.

Door can be locked for safety and privacy.

Water can be timed to reduce water waste and gives a one minute “warning” before turning off.



Separate facilities for men and women, supervised by volunteer staff.

Beautiful yet durable materials and finishes help provide a sense of space and show that these people are worth more than society would have them believe.

Provides shelter and privacy.

A more permanent solution than a port-a-potty.



Each area is inviting, clean, and comfortable.

Can be a quiet place to escape the difficulties of day-to-day life.

A space to regain dignity and feel human.

A chance to reintegrate with society.

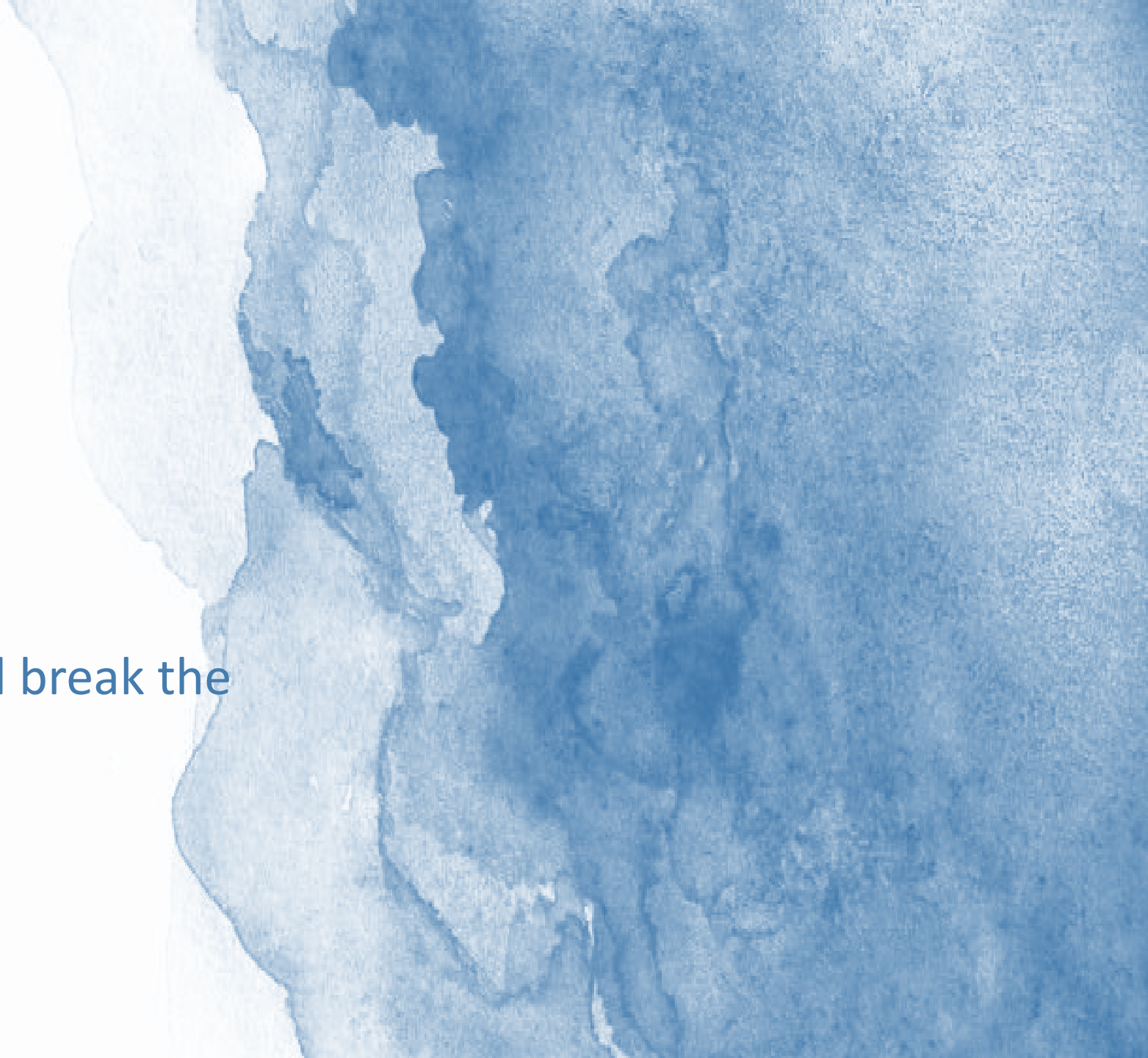
Simply getting ready for the day boosts morale, increases productivity, and can help end homelessness.

CONCLUSION

The Local Bath House

Not only a place of refuge

A place to feel human, and break the
cycle of homelessness



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