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# HOMEWARD

## Street Journal

Volume 19, No. 3

Member INSP  
Street News Service

May / June, 2015

### Activists 'Shut Down' Nestlé Water Bottling Plant in Sacramento to Protest Unrestricted Water Use

by Dan Bacher

Environmental and human rights activists, holding plastic "torches" and "pitchforks," formed human barricades at both entrances to the Nestlé Waters bottling plant in Sacramento at 5:00 a.m. on Friday, March 20, effectively shutting down the company's operations for the day.

Members of the "Crunch Nestlé Alliance" shouted out a number of chants, including "We got to fight for our right to water," "Nestlé, Stop It, Water Not For Profit," and "¿Agua Para Quien? Para Nuestra Gente."

The protesters stayed until about 1 pm, but there were no arrests.

Representatives of the alliance said the company is draining up to 80 million gallons of water a year from Sacramento aquifers during a record drought.

They claim Sacramento City Hall has made it possible through a "corporate welfare giveaway."

"This corporate welfare giveaway is an outrage and warrants a major investigation," Coalition spokesperson Andy Conn said. "For more than five months we have requested data on Nestlé water use. City Hall has not complied with our request, or given any indication that it will. Sacramentans deserve to know how their money is being spent and what they're getting for it. In this case, they're getting ripped off."

Lola Ellis of 99 Rise Sacramento, who spoke on the bullhorn at

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the protest, said, "Nestlé's bottling of water in Sacramento is unsustainable in the current state of drought. We really don't know how much water they are taking from the aquifer and that is a scary thing."

"The water needs to be used for the local community. If there is not enough water for the local community, the Nestlé corporation should not be making a profit," she emphasized.

The coalition protested what they call Nestlé's "virtually unlimited use of water" while Sacramentans (like other Californians) who use a mere 7 to 10 percent of total water used in the State of California, have had severe restrictions and limitations forced upon them.

The coalition is calling on Nestlé to pay rates commensurate with its enormous profit, or voluntarily close down.

"Nestlé pays only 65 cents for each 470 gallons it pumps out of the ground – the same rate as an average residential water user. But the company can turn the area's water around, and sell it back to Sacramento at mammoth profit," according to a news release from the activists.

They said Sacramento officials have refused attempts to obtain

Continued Page 2

### Resisting the Criminalization of Homeless Lives

By David Roddy

Since December 9, 2014, over 100 of Sacramento's poor and homeless have lined up every Tuesday for a free organic meal outside the doors of City Hall hosted by the Community Dinner Project, organized by Occupy Sacramento. The food line starts two hours before city council is called to session. Hundreds of Sacramento's poor line the sidewalk in front of City Hall to share a hot meal. Although these dinners take place on city property, the event is not sanctioned by the city government. In fact, it is expressly forbidden.

In October of 2013, the City passed an ordinance requiring all community groups to obtain a permit before sharing food with the homeless. The Community Dinner Project addresses this and other community issues by providing a hot meal and an environment for discussion. Participants are then encouraged to attend the city council meeting and speak during public comment.

This new ordinance is part of a growing body of laws targeting the poor. On top of laws against panhandling, it is illegal to camp in public and private spaces. It is illegal to carry "camp paraphernalia"- such as sleeping bags- in public spaces. Sleeping in parked cars, or resting in public parks after sunset, are also ticketable offenses.

In 2012, an appointee from the United Nations Human Rights Council decried the city's crackdown on tent encampments, as well as the lack of access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities for the homeless in Sacramento. This was a clear warning that Sacramento is in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But since then police repression of the poor has only accelerated: arrests for homeless violations in Sacramento jumped 140% between 2013 and 2014. And it isn't just Sacramento: A 2014 study by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty found significant increases in laws targeting the poor between 2011 and 2014 across the

Continued Page 4

Page 2

**Nestle Water  
continued**

Page 3

**Gilded Age  
Today**

Page 4

**Resisting  
Criminalization  
continued**

Page 5

**Minimum  
Wage Fight  
Ground Zero**

Page 6

**Poem:  
Half Has  
Never Been  
Told**

Page 7

**Right to Rest  
Update  
2 Poems**

Page 8

**Homeless  
Services**

**Info**

# Nestlé Water Bottling Plant

continued from page 1

details of Nestlé's water use. Coalition members have addressed the Sacramento City Council and requested that Nestlé either pay a commercial rate under a two tier level, or pay a tax on its profit.

A call to the Sacramento City Department of Utilities about the details of Nestlé's water use hadn't been returned as of press time.

But according to Fox 40 News, "In 2014 Nestlé says it used 50 million gallons from the Sacramento Municipal Water Supply, which they say is a fraction of one percent of total water demand within the city of Sacramento." (fox40.com 3/20/2015)

A statement issued by the company in October 2014 regarding a previous protest in front of the plant said:

**"Nestlé's permit to transport water across the national forest expired in 1988. It hasn't been reviewed since, and the Forest Service hasn't examined the ecological effects of drawing tens of millions of gallons each year from the springs."**

"In Sacramento, Nestlé Waters North America purchases and pays the standard metered rate for municipal water, which is delivered through the municipal pipe system. We are not ranked among the top 10 water users in Sacramento as we use about two thousandths of one percent (0.0016%) of Sacramento's total water demand. Our company is subject to any restrictions, drought or otherwise, imposed on all light industrial or business customers by the city of Sacramento and we comply with those restrictions." (scribd.com-245724284)

Bob Saunders, also with the Crunch Nestlé Alliance, responded, "Nestlé can claim any amount of water they want, but we haven't seen any documentation of the amount of water they're using. We do know they're allowed to take up to 80 million gallons per year."

Mauro Oliveira, known as "Red Sun," showed up at the protest with his children, including Rise, Aren and Mahai'a, and connected the battle of local activists against Nestlé with the struggle of Indian Tribes, family farmers, grassroots environmental activists and fishermen to stop fracking, the Shasta Dam raise, and Governor Jerry Brown's Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) to build the twin tunnels, the most environmentally destructive public works project in California history.

"This whole idea of bottling water goes against Indigenous Peoples' concept of water is sacred," said Oliveira. "The 20,000-year-old water in aquifers belongs to the last generation on earth. We don't have the right to tap into this water."

