



A Voice for the Sacramento Area Homeless Community Since 1997

HOMeward

Street Journal

Volume 21, No. 3

Member INSP Street News Service

May & June, 2017

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Unhoused People Silenced by Oregon Legislature

- A Western Regional Advocacy
Project Report -

In an unprecedented act of disrespect, the Right To Rest Act HB - 215 will not get a chance for a hearing in Oregon this year.

In spite of an unprecedented seven co-sponsors, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee Representative Jeff Barker refused to schedule House Bill 2215 for a hearing in the assembly Judiciary Committee, prior to the deadline for a vote.

"We should not be criminalizing basic human activities like resting, giving citations to people who cannot afford to pay, and forcing them into the criminal justice system," said Representative Carla Piluso. "It is inhumane and counterproductive. "Due to my decades of experience in

law enforcement," said Piluso. "I can say that this bill will not encourage illegal behavior. Rather, it allows police officers to use their scarce time and resources focusing on actual crimes, rather than criminalizing people who just need a place to exist."

This is the first time any state legislative body refused to allow the Right To Rest Act to go before a committee for a full hearing of the issues and a vote of the members. The Right to Rest Act has been introduced three times in Colorado's and California's legislatures and twice in Oregon. The bill has a hearing scheduled in Colorado on April 19th.

Representative Barker's decision to not hold a hearing, and allow a vote on HB 2215, is eerily reminiscent of local governments trying to make poor and homeless people disappear from sight in local communities.

"We documented the experiences of 565 houseless people with police and private security," said Ibrahim Mubarak Director of Right 2 Survive. "The top three offenses were people being harassed, cited and/or arrested for sleeping, sitting and lying down. The reality is people sleeping, sitting and lying down are now crimes in Oregon. Our state legislators absolutely need to hear this"

Of course, in a time when the poor people are demonized for being poor and homeless people are increasingly seen more as something to fear rather than human beings, it's unfortunately not all that surprising.

The Right to Rest Act seeks to end the criminalization of rest and accompanying violations of basic human

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STAKE-DOWN 2017

"Where am I Supposed to Live?"

by Suzanne Hastings

An ancient now dark neon "Diet Pepsi" sign sits frozen in mid revolution. The kind of sign that was prevalent in the 50's and 60's. It is all that's left of the Torpedo diner that once stood here. The normally vacant lot at 12th and C Streets was for a few hours to be turned into a small community.

It was a beautiful warm day as I arrived at the lot to find Niki and a few youths were already there. Some of them were in the process of setting up what looked like a Stonehedge made of hay stacks that would become the heart of the Stake-down. Some were busy setting up the tables where the art projects would go. and the one that would hold the fliers and

pamphlets that would provide info on community resources. And a set of green buttons with "Where am I suppose to live?" written on them.

After setting my things down, I was given the task of sitting outside the iron gate and telling people that the

Stake-Down would be open at 10:00. (You shall not pass!) And to give info about what the purpose of the Stake Down is. To show that a tent city can be run efficiently.

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Know Your Rights Workshop . All Photos Courtesy Paula

Hundreds in Sacramento Protest Immigration Policies at ICE Director Speech

'Racism is a cover, but it's all about cheap labor,' says LACLA leader

by Cathleen Williams

More than 700 people turned out in Sacramento on March 28 to protest the appearance of Thomas Homan, acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Homan had been invited to speak by Sacramento Sheriff, Scott Jones.

Homan didn't get the welcome he expected. Mothers and grandmothers spoke against ripping families apart. Hundreds chanted, "No ban! No fear! Say it loud, say it clear! Immigrants are welcome here!"

