• Giving to people who are panhandling is a LOSE-LOSE situation. **YOU LOSE** because they often use your money as a stop-gap measure or to support their dependence on alcohol or drugs. **THEY LOSE** by continuing negative behaviors rather than seeking help. The more you give your spare change to people who are panhandling, the more their lives don’t change.

• **Food and shelter options**, as well as **support services**, are available for those in need.

• **Supporting local organizations that provide these services** is the best way to help.

• **Invest in long-term solutions** by giving your financial support and/or volunteering your time to local service providers.

**REDIRECT YOUR GENEROSITY**

nashvilledowntown.com/realchange
Questions? Email realchange@nashvilledowntown.com
RESPONDING TO PEOPLE WHO ARE PANHANDLING

- Panhandling is generally not illegal in Nashville, but aggressive behavior is illegal.

- If you feel threatened or experience aggressive behavior*, immediately call 615-862-8600 for non-emergency police assistance or 911 in an emergency situation.

- When you encounter someone who is panhandling, always walk with certainty and confidence.

- Make eye contact and acknowledge the person with a nod.

- Choose to respond politely. You may simply say, “no” or “not today.”

- If you want to offer the person something, consider bottled water or food certificates rather than money.

PANHANDLING IS NOT THE ANSWER

To donate today to local service organizations, visit nashvilledowntown.com/realchange

*Aggressive behavior by someone who is panhandling:
1) persistence after receiving a negative response—closely following and continuing to solicit money;
2) intentionally touching or causing physical contact with a person without his or her consent;
3) using violent or threatening gestures, profane or abusive language
4) intentionally blocking or interfering with someone’s safe or free passage along a sidewalk or street.

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