The major cause of homelessness in the U.S. is a lack of affordable housing. People cannot find places they can afford, particularly in urban settings where homelessness is more prevalent. United Way of the Midlands organized a survey asking people about their experience of homelessness.

**HERE’S WHAT MORE THAN 300 PEOPLE HAD TO SAY**

- **The National Low Income Housing Coalition** says housing is “out of reach” for people who earn minimum wage in every state in the U.S.
- In South Carolina, a person would need to be paid $14.57 an hour in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment.
- 48% say it’s their first time being homeless.
- 46% have been homeless for one year or longer.

Our research showed that the respondents had very low levels of social support from family and friends.

- 60% said that family or friends could not help them with money or having a place to stay.

In spite of challenging circumstances that have led to their situations, respondents continue to fight for a better life for themselves.

- 78% are currently looking for housing.
- 50% say they can afford to pay something for housing, just not fair market rent.

- 58% are searching for work or a better job.
- 20% are employed.

Many homeless individuals feel awkward asking for help.

The solution is **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Help us make housing accessible to everyone by increasing the supply of affordable and supportive housing. Housing provides the foundation for life.