"The community voiced a solid 'Get Out!'" according to Mackenzie Wilson, a local organizer. "The rhetoric [Homan and Jones] used is that they would come after career criminals. But we know it is going to be

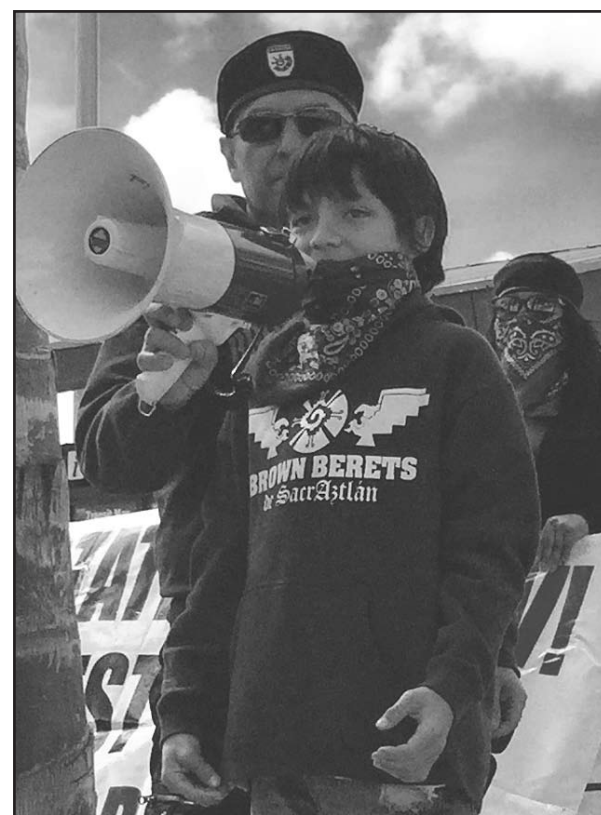
of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LACLA).

Rojas points out that "the corporate agenda is to attack labor – the minimum wage, worker's compensation, health and safety, even Social Security."

"Unions won these benefits because the working class was organized and unified," he says. "That gave us power. They intend to take away that power."

"Racism is used as a cover, but it's all about cheap labor," says Rojas. "They want to break up and expel migrant families. They want single, temporary, 'guest workers' not only in agriculture, but also in the expanding service industry."

"What will that mean? No right to organize. No freedom of movement. No path to citizenship. Recruited in Mexico, desperate



Photos Courtesy the Author: Border protest on March 5 at San Isidro, California, calling for an end to abuse of agricultural workers and a boycott of Driscoll's Berries in the US.

for work and totally controlled – by the employer, by Homeland Security, by the Mexican government."

"That's why we need to defend migrant workers here and to support the agricultural workers in San Quintin, Baja, Mexico," he says. "Paid less than a dollar an hour, they are calling for a U.S. boycott of Driscoll's Berries."

"In March, we gathered in San Ysidro, at the border," Rojas relates — "travelling from all parts of California, to support these workers, who organized protests on the other side. Like the confrontation with ICE in Sacramento, this was an historic first step."



the mother coming home from work with a broken tail light."

Bernard Marks, in his eighties, a survivor of Auschwitz death camp, compared the targeting of migrant workers with the Nazi's attack upon Jews.

"When I was a little boy in Poland," he recalled, "for no other reason but for being Jewish, I was hauled off by the Nazis. My family died in Auschwitz and Dachau."

"Stand up here, Sheriff Jones," he demanded. "Don't forget – history is not on your side."

Al Rojas is an original founder of the United Farm Workers union and current president of the AFL-CIO's Northern California Chapter



Unhoused People Silenced continued from page 1

and civil rights for all people. This legislation protects the following rights and prohibits the enforcement of any local laws that violate these rights:

- Right to move freely, rest, sleep and be protected in a public space.
- Right to rest in public spaces and protect one self from the elements in a non-obstructive manner.
- Right to reasonable expectation of privacy of your property in public spaces.
- Right to occupy a legally parked vehicle.
- Right to share food and eat in public.

With Oregon's \$1.6 billion budget deficit, and massive federal and state budget cuts to housing and human services being planned (Trump administration has called for 6.6 Billion in HUD budget alone), this legislation is more important than ever. At a time when our community can't provide affordable housing, mental health services and stability for its own residents, the idea of criminalizing people that fall through the safety net seems cruel. And it is. It's downright cruel

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) released a report on April 5, 2017 that reveals the widespread proliferation of city and county laws in Oregon that criminalize people experiencing homelessness. The report analyzed ordinances in 69 of Oregon's most populous cities and 21 corresponding counties, and found 224 laws that restrict, criminalize, or punish people for performing life sustaining activities in a public space.

