Find the Change

Try looking in; wallets, purses, jean pockets, jacket pockets, in the washer and/or dryer; in hampers, car seats and floors, between the cushions of your couch, desk drawers, on the ground, around bleachers, in old purses and coat pockets tucked away in your closet, near cash registers.

Thank you for making a significant difference in the lives of countless children in Lynn, Boston, Worcester, and Brockton!

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
15 Bubier Street
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Spare Change Drive Manual
Everything you need to know to run your own Spare Change Drive
Our Mission

For over 25 years, the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless has developed and implemented cost-effective programs and strategies to prevent and end homelessness in our state.

The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless’ HomeLink Initiative partners with public schools and health centers to assist at-risk families of students to avoid being homeless.

HomeLink learned that many children in Lynn were coming to school exhausted because they were sleeping on the floor or with a parent or sibling. As a result, many of these students were falling asleep at their desk throughout the day. Through A Bed for Every Child we began providing a new mattress, box spring and linens to school age children living in Lynn, Boston, Worcester, and Brockton.

Families experiencing poverty often can not afford to buy or replace a bed for their child to sleep in. Not having a bed has a major affect on a child’s ability to come to school prepared to learn, and on their self-esteem. This can have long-term consequences on their education and quality of life.

To break the cycle of poverty, we have to give children in need the tools to succeed in their education. One of these is a bed. With the help of Spare Change Drives, we hope to secure crucial funds that will go towards new beds.

Collect Donations

The easiest way to go about counting your change collection is to take it to a coin counting machine.

Please make checks payable to:

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless. On the memo line, please write A Bed for Every Child.

Please send donations to:

A Bed for Every Child
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
15 Bubier Street
Lynn, MA 01901

Thank you.

Other Ways to Get Involved:

- Plan school and office dress down days
- Have a bake sale and donate the proceeds
- Send e-cards to family and friends
- Create an online piggy bank for people to donate
- Encourage in-kind donations by suggesting people donate money to A Bed for Every Child rather than receive gifts for your birthday
- Host a sleep-a-thon. Get sponsored by friends, family, teachers, and co-workers for every night you agree to sleep on the floor
Spread the Word Cont’d.

Write about the Spare Change Drive in local newspapers. Include information about the drive in the school, business or faith-based organization’s newsletter as well. The more attention the better!

Hang posters around local schools and businesses and send them home with people.

Posters and a press release are available on our website, www.mahomeless.org/programs.

Gather Materials

If you are collecting your own spare change, we suggest using a large water bottle or old jam jar to do so. (You can get creative and use other items too.)

Large collection containers can be placed in designated locations around the school, business or place of worship.

Download the wrapper for your collection containers on our website.

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Select a Sponsor

Your school, place of worship or organization will need a designated person to take charge and be responsible for administrative tasks, such as approval for the Spare Change Drive and collecting and depositing donations. The sponsor will also need to contact the Coalition and notify us of your participation. Once we have been notified, we will post about your involvement on our website.

Choose a Strategy

When you decide on the start and end dates of your Spare Change Drive, you can begin to map out your strategy. We recommend running the drive for at least two to four weeks. You can make your Spare Change Drive into a competition which will generate more enthusiasm.

- Have people bring in change from home
- Collect change at sporting events
- Organize “teams” by grade, club, athletic team, youth group, or office department
- Ask friends, relatives and co-workers to contribute
- Place collection containers in designated spots to be filled

Spread the Word

A great way to spread the word about your Spare Change Drive is through social networking. Tweet about it; write a status update on Facebook, etc.

Make an announcement at a ceremony, pep rally, sporting event, through the loud speaker during announcements, etc. You could say:

“We are having a Spare Change Drive which will run from [date] to [date]. The drive is to raise money for the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless’ A Bed for Every Child Initiative. Did you know that thousands of children in Lynn, Boston, Worcester, and Brockton don’t have a bed to sleep in at night? We need your help to raise money for these children! Every $250 we raise will give a child in need a brand new bed! There will be a container in designated spots where you can put your spare change. Thank you!”