Breonna Stephenson

**If you could have dinner with a famous person, who would it be, and what would you discuss?**

Growing up in a town full of poverty I cannot help but to want someone to help all the homeless people get somewhere safe to sleep every night. Without the proper funds, and a head-strong leader that will not happen anytime soon. If I could have dinner with a famous person it would be Oprah Winfrey, so that I could persuade her into building a mansion-like home that can hold many homeless people until they can get on their feet. It will be called the “Do the right thing” program.

The reason I would chose to talk to Oprah over any other celebrity is because she is a very giving person. Unlike other celebrities she has a sweet persona about her and her simply pleasant outlook on life is extravagant. I did not pick her because she is one of the most riches people in the world but because she can understand such a complex situation and take it into her own hands. Yes, the fact that she has money does come into play but it’s her name that carries such power. If she is going to put her name to something it must be great and I believe that if we could sit down and have this conversation it would help many human beings of my community from being cold, hungry, stinky and lifeless.

Even though I would like to help all homeless people it is just impossible because there are so many. I would propose to Ms.Winfrey that after the homeless people stay there 2 month term then they have to move out and find another residency. In those two months while they are attending the program they must seek employment, keep the mansion clean, do community service and attend a community college of their choice. The program will be to help and better them; if I allow them to sit around every day then their stay would be for recreation, I need them to put an effort into having a better life.

It will be my duty to provide each person with three outfits, one business, one regular outfit, one formal outfit; so that they can have the confidence they need to succeed. Not having money can affect a lot of decisions, how you dress, how you eat, how you speak even. I would just like to see more successful people in the world that way we can all be able to survive; the rate of deaths is ridiculous due to starvation. I want the homeless I work with to experience life while they are under my arms.

You may see the people on Mercury beside the KFC asking for help or on any other intersection in Newport News, even Hampton. Don’t confuse a homeless guy with a drunk because there are ways you can tell the difference. A homeless guy will accept a sandwich if they are really homeless and hungry, a drunk will ask you for money and curse you out if you give him a sandwich. I do not wish to help drunks, they have AA meetings for that, I wish to help the homeless simply because life is hard and maybe there parents never taught them living skills so of course finding a place to stay , looking for jobs , or getting any kind of source of money is hard .

Just months ago they tore down the only local shelter we had which was in Hampton, Virginia called “Friends of the Homeless”. Where will they go? If a storm comes what are their chances of living? What are their chances of eating this week? How am I supposed to sleep when everybody on this wonderful earth that God created can’t have everlasting life?, If we could just come together as a community, a group, a nation then we can prevent another child from growing up into poverty . I know that I cannot do it all alone but with helping hands and open ears anything and everything is possible.

I may be young and I may not have all the pieces there yet but I am sure that I can get it all together in due time. In life there are the people that make a difference and the people that are just here waiting for a handout. I don’t see what I want to help do for the homeless people a handout; I see it simply as a stepping stone. I want to renew their hope, their pride, build back up their self-esteem, assure them that everything is okay and I believe that I and Oprah can do just that. If she would just hear me out and understand where I am coming from and visit the location , I’m sure that I could help a lot of people start a new life and that would make me be able to live mines in peace. Oprah my hero, my motivation, my hope, my inspiration, our dinner would simply be about change.