"The Governor said we should conserve, but millions of gallons of fracking waste are being re-injected into the aquifer in California. The Governor talks out of both sides of his mouth. Polluting our water supplies is a violation of human rights," said Oliveira. You can view photos of the protest at indybay.org

## *Raiding pristine water from a National Forest stream*

The bottling plant in Sacramento is not the only one in California. A recent investigation in the Desert Sun found that Nestlé Waters North America has been pumping water from pristine streams of the San Bernardino National Forest with little to no oversight

by the U.S. Forestry Service. (www.desertsun.com-3/5/2015)

"Nestlé Waters North America holds a longstanding right to use this water from the national forest near San Bernardino," according to the Sun. "But the U.S. Forest Service hasn't been keeping an eye on whether the taking of water is harming Strawberry Creek and the wildlife that depends on it. In fact, Nestlé's permit to transport water across the national forest expired in 1988. It hasn't been reviewed since, and the Forest Service

hasn't examined the ecological effects of drawing tens of millions of gallons each year from the springs."

On its website, Nestlé claims that it is committed to "environmental stewardship" (www.nestle-watersna.com – about nestle waters):

"36 years of experience promoting healthy hydration, Nestlé Waters North America has 15 leading U.S. and Canadian bottled water brands," according to the company. "The company's commitment to environmental stewardship, especially in the areas of water use, packaging and energy, as well as its dedication to partnering in the communities where it operates, have led Nestlé Waters to achieve the number one bottled drinking water position in the U.S."

Activists disagree strongly with the company's claims of commitment to "environmental stewardship." In October, the "Crunch Nestlé" coalition released a "white paper" highlighting predatory water profiteering actions taken by Nestlé Water Bottling Company in various cities, counties, states and countries.

Most of those great "deals" yielded mega profits for Nestlé at the expense of the public. Additionally, the environmental impact on many of those areas yielded "disastrous results," the paper stated.

Nestlé is currently the leading supplier of the world's bottled water, including such brands as Perrier and San Pellegrino. It has 7,500 employees and 29 bottled water facilities across the U.S. and Canada, and annual revenues were \$4.0 billion in 2012, up 6.8% from 2011. For nearly four decades, activists from an array of organizations have criticized the company for its human rights violations throughout the world.

For example, Food and Water Watch and other organizations blasted Nestlé's "Human Rights Impact Assessment," released at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in December 2013, as a "public relations stunt." From foodandwaterwatch.org: "The failure to examine Nestlé's track record on the human right to water is not surprising given recent statements by its chair Peter Brabeck-Letmath challenging the human right to water," said Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director of Food & Water Watch. She noted that the company famously declared at the 2000 World Water Forum in the Netherlands that water should be defined as a need—not as a human right.

**Watch Nestlé's CEO declare water "food that should be privatized, and not a human right":** [www.globalresearch.ca/nestle-continues-stealing-worlds-water-during-drought/5438880](http://www.globalresearch.ca/nestle-continues-stealing-worlds-water-during-drought/5438880)

More recently Brabeck-Letmathe, after facing international criticism for his remarks, reversed course and now said he thinks that "water is a human right and that everyone, everywhere in the world, has the right to clean, safe water for drinking and sanitation." (www.nestle.com)

But activists continue to cite the company's bad human rights record, noting that Nestlé workers who have protested unjust labor conditions at the corporation's facilities in Colombia have been assassinated by paramilitary death squads.

"In November 2013, Colombian trade unionist Oscar Lopez Trivino became the fifteenth Nestlé worker to be assassinated by a paramilitary organization while many of his fellow workers were in the midst of a hunger strike protesting the corporation's refusal to hear their grievances," according to the groups.

Taking the water from aquifers throughout the world and the deaths of workers protesting Nestlé policies are not the only violation of human rights that activists charge the corporation with. Groups including the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) and Save the Children claim that the promotion of Nestlé infant formula over breastfeeding has led to health problems and deaths among infants in less economically developed countries.

"They're a despicable company with death built into their business plan," summed up Conn.

## *The Drought and The Tunnels*

The Sacramento protest took place just days after Jay Famiglietti, the senior water scientist at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory/Caltech and a professor of Earth system science at UC Irvine, revealed in an op-ed in the LA Times on March 12 that California has only one year of water supply left in its reservoirs. (touch.latimes.com/)

The protest also made the news as Governor Jerry Brown continues to fast-track his Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) to build the peripheral tunnels to ship Sacramento River water to corporate agribusiness, Southern California water agencies, and oil companies conducting fracking operations.

The \$67 billion plan won't create one single drop of new water, but it will take vast tracts of Delta farm land out of production under the guise of "habitat restoration" in order to irrigate drainage-impaired soil owned by corporate mega-growers on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Even the "habitat restoration" justification has recently been eliminated.

The tunnel plan will also hasten the extinction of Sacramento River Chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, Delta and longfin smelt, green sturgeon and other fish species, as well as imperil the salmon and steelhead populations on the Klamath and Trinity rivers. The peripheral tunnels will be good for agribusiness, water privateers, oil companies and the 1 percent, but will be bad for the fish, wildlife, people and environment of California and the public trust.



# Yesterday and Today: Reflections On The Gilded Age

By Cathleen Williams

The pearl-gray turret of the Crocker Art Museum rises near the thunderous interstate that cuts through California's capital city, and a recent exhibit there, "Toulouse Lautrec and La Vie Moderne, Paris 1880-1910" highlighted paintings from a period that has parallels to our own. Both these time periods – the 1870's to 1910 and the 1990's to the present day – are called "Gilded Ages" for their technological innovation and concentrations of wealth and poverty. In the exhibit, against a lavish Parisian background, sketches capture the gaiety of popular music halls and women of doubtful virtue; portrayals of leisure, wealth, and sophistication are paired with paintings that portray the displacement and hardship of ordinary people.

In "Le Parc Monseau" by Pierre George Jeannot (1895), a gaunt, weather-beaten old man, carrying a violin case, tramps through a snowy park, his worn shoes shapeless and his trousers haphazardly rolled. Like homeless people today, he comes into view as an outsider in the midst of the city, wearing, as was then the fashion, a battered top hat. Henri Gabriel Abels' "Miners Heading For Work," (1894) shows a shirtless figure with a shovel over his shoulder, alone in a pale field; in the far landscape, blurred men zigzag forward, the bleak towers of a mine looming in the background. The portrayal suggests one of the great strikes that swept not only France but this country as well during the 1890's, in response to 72 hour work weeks and grinding low wages.

