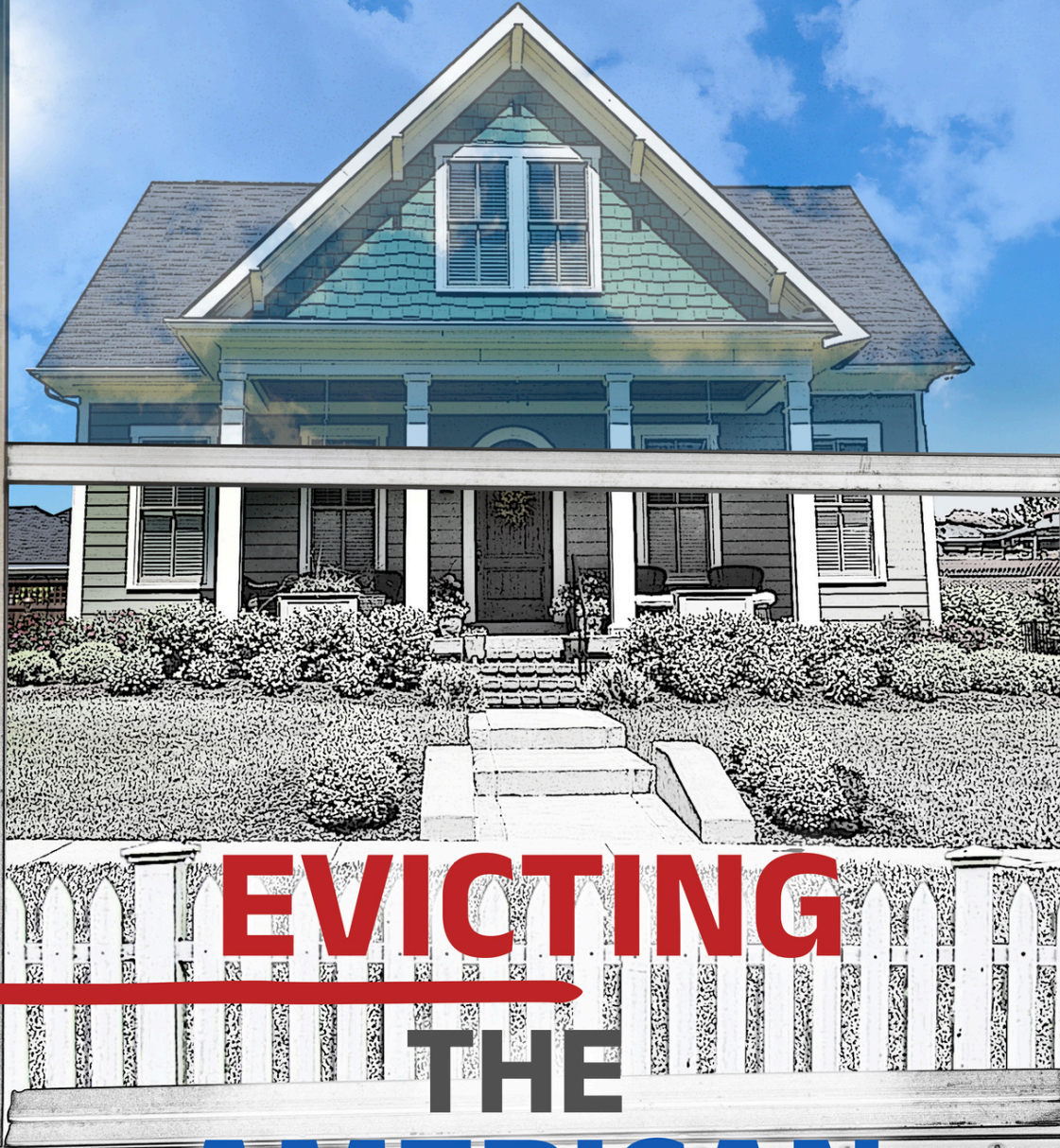


EMERGENCY EXIT



EVICTING

THE

AMERICAN

DREAM

ABOUT EVICTING THE AMERICAN DREAM



Recent statistics have shown that a record number of children face homelessness in the U.S. and the age at which someone is most likely to be homeless or in a shelter is infancy.