"This is not one city that has gone rogue," said Kimberly McCullough, policy director at the ACLU of Oregon. "The trend towards criminalization is statewide, as is the housing crisis. As rents climb cities across Oregon are seeing huge increases in the number of residents

experiencing homelessness. Oregon should focus on addressing the root causes of homelessness and poverty, but instead we're seeing hundreds of laws that punish the homeless. Fines and criminal records only make it harder for people to secure stable housing."

The ACLU of Oregon report finds:

- A majority of cities and counties surveyed have laws that prohibit sleeping or camping. Twenty-seven cities outlaw sleeping or camping anywhere in public. Thirty-one cities in Oregon restrict sleeping in one's vehicle even if it is in a normal parking place and posing no safety hazard.
- Forty-four cities and seven counties have curfews that penalize minors who are on the streets unaccompanied by an adult during nighttime hours. But advocates say homeless youth often sleep in highly visible places for safety, and curfew laws push them to remote areas where they are vulnerable to victimization.
- Twenty-four cities and one county in Oregon have also prohibited trespass within their municipal code. This is in addition to the state-level trespass laws that already allow any city to cite for trespassing.

"People who live on the streets have to make difficult choices that have criminal implications, simply to go about their lives," said Karissa Moden, with Sisters Of The Road. "They have to ask, 'Do I sleep in the park and violate the camping ban, or do I trespass onto private property? Where can I go to the bathroom? Where can I set my stuff down without attracting attention from police?'"

The solution to homelessness is simple — it's

housing. Unfortunately, thousands of people remain without a safe place to call home in Oregon and therefore must conduct their survival activities in public space. We must work collectively to end the criminalization of homelessness and create the necessary affordable housing in our community.

"At the end of the day, The Right To Rest Act deserved a hearing," said Paul Boden, director of the Western Regional Advocacy Project. "The practice of law enforcement targeting people experiencing homelessness has to be stopped. These laws have to become a part of the past. People's lives are depending on it."

WE SHALL NOT BE IGNORED

Ignore Us At The State Capitol ,



We'll Take It To The Streets



The Right2Rest

A Special Thanks to Our Homeward Underwriters:

**Arturo Baiocchi
Geraldine Baskerville
Ron & Carola Blubaugh
David W. Dratman
Nathan Fairman
Ronald Javor
Michael Meek
Scott Rogers & Daly Merrill**

**Ruth Pleaner
Edward Schwartzchild
William Soskin
John & Janice Speth
Michelle Wright
•
Paratransit, Inc.
Women's Empowerment**

STAKE-DOWN 2017

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After a continental breakfast of bagels and coffee, the day's upcoming events were discussed. The gates were opened at 10 am, and people started to enter. "If you build it, they will come" Tents started to go up, giving it almost a circus atmosphere. Children and adults alike drew outside on the sidewalk with chalk. And some did an art project "What my hands have held".

The thing that stood out the most for me about the stake down was the sense of community. How everyone came together on this one common goal. People of every kind were there. Some of the boys rough-housed, and laughed. Looking like small kittens playing in a box. Some of the kids ran around playing chase games. People came with dogs. Almost everyone had a green button, and for many a sense of belonging, because the streets can be very isolating. It showed what we can accomplish when we put our minds to it.

The first event was the "Know your rights" training that's put on

by The National Lawyers Guild. this is very helpful to have if you ever get hassled by cops.

At 2:30, some took off for the march. Chanting... "WHAT DO WE WANT?!" ... "THE RIGHT TO REST!"... "WHEN DO WE WANT IT?!"... "NOW!!!"