Like the Gilded Age of the last century, the current Gilded Age is marked by developments that reflect the emergence of a "new economy," including:

- Extremes of wealth and poverty (then, the wealthiest 10% of Americans owned 75% of the wealth; today, the top 10% own over 80% of wealth – like stocks, bonds, trust funds.)
- Child poverty (then, one fifth of children worked in industry because of poverty; today, one quarter of children live below the miserable poverty line.)
- Consolidation of corporate control over the economy, through the rise of huge conglomerates or "trusts" and vast wealth (then, J.D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie; today, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett.)
- The growing merger of government and corporate interests, expressed at all levels, including a Supreme Court that blocks reform (then, outlawing of unions; today, the Citizens United decision that has led to corporate domination of election financing.)
- Persecution of immigrants and political fear tactics (then, the Chinese Exclusion Act; today, the deportation and detention of millions.)
- Rise of financial interests and banks as dominant in the economy, with recurrent crises and scandals (then, the robber barons and J.P. Morgan; today, the 2008 financial crisis and the devastation of the middle class.)
- Laws aimed at disenfranchisement of the poor (then, the poll tax and machine politics; today, rising restrictions on the right to vote.)
- Severe housing shortages (then, tenements; today, astronomical rents and homelessness.)
- Philanthropy (then, Carnegie libraries; today, the Crocker Museum.)
- Subsistence wages and the struggle for labor reform (then, 72 hour weeks and the movement for an eight hour day; today, the struggle to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.)
- Continuing racial violence against people of color (then, lynching; today, mass incarceration and police killings.)
- Continuing exploitation and inequality of women workers (then, the Triangle Shirtwaist fire; today, women concentrated in low wage service jobs and part time work.)

The paintings of the first Gilded Age – known as La Belle Epoque in France – are visible evidence of the industrial

revolution of the period, driven by technological change, as agricultural societies underwent a rapid and tumultuous transition to industrialization – "La Vie Moderne." In the United States, railroads drove an explosion of economic growth, rapid urbanization, and technological innovation, which revolutionized production in heavy industries like iron, steel and coal, as well as electrification, machine tools, petroleum, chemicals, rubber, bicycles, fertilizer, engines, and turbines – all inventions that we take for granted today.

The parallels between the present Gilded Age and the past both show the impact of underlying economic changes as they disrupt and remake relationships in the workplace, the economy, as well as government policy. But while the first Gilded Age fueled industrial production and the growth of the work force, today technological changes drive in the opposite direction – it's what's been called "the end of work." And it's begun with the decline of the number of jobs in manufacturing and industry, as technology and globalization has strengthened the hand of business, decimated unions, and enabled a corporate culture of "cutting wages to the bone." (New York Times 4/28/15.)

Today, technologies like the Web, artificial intelligence, and robotics are bringing about the automation of every process from customer service to medicine, a relentless synergy that cannot be held back. According to the Economist, "technology's impact will feel like a tornado, hitting the rich world first, but eventually sweeping through poorer countries too...Worse, it seems like that this wave of technological disruption to the job market has only just started. From driverless cars to clever household gadgets, innovations that already exist could destroy swathes of jobs that have hardly been touched." (1/18/14). One study estimates that in just 20 years, 47% of jobs will no longer be needed – they will be overtaken, never to return. The data is coming in: since 2000, economic growth is no longer paralleled by a corresponding increase in job creation. (MIT Technology Review, 6/12/2013.)

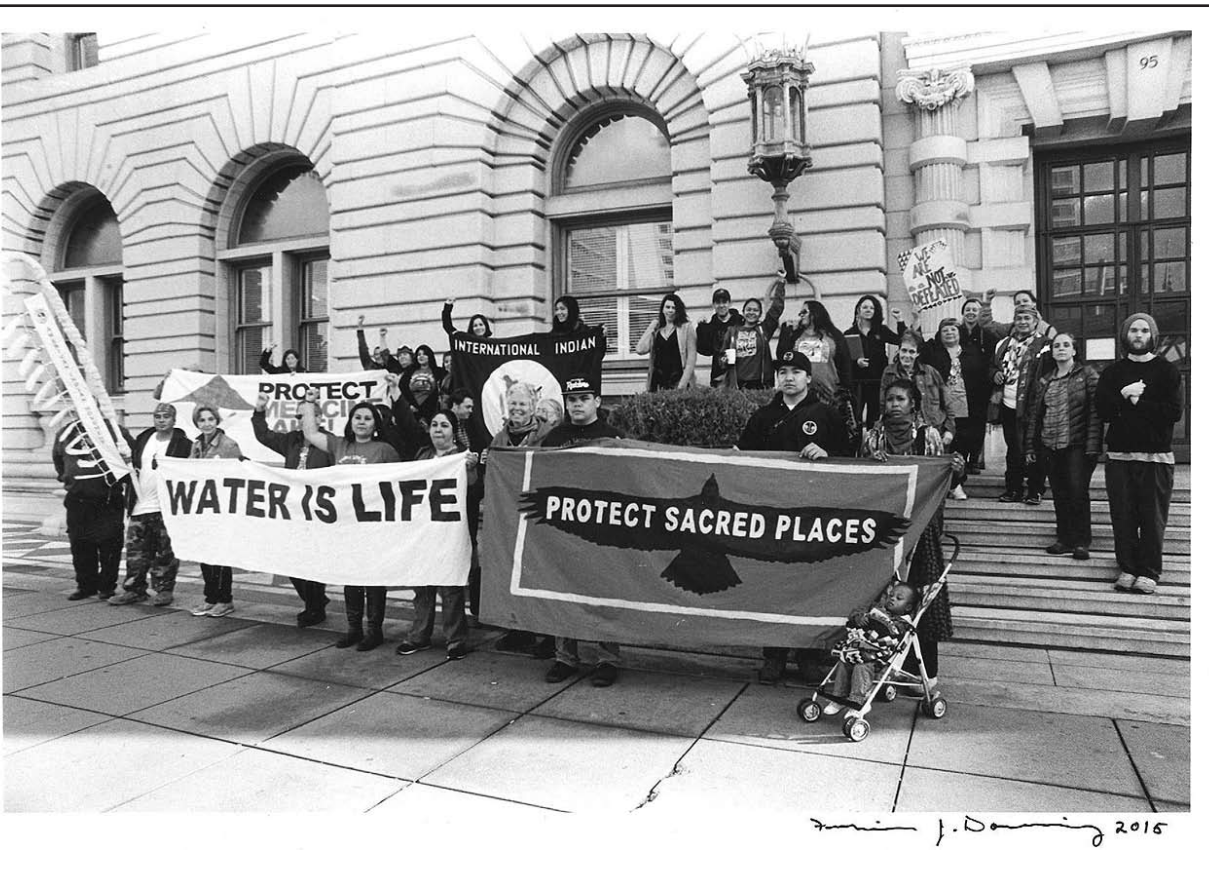
While the news is often fragmentary, we can see evidence in our own region of the erosion of ordinary livelihoods, an

erosion advancing as steadily as global warming. According to the Sacramento Bee, while Sacramento's economic recovery is "in full bloom," "thousands of Sacramentans struggle," and can't find work – or they have to make do with part time jobs that don't pay as well as their old jobs. "Most people don't feel secure, nor should they," a labor expert coldly observed in a recent article. The 2012 closing of the Campbell Soup factory, located in south Sacramento for sixty years, meant the loss of 700 "solid blue color jobs" that paid over \$20 an hour. Replacement work is mostly retail sales and food preparation, part-time jobs pieced together at \$12 to \$18 an hour at the most. (Sacramento Bee, 4/18/15)

The trend is national. According to a recent report by the Hamilton Project of the Brookings Institution, less educated workers are losing out – their income plummeting by twenty percent just since 1990, as work in industry declined and food service, cleaning, and groundskeeper jobs nearly doubled. Not only are formerly employed workers moving into these lower paying fields, but the wages in that sector are dropping as well, due to increased competition.