Evicting the American Dream amplifies the voices and counter stories of children and families confronting homelessness and eviction and explores the root causes and systemic issues that perpetuate this epidemic.

Often when we hear the words “homelessness” and “eviction,” there is a dominant narrative that says: “there is nothing we can do to prevent this from happening.” This film seeks to reframe, humanize, and transform how the wider public understands eviction and homelessness and the ways in which this is preventable.

Access the trailer and additional resources at: pcusa.org/evicting

COUNTER STORIES PRODUCTIONS PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) recognizes the value and importance of amplifying voices and stories. Using film as a resource to increase awareness on social justice issues, Counter Stories Productions seeks to connect and equip communities while cultivating wider circles of engagement and action.

Throughout the co-creation of these documentaries, Counter Stories Productions maintains an ongoing cyclical dialogue with community partners to “reflect-back” the common themes and intersectional issues. Clips are periodically shared with partners for feedback. Once there’s a rough cut of the documentary (and before it’s released to the public), the film is screened for community partners for review and further direction. This entire process for each documentary is time-consuming and labor intensive, but it is essential to gathering the voices and community partners who need to be centered in these films/resources.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).

Learn more:

pcusa.org/CounterStoriesProductions
CounterStoriesProductions.com



Host a Screening of *Evicting the American Dream*

Hosting a screening is a powerful way to spark meaningful conversations and drive change by:

- Educating: Create a learning environment to explore the factors highlighted in the film.
- Engaging: Foster thoughtful discussions on how to advocate for policy changes, and encourage audience participation facilitating guided discussions post-screening.
- Acting: Motivate participants to take the conversation beyond the screening and into their own communities.

Download Counter Stories Productions' Screening Guide for more information.



Resources for broader discussion

We hope this film encourages you to reflect on the challenges children and their families face when experiencing housing insecurity and eviction. Every child and family deserve the dream of having a place to call home, yet it remains out of reach for many. By working together, we can help ensure every child has the stability and safety of a home.

Check out the Library Guide from Sinclair Community College, in Dayton OH, which provides detailed information on steps you can take and ways to learn more:

[Home - Eviction and Housing Instability - LibGuides at Sinclair Community College](#)

How You Can Make a Difference:

1. **Awareness is the First Step**—Understanding the scope and impact of housing insecurity is critical. Take some time to read and learn more about how our own lives interact with poverty in America. The Urban Institute has created a Housing Justice Library: [Housing Justice Library](#) | [Urban Institute](#)

2. **Donating is a Good Second Step** – Many local organizations are dedicated to helping unhoused children and those in need. Your financial support can make a significant difference.

3. **Volunteer and Support**—Consider volunteering with or supporting one of the many organizations directly impacting your community. Advocate for the voices of those with lived experiences.

4. **Political Advocacy and Action** – There are several ways you can prevent eviction and support affordable housing and advocate for systemic change:

- **Support the civil right to counsel:** Learn about and advocate for the civil right to legal representation for tenants facing eviction. Visit the [National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel](#) to learn more, and consider supporting local organizations that provide free legal assistance to underserved populations, including tenants facing eviction.
- **Advocate for affordable housing:** Support efforts to create and maintain affordable housing options in your community. Organizations like Coalitions for the Homeless, Fair Housing Groups, Legal Aid Organizations and grassroots efforts to support affordable housing work to ensure everyone can access safe, fair, and affordable housing. These organizations focus on policies and practices that protect tenants' rights and expand affordable housing opportunities.
- **Contact your representatives:** Contact your local, state, and federal representatives to express your support for policies that promote affordable housing and tenant protections.
- **Support tenant unions:** Get involved with or support groups like those advocating housing justice. Learn more about the broader movement for housing rights [here](#).

