

Tammy DeGruchy Grubbs



Tammy, an unwavering advocate and artist, has dedicated her career since 1995 to providing a voice to those experiencing homelessness. Her commitment stems from a deeply personal experience of teenage homelessness, and it was further fueled by the troubling contrast in media portrayals of the homeless.

The media's conflicting narratives deeply troubled Tammy. During Christmas, the homeless were depicted as “the needy”, prompting calls for compassion and assistance. However, throughout the rest of the year, the media often portrayed them as drunks, derelicts, and the supposed dregs of society. This stark duality fueled Tammy's passion to address the societal prejudices that perpetuated damaging stereotypes.

In May 1999, Tammy took a monumental step by working with Michael Stoops of the National Coalition for the Homeless to unveil the largest-ever oil painting exhibit on homelessness. Her exhibit, encompassing both urban and rural homelessness, sought to challenge these deeply ingrained stereotypes. Tammy's commitment extended beyond the canvas; she led hunger and homeless campaigns and exhibits nationwide.

Tammy's advocacy and artistry stand as a powerful testament to her mission: to confront societal biases and foster a compassionate understanding of homelessness. Through her work, she strives to dismantle the dichotomy perpetuated by the media, urging society to see the humanity and resilience within those who are often unjustly stigmatized, all while recognizing the urgent need to address the grave consequences of such stereotypes.