The first Gilded Age was a time of new political parties, labor organizing and great strikes – like the May Day demonstrations of 1886 for the eight hour day that brought thousands to Haymarket Square in Chicago. The political reaction to an unsolved bombing – a full blown "red scare" – led to the prosecution of labor activists and seven were hanged.

Today the Haymarket martyrs are remembered on May Day – the first of May – every year by the labor movement. And today new upsurges are erupting – from Occupy encampments in 2011 across the country to the national "Up the Wage" marches on April 15 of this year. Today, unlike the first Gilded Age, the great historic obstacles to a unified progressive movement – white supremacy, racism, and sexism – can finally be overcome. The impact of the digital revolution is impacting the entire workforce and including in its scope a middle class of all colors and genders that no longer can count on secure housing or a decent job. As the dispossessed, we can, and we will, unite.



On March 12, 2015, the Pit River Tribe of Northwestern California appealed in the 9th Circuit Court in San Francisco the case of the Pit River Tribe vs. US Bureau Of Land Management, Dept. of Interior, Forest Service, Dept. of Agriculture and Calpine Corp. The Medicine Lake highlands, traditional sacred land to the Pit River, Winntun, Karuk, Shasta and Modoc Tribes, have continuously used this ceremonial area since the beginning of time. This proposed geothermal fracking and destruction will forever destroy this pristine and sacred land. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeal will render its' decision by November, 2015.

Photo by Francisco Dominguez © 2015



## Resisting Criminalization of Homeless Lives

continued from page 1

United States.

The Community Dinner Project is challenging a deeply rooted historical trend, as the transformation of destitution into criminal activity is as old as capitalism itself. In 16th century Europe, anti-vagrancy laws had beggars and vagrants branded, beaten, and imprisoned. In *Capital*, Karl Marx argues that these laws set the capitalist machine in motion: "Thus were the agricultural people, first forcibly expropriated from the soil, driven from their homes, turned into vagabonds, and then whipped, branded, tortured by laws grotesquely terrible, into the discipline necessary for the wage system."

The "Bloody Codes" of 19th century Britain increased the crimes eligible for capital punishment. These laws threatened survival outside of wage labor. They focused on petty property crimes such as rabbit stealing, unlicensed hunting, and begging. This pattern of criminalizing "surplus" humans contains a presupposition-- that in capitalism everyone has an opportunity to sell themselves to an employer. Poverty is then viewed as a lifestyle choice. A Los Angeles Times editorial opposing the California Homeless Bill of Rights lamented that such a measure would "sanction the culture of homelessness or to offer blanket approval for a way of life that society generally agrees should be ended." A statement eerily reminiscent of Marx's observation that the emerging bourgeois "treated them as 'voluntary' criminals. It assumes that it depended on their own good will to go on working under the old conditions that no longer existed."

In the United States, vagrancy laws formed the backbone of the post-Reconstruction "Black Codes" enacted in the South. These laws defined vagrants as any black person "who was guilty of theft, had run away, was drunk, was wanton in conduct or speech, had neglected job or family, handled money carelessly, and ... all other idle and disorderly persons." Angela Davis notes that "vagrancy was coded as a black crime, one punishable by incarceration and forced labor, sometimes on the very plantations that previously had thrived on slave labor."

The professionalization of police forces in 19th century American cities brought large numbers of people into the disciplinary control of the state, with mass numbers of arrests following the establishment of urban police departments. Activist and author Kristian Williams argues that the majority of such arrests "were related to public drunkenness, vagrancy, loitering, disorderly conduct, or being a 'suspicious person'...the greatest portion of the actual business of law enforcement did not concern the protection of life and property, but the controlling of poor people, their habits and their manners." Thus, the criminalization of poverty is deeply tied to the formation of the police force as a means to discipline the vast urban "reserve army of labor."

Following the Great Migration of African Americans from the South to the North and West in the first half of the 20th century, and

the decline in manufacturing jobs coupled with white suburbanization in the second half led to an increasing racialization this "surplus population," creating continuity between the modern policing of the poor and the Black Codes of the post-Reconstruction South. Little surprise that black people are disproportionately homeless in the 21st century.

In 1972, the United States Supreme Court declared that Jacksonville, Florida's vagrancy law was unconstitutionally vague, ending the explicit illegalization of the status of being homeless. However, the creation of laws forbidding panhandling or sleeping outside implicitly criminalized homelessness, carrying on the legacy of vagrancy laws today. The accelerated passing of statutes since the 2008 financial collapse has brought renewed vigor to the ability of police to harass the poor. Journalist Aaron Cantú notes that "as recession- and austerity-battered cities look for ways to revive their economies, they're offering huge tax incentives for companies to build entertainment complexes, hotels and retail chains in their downtown districts in the hopes that the relocation will spur a renaissance."

Tellingly, Sacramento PD's crackdown on homeless feedings and encampments has followed step-in-step with the development of a downtown arena. Laws built to control "surplus populations:" from enclosed peasants to freed slaves to those trapped in the wastelands of deindustrialized cities, are now repurposed to cleanse urban centers of the poor to ensure the comfort of wealthy investors.