I was on of those who stayed behind. My arthritic knees telling me to leave the marching to the young people. But when the marchers returned, they were accompanied by the sound of fire trucks. An incident had happened where one of the marchers had his foot run over. But thankfully there were no other injuries. The press conference that was to take place was side-lined by this, but undaunted; the Stake-down went on.

We enjoyed a dinner of curried chicken, rice and potatoes around the haystack circle. All while discussing the issues facing the homeless community.

We were joined by Sacramento activist Faygo Drinkit. He had his cart confiscated shortly



G.P. Bailey and John Krintz Tableting by Safe Ground Cabin

before and had just returned from getting it back from the warehouse on Sequoia Boulevard. He added his voice to the lively discussion of whether Mayor Stienburg is holding up his promises about ending the anti-camping ban.

At 7:00 pm we had an open mic in which music, poetry, and even comedy were shared. Then things settled down for the night.

Early the next morning, like an animal out of a cave, I crawled out of my tent into the cool morning air. I think this was a very positive experience.

Of course it wasn't some perfect utopia. There were a few situations that needed deescalating, but any troublemakers were quickly removed. There was coffee, and some of the youth were starting to leave.

I watched 2 young men who had become friends during the Stake-down. One was telling the other about this place along the river to camp. Like a modern day Huck Finn, and Tom Sawyer, they headed out of the black iron gates, with the green "Where am I suppose to Live?" buttons pinned to their backpacks,



Tie Dye Workshop with Tracie



Sacramento Arts & Rev Theater

New Homeless Programs Coming Soon

*Micro Shelters, Tent Triage Centers,
and New Funding Sources*

By Paula Lomazzi

Mayor Darryl Steinberg called a press conference held in the tiny windowed room next to City Council chambers. Stuffed full of News cameras with their respective News reporters, including Homeward, the Mayor revealed a new plan he's been working on with Loaves & Fishes' board. The idea is to encourage 20 faith based congregations to provide shelter to up to 20 homeless individuals, potentially providing shelter for 400 people.

City staff has been instructed to come back with amendment wording for a Land use and Zoning ordinance that has prohibited shelters from operating within 500 feet of places of worship. Timing may prove opportune for a new initiative by Compassion Village, a group of churches in North Sacramento planning on initially building 20 tiny houses for homeless people, to be located on church property.

This press announcement came one day after another major proposal was introduced in City Council by Council Member Allen Warren. He has been working towards establishing a Triage Center that would shelter from 50 to 150 homeless individuals using barrack style tents that would fit around six cots each. A selected site ran into a conflict that day so the Council decided to not take a vote until either the conflict was resolved or another site identified in District 2. The City Council seemed generally supportive in this project going forward after more details were included in the proposal. The projected costs would be from \$55,000 to \$102,000 per month depending on the number of individuals served, coming to around \$22.00 per individual per day if 150 people were served and including a full-time case worker. Warren proposed that Next Step Communities serve as operators of the facility.



Mayor Darryl Steinberg with Joan Burke at press conference. Photo Courtesy Paula

In recent months other new ideas to help homeless people have sprung up. Mayor Steinberg lead an effort to secure half of the Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers that become available for the next three years to be reserved for people that are currently homeless. Joan Burke, Director of Advocacy for Loaves & Fishes said "People without housing of any kind should be prioritized." Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency administers the program and have agreed with these priorities.

New funding sources are also expected to help us address homelessness with housing and services. Currently, homeless housing programs, mostly Permanent Supportive Housing, are federally funded through HUD and other permanent sources. The No Place Like Home Program, previously championed by Steinberg before he became Mayor, is a new funding source of \$2 billion California state bond to be repaid by funding from the Mental Health Services Act which will provide funding for housing for homeless people that also need mental health services. The City of Sacramento has applied for The Whole Person Care Pilot Program which is expected to provide up to \$16 million a year for five years to our community for homeless services from its mission to coordinate health, behavioral health and social services to improve Medi-Cal beneficiaries' health outcomes.

These new developments will all help us get much closer to ending homelessness in Sacramento by the building of new housing through funding from the No Place Like Home Program, and providing homeless people more services and shelter opportunities that may save lives and provide stability until housing becomes available.