5. **Support Best Practices in Your Community for Sheltering Families and Children and Support the McKinney Vento Offices in your local Public Schools:**

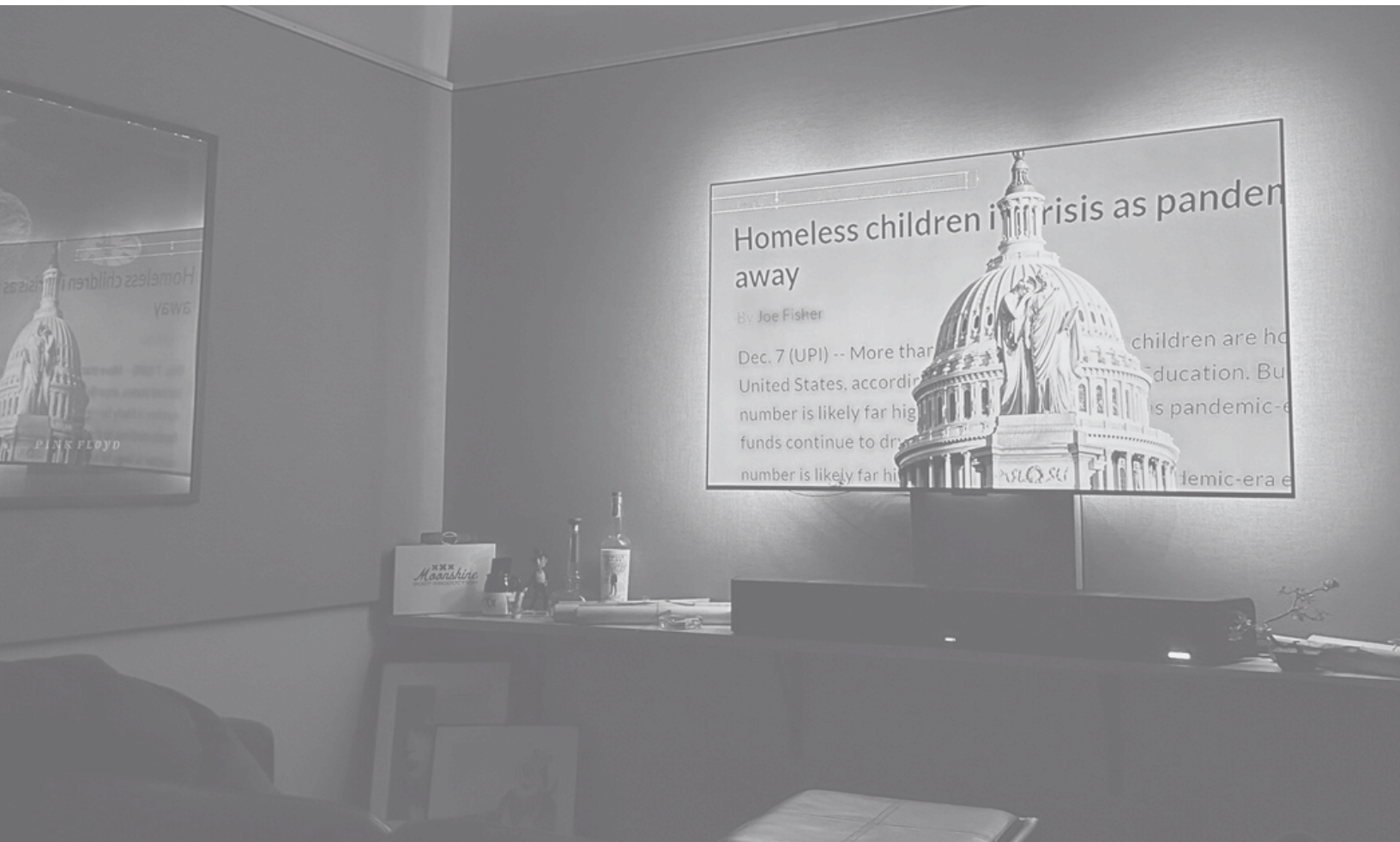
- [What Interventions Work Best for Families Who Experience Homelessness? Impact Estimates from the Family Options Study.](#)
- [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act | National Center for Homeless Education](#)

6. **Advocate for the United States to Ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child** – The United States is the only country in the world that has not yet ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, a vital international treaty protecting children's rights. Support initiatives like the UNICEF USA Child-Friendly Cities Initiative, which works to promote children's rights and well-being in cities and communities across the U.S. You can learn more about why ratification matters and how you can support this effort by visiting [Human Rights Watch](#).