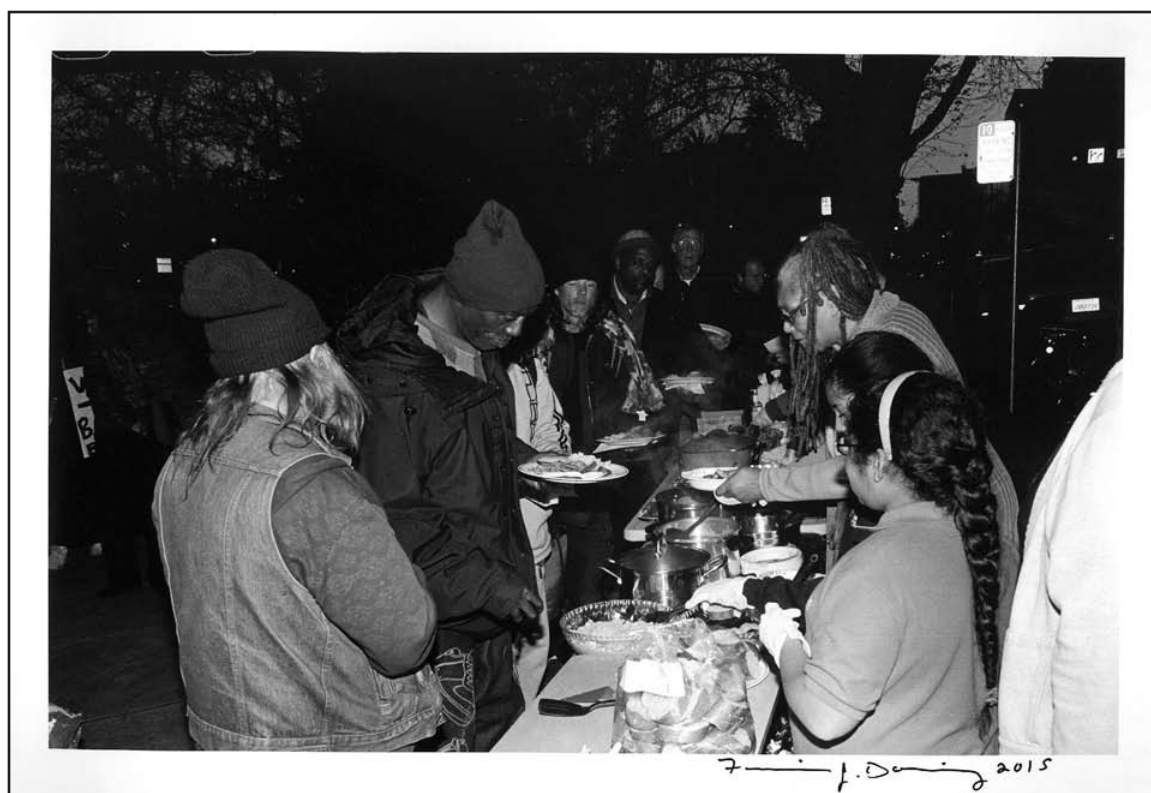
Despite the historical entrenchment of laws surrounding concepts of vagrancy in America, the Community Dinner Project has been able to not only openly violate the city's ordinance against unauthorized distribution of food to the poor and homeless, but also win concessions such as access

to previously locked restrooms in a downtown park. Community organizer and homeless rights advocate James Lee "Faygo" Clark states the project has "successfully got the bathrooms [opened] in Cesar Chavez plaza, got the repeal of anti-homeless ordinances on the agenda, and created a welcoming forum for the community to speak to the city council, all while guaranteeing an organic meal for the community."

David Andre, a military veteran describes his road to homelessness: "I worked in a sugar mill and learned what I could, in my 20th year at Campbell Soup Company I had a stroke, I worked 'til I was taken off work by the company. I lost everything including the small house I was buying a mile from the factory." This factory has since shut down. Now an active organizer of the Community Dinner Project, he says that "it has given me a voice to cause address of the terrible condition I find myself part of. We can make it better for everybody who wills change for our common good, feeding the hungry and addressing human rights issues at city hall has opened the public toilets at Cesar Chavez Park and is addressing the plague of institutionalized police brutality against unneeded workers."

The Community Dinner Project uses direct action and civil disobedience by holding the illegal dinners, hosting street theater, speaking at city council meetings, and disrupting them when necessary, to leverage for a series of specific demands. In the process they have directly addressed the needs of their participants. This strategy is working. It should be a model for activists organizing in other urban areas as we resist the neoliberal progeny of vagrancy laws.

*David Roddy is a member of the National Political Committee of DSA and is active in the Sacramento local.*



Community Dinner Line - Photo Courtesy Francisco Dominguez © 2015



# The Fight for \$15 Minimum Wage

By Paula Lomazzi

I was grocery shopping at Walmart last week and had a conversation with the clerk about using foodstamps at Cosco. She told me that Cosco allows her to use her EBT card (foodstamp) even though not a member as long as she is accompanied by a Cosco member. I thought that was good information I will use in the future, but was puzzled how a full-time or nearly full-time wage earner would qualify for foodstamps. The answer is that the minimum wage is a poverty wage.

According to a recent report, 'The High

Public Cost of Low Wages', published by UC Berkeley Labor Center, working families make up 73 percent of those enrolled in major public support programs, such as Food Stamps, Medicaid and Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF). The reported 73% did not include those receiving childcare assistance and didn't include new data not yet available from the Affordable Care Act. The findings concluded that taxpayers bear a significant portion of the hidden costs of low-wage work in America.

This dismal reality has spurred on actions across the nation on April

15. In Sacramento, up to 400 protesters, including labor, activist and low wage workers, gathered at Crocker Park, donning their event hats and shirts, listening to inspiring speeches, and singing historical labor songs. The crowd marched with signs, giant puppets, drums and banners, down the capitol mall in the streets, escorted by police, to the Capitol and then up 10th Street, ending at Sacramento City Hall.

I was expecting a spirited rally outside the doors, but was delighted when I noticed the crowd would not be stopped by doors and squeezed almost everyone into the inner halls of City Hall. Soon afterward many participants boarded buses to join the concurrent action in Berkeley.

Sacramento organizer, Tamie Dramer, said "There is a crisis in America. Working families have endured decades of stagnant incomes. We are increasingly forced to choose between keeping a roof over our heads, paying our bills or feeding our kids. Meanwhile, the

corporations we work for have record profits and their executives earn ever-increasing salaries."



Above Photo: Paula Lomazzi



Low wage workers marched and rallied at Sacramento City Hall. Above Photo: Francisco J. Dominguez © 2015

## GROUND ZERO

by Christa Canady  
from Wind Youth Services

This is how it begins...

You're a low income student living off of loans and a minimum wage job. You come from an overpopulated urban city and you are literally struggling to get by. You realize you can't afford to live off campus so you move all your belongings to your best friend's garage. One month you're trying to commute to work with no money and little resources and after working 8-10 hour days you return to crash in your friends' bed. The next month, after spending a slow day at work writing poetry all day you end up in the mall parking lot practically begging your boss for your job back after he claims you've broken "company policy;" because without that 8 hours a day, you have nothing. And that's what I had when I went back to my best friends' home; packed a bag, left a note and started running.

