Contents

	Page
Illustrations	xi
Preface	xiii
Acknowledgments	XV
Chapter I: Homelessness in America	3
Problem Statement	3
Theories of Homelessness	5
Historical Antecedents	7
History of Governmental Concern	8
Homelessness in the 1980s	11
Purpose of Study	15
Chapter II: Methodology	17
Research Design	17
Sample Site Selection	17
Survey Instrument	19
Participant Sample Selection	20
Interview Procedure	22
Analysis	24
Chapter III: Population Characteristics	25
Demographics	25
Household composition	25
Ages	25
Ethnicity	26
Education	26
Geographic origin	26
Time in shelter	28
Shelter need	28
Employment and Financial Issues	29
Income prior to homelessness	29
Present income	30
Type of work	30
Childcare utilization	32

Chapter IV: Becoming Homeless	33
Contributing Factors	33
Most significant problem	33
Secondary problem	36
Tertiary problem	37
Domestic or Personal Problems	38
Physical health problems	38
Mental illness or emotional problems	38
Divorce to homelessness	39
Domestic violence/abuse	39
Alcohol or drug use	41
Struggling to Survive	41
What families did to avoid losing housing	41
Give or sell	42
Tell relatives	42
What else was happening	43
Last straw	43
Chapter V: Effects of Homelessness	45
Health Related Effects	45
Children and Family	46
Children and the move	46
School age children	47
Preschool age children	48
Caregiving responsibilities	49
Major effect on family	50
Job opportunities	51
Would you work?	52
Chapter VI: Family Recommendations	53
Preventing Family Homelessness	53
Most helpful	53
Housing concerns	54
Employment issues	55
Welfare assistance	55
Most important problem	57

Assisting Homeless Families	57
Most needed	57
Counseling	58
Program components	58
Shelters	59
Interim housing	59
Low-income housing	60
Childcare	61
Jobs	61
Counseling	61
Welfare	62
Chapter VII: Discussion	63
A New Typology	63
Silhouettes	68
Households	68
Age comparisons	68
Ethnic comparisons	69
Education	69
Geographic origin	71
Income	71 72
Kind of work	73
Problem comparison	73
Fighting homelessness	74
Children	75
Family advice	76
Chapter VIII: The Kaleidoscopic Picture	77
The Improvers	77
Workers	77
Defenders	78
Escapers	79
The Maintainers	81
Evicted	81
Rejected	84
Abandoned	85

Chapter IX: Summary and Recommendations	87
Summary	87
Recommendations	90
Unexpected Findings	91
Limitations of the Research	92
Statewide Study Comparison	93
New Areas of Research	95
Appendix A: Questionnaire Appendix B: Interview Consent Form	

.

Illustrations

TABLES

Number		Page
1.	Reasons Families Moved	27
2.	Regular Type of Work	31
3.	Most Significant Problems	
	3a. Primary Problem/All Families	35
	3b. Primary Problem/Single Parent Families	35
	3c. Secondary Problem/All Families	36
	3d. Tertiary Problems/All Families	37
4.	Length of Domestic Violence	40
5.	Demographics of Improver & Maintainer Families	70

FIGURES

Number		Page
1	Definitional Outline of Typology	66
	Families Classified by Behaviors	67