7. **Globally, Think About Sustainability and the Role We All Play in Consumption** – The global housing crisis is deeply connected to sustainability and economic inequality. Consider how your consumption habits and the companies you support may contribute to housing inequality. To better understand the scope of the crisis and explore practical solutions, read the [World Economic Forum's article on the global housing crisis](#). Investigate whether companies or your retirement plan investments are aligned with responsible housing practices. Watch the film [Push](#) for insight into how global forces affect housing affordability and access. Take time to explore [Socially Responsible Investing \(SRI\)](#), a way to ensure your financial decisions support sustainable and ethical business practices, including fair housing.

8. **Support Human Rights Globally and Locally** – Learn about the efforts in your community to promote human rights. Supporting these types of movements is essential for ensuring the rights of all individuals, including access to safe, affordable housing.

9. **Look for Sustainable Ways to Create a Just Economy for All** – Sustainable economic practices are critical to ensuring a just future for everyone. Support initiatives that foster cooperative businesses prioritizing community ownership and equity. These efforts help build stronger, more resilient local economies where wealth is shared and essential services like housing are accessible to all. Think about how your choices—whether as a consumer or investor—can contribute to a fairer, more sustainable economy that benefits everyone.



Read more about ways to reduce eviction:

- [7 strategies for reducing the number of evictions in your community | Bloomberg Cities](#)
- [Eviction Prevention as Strategy to Reduce Homelessness | National League of Cities](#)
- [Eviction Prevention: Reducing Harm to Households and Society | Institute for Research on Poverty - UW Madison](#)

Many other local and global organizations are working to support unhoused children. We encourage you to learn more, ask about the efforts happening in your community, and find ways to make a difference.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES BY COUNTER STORIES PRODUCTIONS

Flint: The Poisoning of an American City (2019)

With over 15 million views through streaming platforms worldwide, this documentary amplifies a wide spectrum of voices from the current struggle of Flint residents and explores the critical question of how this could happen in the U.S., and how this tragedy should serve as a warning for the rest of the country.

- Winner of The Susan A. K. Shaffer Humanitarian Award, Impact DOC Awards, The Frank Little Award for Self-Sacrifice and Social Change

Available on: Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Tubi, Kanopy, all Major Cable Providers OnDemand

Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence (2017)

This documentary explores the impact of gun violence through a public health lens, while examining the 'ripple effect' that one shooting has on a survivor, a family, a community and a society.

- Official Selection of The Martin Luther King Jr. D.R.E.A.M Film Series and Winner of the Impact DOC Awards

Available on: Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Tubi, Kanopy, all Major Cable Providers OnDemand

To Breathe Free (2016)

This award-winning short documentary follows the 5-year journey of a Syrian family fleeing the war in Homs to the refugee camps in Jordan and starting a new life in Washington, D.C. Using home movies, phone video, family photos and interviews with family members and former refugees, this short documentary gives an intimate and unique perspective not seen in current media reporting on the refugee crisis.

- Winner Best Documentary short - Covellite International Film Festival, Best Documentary short - Beaufort International Film Festival, Impact DOC awards, Platinum Award - International Independent Film Awards

Available by request

Locked in a Box (2015)

"Locked in a Box" is an award-winning short documentary that follows the stories of individuals held in the U.S. immigration detention system and those who visit them. Since the 1990s there has been a massive expansion of the immigration detention system up to 34,000 immigrants in detention on any given day in approximately 200 different facilities, many of which are for-profit prisons. Locked in a Box helps strip away the political rhetoric to see the human cost of detention.

- Winner of The Immigration Advocacy in Documentary Film Award, Impact DOC Awards, Achievement in Documentary Film Award, The DeRose-Hinkhouse Award for Documentary.

Available by request