And slowly at first, but full speed once I found my pace, I kept running. And I continued to run from place to place searching for something both within myself and outside as well in the midst of my nothingness. Tired and ready to give up living at all; I ran up until I found that there was nowhere else to run to. I remember the

first time I asked myself where exactly I was going to sleep for the night. Searching for security and comfort in a town I felt the most myself in, I hiked in the pitch black through the world's largest remaining old growth coastal redwood forest that wet spring of 2014; my dog and my pack attached to me, I realized what I considered the end what some call ground zero... What society calls homelessness.

There has been a definite increase in the number of homeless students across the country. Michelle Asha-Cooper, of the Institute for higher education policy in Washington D.C. states; "What we're hearing from the college presidents and leadership [is] that more and more students are struggling," she continues, "Some are taking out pretty large amounts of student loans to finance their education as well as their living costs. Some are enrolling part-time, some are even dropping out."

This Spring in Sacramento, CA, assembly member Gibson and assembly member Bloom have authored two bills that could change the pace of homeless youth attending higher education. AB 1228 (Gibson) "would give first priority housing for homeless students on college campuses, and would require colleges to develop a plan to ensure that current and former foster

and homeless youth can access housing resources as needed during and between academic terms and campus breaks." AB 801 (Bloom) would give homeless youth and foster youth priority in choosing their classes. When asked, what are the steps necessary to end youth homelessness, Director Shahera Hyatt of the California Homeless Youth Project states; "I think that in order to curb youth homelessness, we need a concerted effort at multiple levels: we need community members to have compassion for our homeless neighbors, we need service providers to give the best of care to people who are experiencing homelessness, we need policymakers to take responsibility and fund programs that serve this community, and remove barriers to housing, education, and employment for people who don't have a safe, stable place to stay."

What we need to realize through this time of high unemployment rates and tuition increases throughout both the state and country is that people trying to further their education are practically gambling with their chance to keep shelter or not. At the cost of going to school, getting an education and trying to better your chances at attaining a career in this society I ask; what is worth our time? What is worth our time when every day you have another college student entering ground zero?

## Adapted And Quoted from a recent book titled “The Half Has Never Been Told” — telling the secret history of slavery in the United States

**By Cathleen Williams**

The Half Has Never Been Told  
I walked in here as you might have  
Through the humming music of the country  
“Oh, Susana, don’t you cry for me...”  
But why the tears repressed?  
Like mirrors that silver over  
Obliterating the faces the somber eyes  
Maimed dead intent  
Watching for the history to be told...  
My own people  
one Nathaniel Merrill named in his will  
a man he had enslaved  
When I read this I threw the book away.  
\*\*\*

Last year I traveled to Senegal  
To the Isle Goree stooped at the door  
Of no return felt the grit  
on threshold of stone  
the green Atlantic rapacious speechless  
shattering at the rocks below.  
Disembarked from the tourist ferry  
to gravelly blasted James Island  
renamed Kunta Kinte  
now only naked and spectral Baobabs  
above an eroded hated fort.  
\*\*\*

Words without memories  
Mask the past and its passages.  
In North Carolina  
At the slave graveyard  
Marked by cups and rocks  
I saw the roughened grass  
The bristling hedge just there  
The road going by on the right hand.  
The blind hiss of passing cars  
no more than a metaphor  
for my kind of mental silence.  
\*\*\*

Ninety years of age born a slave  
Lorenzo Ivy was interviewed and spoke.  
Quote: “When one takes Lorenzo Ivy’s words as a start  
The whole history of the United States  
Comes walking over the hill  
Behind a line of people in chains.”  
I had not even glimpsed their downcast shadows  
Rippling over the ditches and icy paths  
When the Creeks, the Chickasaw  
The Choctaw the Cherokee were warred out  
One million chained most trudging barefoot  
One million driven west and south in chains.  
\*\*\*

One footpath and wagon road ran  
From Virginia’s James River  
Across the Blue Ridge  
To the Shenandoah  
Until the Alleghenies loomed  
Then down the Monangahela  
To the flatboats of the Ohio  
To Louisville to Lexington  
In Kentuck  
To Alabama, Mississippi  
To the city corrupt bejeweled  
New Orleans...  
\*\*\*

Now we all learned about the cotton gin  
1793 why not this other stuff  
The forced migration of a million people  
In this very America ?

Hand forged the chafing iron collar  
Brass bolted to the raw neck  
Locked to the man in front and back  
And sideways each wrist cuffed in iron  
Twenty pounds of chains  
A thousand miles.  
Women harnessed and roped  
A coffle  
From the Arabic word cafire  
in the language web of Africa  
and America.  
\*\*\*

Chained for fear of this stolen staggering wealth?  
It wasn’t a sad few  
Pleading not to be sold down river  
As I’ve been told  
It was a million.  
Not plantations.  
But slave labor camps  
In ruthless axed forest  
All the way to the Republic  
Of Texas.  
\*\*\*

Quote: “And because the man in the iron collar  
And all who followed  
Into the depths of the continent  
Would make not a luxury  
But the most basic commodity  
A new kind of endless expanding economy  
No limit on the market  
For the product of his body.”  
Acceleration. Expansion. Enslaved, mortgaged, securitized for land  
and seed. Banks and bonds and credit. Work and wages in Lowell  
Massachusetts and in Birmingham England’s “satanic mills.”  
The first manic irreversible age of capitalist industry.  
1820: 28 pounds per day per enslaved hand.  
1860: 500 or more pounds per day per cramped, clawlike hand.  
Unspeakable dread force  
Cut open bleeding  
Our elemental wound.  
No technology until the 1940’a could harvest  
The white weed.  
Now we all learned about the cotton gin  
1793 why not this other stuff  
The forced migration of a million people  
In this very America?  
\*\*\*

Here’s what Lorenzo Ivy said,  
Sweeping away the questions  
Drafted by the WPA in 1937  
He who spent his life teaching  
The newly freed:  
“They sold slaves here and everywhere. I’ve seen droves of Negroes  
brought in here on foot going South to be sold. Each one of them had an old  
tow sack on his back with everything he’s got in it. Over the hills they came  
in double lines chained reaching as far as the eye can see...”  
Truly, son, the half has never been told.”  
\*\*\*

Yet once in the slave labor camps  
They married hand bracketed in ledgers  
Broken and woven again  
Quote: “What mattered was to matter, to count,  
To be essential in the life of another person.”  
Joe Kilpatrick sold away from his daughters Lettice and Nelly  
Adopted a son who when grown married  
then named his daughters  
Too  
Lettice and Nelly  
They wove as we may weave  
For a future still imagined.



