

Elizabeth Woodruff

The interviews that I conducted with my group mates were very insightful and informative. The first person that we interviewed was Ieva Grundy, and she works for an organization called School on Wheels. School on Wheels is an organization that provides tutoring for homeless children in shelters, and I tutored every week during high school so I knew Ieva well and what the organization stood for. The second person that we interviewed was Maurice Young. Maurice Young is someone who chooses to live as if he were homeless so that he can get to know the homeless and find a way to help them break out of it.

The interview with Ieva was interesting to me because I got to find out more about Ieva and how she got to School on Wheels. She had always been someone I looked up to, and it was nice to know what her life was like outside of School on Wheels. This interview gave a new viewpoint on how to break homelessness and the cycle of homelessness: through the children. Ieva talked about how homeless children are the same as any other child, they just have so much more stacked against them. Ieva believes that the way to end homelessness is to encourage the children and help them get an education so that they can break the cycle of poverty.

The interview with Maurice Young opened my eyes to what homeless people really need. When I first asked him what students such as myself could do to help, he said what the homeless need the most does not come directly from the community, but from the government. He said that no real progress can be made in eradicating homelessness unless the government steps in and helps. This was hard for me to accept at first because I am the kind of person that always wants to help. When someone is suffering and in need, I want to be able to step in and make all of their problems go away. This interview made me realize that homelessness is not something I can just step in and fix - it is a huge problem that requires huge acknowledgement and a huge amount of help to fix. I can help one homeless person by fulfilling their basic needs, but Maurice made me think that the best avenue for change in the overall population is through the government and using my voice to try and enact change.