# Right to Rest Act Update

by Paula Lomazzi

Folks from throughout the state met in Sacramento on April 7th for the Right to Rest Act's first hearing in the California Senate Transportation and Housing Committee. Senator Carol Liu introduced SB 608 in February and is committed to championing this bill that protects homeless people's right to rest, sleep, share food, pray and occupy a vehicle in public places. Senator Liu and co-sponsors decided that further work was required and postponed the vote on the bill until January 2016, making it a two year bill.

A similar Right to Rest Bill was introduced in Oregon (SB 629) and Colorado (HB 15-1264). The bill in Oregon has to be reintroduced next session, which Senator Shields is willing to do. Colorado's bill will have its first hearing on April 27th. The State of Washington is having a statewide day of action on May 15th, to tell communities to reject the criminalization of homelessness and support laws that advance the right to affordable housing.

Though its sometimes difficult convincing our neighbors, and civic and state leadership of the wisdom and morality of decriminalizing homelessness, we are

gaining ground and winning allies in this fight, as an example Sacramento News & Review's recent editorial rebuking the criminalization of homelessness and commending the rightness of Carol Liu's bill. Also more and more state legislators are coming out in support and speaking up for the rights of those experiencing homelessness.



The Raging Grannies of Sacramento sing at the "Stop The Fast Track of The Trans-Pacific Partnership Rally" at the Federal Building in Sacramento, Ca on April 17th, 2015.  
Photo: Francisco J. Dominguez © 2015

## FEED by Dee Allen

This ain't no charity.  
This is a protest.

Supermarkets, hotels,  
Eateries, coffeeshops  
Make waste out of fresh & prepared  
Food, tonnes, at day's end.

This ain't no church function.  
This is a protest.

Bullets, assault rifles, tanks,  
Aeroplanes, destroyer ships, bombs  
Make far-away lands killing fields.  
National budget spent mostly on this, forget homes.

This ain't no city programme.  
This is a protest.

Hunger tends to exist  
In the First World, too.  
So food is recovered  
From rotting as waste.

This ain't no welfare line.  
This is a protest.

Ongoing against military build-up,  
Gearing up for war, nights and days  
Dining from empty plates, drinking from empty cups,  
Sleeping on empty bellies, dreaming of a decent meal.

Revolution sometimes begins from  
The bottom of a bowl.

Public space gets reclaimed.  
That space becomes inclusive.  
Fresh, prepared, free  
Vegetarian food is shared with neighbours.

Afterwards, workers & poor alike leave  
The corner with fuller bellies.  
Hunger is much worse on the streets.  
So some do what class society fails to do:

Feed the people.  
Food to every fork.

This ain't no charity.  
This is a protest.

W: 12.5.14

## *A Special Thanks to Our Homeward Underwriters:*

Arturo Baiocchi  
Ronald Blubaugh  
Jennifer Christine  
David W. Dratman  
Fairman - Elliott  
Shauna Heckert  
Paul Masuhara  
Moe Mohanna  
Ruth & Allan Pleaner  
Muriel Strand  
Sacramento Loaves & Fishes  
Organize Sacramento  
Paratransit, Inc.

## Outside

By Suzanne Hastings ©2015

Outside; we have killer cops  
like rabid dogs killing our children.

Outside; we have corporations  
giving us Franken food and enslaving employees.

Outside; we have politicians planning  
the next war.

Inside; we have flickering TV  
screens telling us what to think, buy or be.

Inside; we have private lives of celebrities  
coming into our living rooms.

Inside; we sit glued, not moving,  
not touching that channel!

Because we need to know, JUST KNOW!

Will Antman and Cockroach arrive in time  
to keep Little Bo Peep from destroying the city?

**Yes!**

**I want to see HOMEWARD,**  
a newspaper produced by homeless people, expand in Sacramento.  
Enclosed find my donation of \$20 for a one year subscription.  
Please mail my copies to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street &amp; Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC)  
and mail to: PO Box 952 Sacramento, CA 95812

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# HOMELESS RESOURCES

## Night Shelters

**Salvation Army:** 12th and North B St. 30 days per year: Dormitory living, C&S: Dinner, breakfast clothing for residents: Men/ Women: Sign-up SA patio weekdays at 1PM. 442-0331

**St. John's Shelter:** Women and Children. 4410 Power Inn Rd. Call between 10am & 3pm for space availability. 453-1482

**Union Gospel Mission:** 400 Bannon St. Beds for Men Only, sign up 6:30pm at mission, Newcomers/Referrals have priority. 7:30pm Chapel Service with meal afterwards, 6am breakfast for residents. Showers / shaves 9-11am & 1-2:45pm. open to all homeless men: 447-3268

**Next Move (formerly SAEHC)** 24 hr Family Shelter; Families, single adults with children who have no other resource: Women's Refuge; single women, no children: Call for screening/space availability 455-2160

## Day Shelters

**Friendship Park:** 12th St. & North C: Weekdays 7am - 2:30pm: open to anyone: Many services

## Meals

**Union Gospel Mission:** 400 Bannon St.: 7 days, Evening meal, Men/Women: Church service 7:00pm required, dinner following 8:30-9:15pm. Sunday 11am service, lunch at noon. 447-3268

**Loaves & Fishes:** 1321 No. C St.: Lunch every day 11:30am-1pm. Tickets available 7 am- 12:30 pm at Friendship Park weekdays: at 8 am on Saturday and 10am on Sundays.

**Women's Civic Improvement Center:** Seniors Only: 3555 3rd Ave. 11:30-12:30 lunch M-F 452-2866

**Food-not-Bombs:** serves free food in Cesar Chavez Plaza, 9th & J St., every Sunday 1:30 pm. All Welcome.

**Foundation of Faith Ministries** 2721 Dawes St. Rancho Cordova. Every 4th Sat. 3-5 pm All Welcome.

**Glory Bound Street Ministry** 4527 Parker Ave. Sundays; breakfast 11:30 am after 10 am church service; dinner 6:30 pm after 5 pm church service: Fridays; dinner 7 pm after 6 pm church service. Must attend services. 452-7078

## Women & Children

**Maryhouse:** 1321 No. C St. suite 32: Breakfast for Women and children 8am-9am. Day shelter 8am-3pm weekdays for women and families.

**Wellspring** 3414 4th St.: T&Th full breakfast: M-W-F continental breakfast for women and children. 454-9688

see Youth Services for young adults

## Free Clothing

**Sacramento Food Bank:** 3333 3rd Ave. (at Broadway) 10am-2pm Mon - Fri. 456-1980

**Union Gospel Mission:** 400 Bannon St. Men: M-Sat 9-11am or 1-2:45pm: Women and Children: Thurs. 9 am sign up, 9:30-10am bible study, 10 am - 12 pm shop. 447-3268

**Glory Bound Street Ministry** 4527 Parker Ave. Clothes Closet, Sundays 11:30 am all welcome. 452-7078

## Medical

**Mercy Clinic:** For homeless adults, children: Nurse's office in Friendship park 7:30am & 12:30pm. 446-3345

**Sacramento Dental Clinic:** 4600 Broadway (Primary Care Bldg) Walk-ins 8 am - 12:30 pm 874-8300

## Mental Health

**Guest House, 1400 N. A St.:** Homeless Mental Health Clinic, M,W,Th,Fri., 8-11:30am Tues 8-11:30am only. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, GA refs, SSI aps, refs to A & D counseling: 443-6972

**TLCS Intake Offices:** 1400 N. A St. Bldg. A; Adults 18 yrs & up; Referrals to transitional living programs, independent living, mental health support services: SSI/ SSDI application assistance; Walk-ins 8-11am M-F 440-1500

**Genesis:** Professional Counseling for life problems. Referrals. 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center). 699-1536

## Youth Services

**Wind Youth Services:** Drop-In Center for youth (ages 12-24) experiencing homelessness: 1722 J Street, M-F 9am-6pm, S-S 10am-2pm: Emergency shelter for ages 12-17, call 1-800-339-7177: Emergency

shelter for ages 18-24, call 916-561-4900. Services also include: street outreach, case management, mental health

## Crisis Intervention

**WEAVE:** Services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Referrals to court mandated battery intervention programs, Safe house, 24 hr. crisis line: 920-2952

## AIDS / HIV

**AIDS Housing Alliance** provides residential care, transitional housing & permanent housing services to homeless persons living with aids. 329-1093 weekdays.

**CARES (Center for AIDS Research, Education and Service):** 1500 21st St. Serves people with HIV and AIDS. Medical care, mental health, case mgmt, health ed and regional prevention/ed classes. 443-3299

**Breaking Barriers:** Homeless Outreach Program provides direct services to people living with AIDS and HIV. Transportation to social services, medical appointments, job interviews, and housing assistance. 447-2437

**Harm Reduction Services:** 40001 12 Ave.; High risk outreach; HIV, Hep-C testing; case management for HIV; free medical clinic, needle exchange. 456-4849

**Alternative Test Site:** Free anonymous HIV testing, Wed /Thurs. Call for appt. 874-7720.

## Legal Aid

**Disability Rights, CA:** Free legal services for people with disabilities. Call for appt. toll free: TTY:(800)776-5746

**Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic:** 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center) Free legal assistance and advocacy for problems related to homelessness. 446-0368

**Legal Services of Northern California, Inc:** 515 12th St. (at E ST.) M-F 8:30am-12pm, 1pm-5pm. Problems with public benefits, landlord / tenant, divorce clinic. Call for appt. 551-2150

**Welfare Rights:** 1901 Alhambra Blvd. (2nd floor) M-F 9am-5pm: AFDC, Food Stamps, Workfare and Medical rep at hearings. 736-0616

**Social Security Disability / SSI Lawyer Free Consultation** (916) 658-1880



## About SHA

The Sacramento Housing Alliance is a network of concerned citizens who promote decent affordable housing for low income households and homeless people through advocacy and participation in public discourse.

For more info, or if you would like to participate, please call:

**(916) 455-4900**

<http://sachousingalliance.org>

1800 21st Street Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95811

*The SHA does not itself  
provide or manage housing.*

## Veterans

**VA Outreach:** 1-800-827-1000

**Homeless VA Coordinator:**  
(916) 364-6547

Mather VA Social Works: help getting DD-214, any vet. (916) 843-7064

**Sacramento Veterans Resource Center**  
7270 East Southgate Dr. 393-8387

## Miscellaneous

**Francis House Center:** 1422 C St. 9:00- noon walk-in - direct services resource counseling, vouchers for IDs, Dvr Licenses, Birth Certs, Transp Assistance; noon-3:00 - appts for in-depth resource counseling; by appt: Senior/Disability/ Veteran's advocacy, notary service. Job Development Center open 9am-3pm MTu-W-F and noon-3pm Th. Motel vouchers for qualified families. 443-2646

**Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services:** 3333 3rd Ave. (south of Broadway) Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am-1:30pm, and Wed 4pm-7pm. 456-1980.

**Social Services:** 28th & R ST. M-F 7:30am-5pm. Call for asst. 874-2072

**Employment Development Department (EDD):** 2901 50th St. (at Broadway) M-F 8am-5pm. Unemployment, job services. 227-0300

**Medi-Cal:** 1-800-773-6467, 1-888-747-1222. Or see DHA eligibility workers 1725 28th St. 916-874-2256

**Social Security Office:** 8581 Folsom Blvd (East of College Greens Lite-rail stop) M-F 9am-4:30pm 381-9410: Natl line 1-800-772-1213

**211 Sacramento**  
Dial 211

for tele-info & referral service

**Californa Youth Crisis Line:**  
1-800-843-5200

**Health Rights Hotline:**  
551-2100

# Welcome to Homeward:

Please help us make a difference!



Homeward Street Journal has been publishing since 1997 as a non-profit project of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, which is a member of the Sacramento Housing Alliance. The paper's mission is to alleviate miscommunication between communities by educating the public about housing and poverty issues, and by giving homeless people a voice in the public forum. Homeward also informs homeless persons of shelter and occupational assistance, and acts as a creative self-help opportunity for those individuals who wish to participate.

The opinions expressed in Homeward are those of the authors, and not necessarily the Sacramento Housing Alliance or SHOC or Homeward.

## Submissions and Editorial Policy

We welcome any participation or contributions: Articles, poems and other writing can be submitted at our office in Friendship Park, or mailed to the address below.

All writing submitted for publication will be edited as necessary, with due respect for the author's intent. The editors will attempt to consult with an author if changes are necessary, however, the paper will go to print with the story as edited if the author is unavailable.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed to be published. If the writer wishes to remain anonymous s/he should so state, but the letter must still be signed.

Poetry and graphics will not be edited, either the paper will publish the submission or not.

In submitting articles to the paper, authors give their permission to print their submissions in accordance with the above stipulations, as well as possible reprinting in NASNA member papers, with due byline. Any requests for stories outside the above three will be referred to the author.

Subscriptions are available with a \$20 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee).

**Loaves & Fishes is not affiliated with the Homeward Street Journal in any way. Participants with the paper are not allowed to solicit for donations for L&F, nor make any reference regarding the relationship between Loaves & Fishes and this newspaper whatsoever.**

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The paper may be reached at:  
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