One type of proposed Tiny House up on a trailer . Photo Courtesy Paula

OPEN LETTER TO THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL:

MOVE FORWARD WITH THE HOUSING PLANS NOW

The Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC) is Sacramento's grass roots organization of homeless people and their allies. Our mission is to amplify the voice of the homeless community in order to achieve social justice.

We write to endorse and support the plans currently before the City Council to provide new strategies for housing homeless people who are now living outside in brutal conditions or are enduring the endless round of nightly "emergency" shelters.

We call upon the City Council to amend or repeal the "anti-camping" ordinance to allow camping at least on private property under appropriate conditions.

We urge the City Council to take the following steps to make the new housing plans a reality:

No further delays. Act now. The need is urgent.

Implement the current proposal for a tent community and ensure that it houses as many people as possible, keeping in mind that about a thousand individuals are currently living outside. *All* should have housing available.

As proposed, make case management services and counseling available at the site.

Implement self-government with rotating leadership by residents. This is Seattle's model, and it has proven effective.

Ensure that residents have freedom of movement and protect their civil rights. Limit searches to situations where there is probable cause.

Include homeless and formerly homeless in the planning and advisory process and seek input from the homeless community by scheduling regular meetings for their participation.

Move ahead to authorize other sites.

We can't arrest our way out of this problem. Homelessness must not be criminalized. Stop issuing camping citations and making arrests, ensure access to public bathrooms, provide basic services, like sanitation centers and trash disposal, to those who are still living outside.

WHITE PICKUP TRUCKS

By Brenda Quintanilla

Six in the morning
And I was ready to hop on the back of the white pickup truck.
Ready to leave the 8,000 square miles of my country,
14 states of El Salvador.

First night,
I slept on a thin bed of sand
with a rock as my pillow
and the wind as my blanket.
No teddy bear by my side this time.

Crossing rivers,
Jumping fences
And hiding behind rocks.
Just a little 80 pound girl
With only 8 years of experience in life.
Expected to pass the brutality of la migra.
Expected to jump on moving trains,
to roll down long steep hills,
to run from cops in charge of not letting any of my kind
go through.

We had to hire a coyote,
Had to find shelter for two months,
but the only homes we'd find were wretched shacks and
leaf topped cabins.

As we ran through the bumpy desert
and snuck through the poisonous trees,
a single shriek pierced my eardrum.
It was a young woman who labored for air
'cause she didn't have her inhaler.
A man offered his arm
but she refused to slow them down
and said, "You go on without me, ay los alcanso."
But she never made it.
Everyone else reached California,
"Land of the Free."

9 years later
And this land still doesn't offer its "freedom"
to the ones on the back of that white pickup truck.
John Locke once established the three natural rights
given by God
but now I establish the three natural inequalities
given to my people by the government:

Uno) We still struggle to get A's in high school
but we can't even apply to college
because we don't have the required documentation.

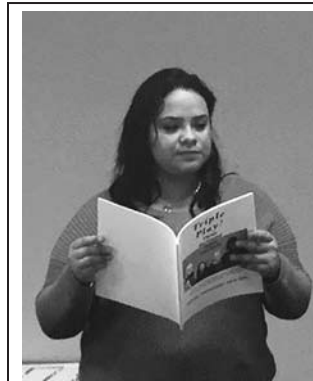
Dos) We don't have enough money
to go to a doctor's appointment
'cause we don't got health insurance,
so we stick to basement band-aids
and back-alley abortions.

Tres) we worry we'll get a phone call
confessing that our sisters and brothers have been
deported back home.

And since I rode on the back of
dirty,
old,
rusted,
pickup trucks
I'm to be considered an alien
but I never realized that I arrived from outer space.

My hallways are empty
and my doors are closed,
simply because I don't got a green card to show that
I'm American.

But one day I will be working for
Washington D.C.
Federal Court
in administration for equality.
So when you see me become
the first undocumented Salvadorian
as the president of the United States
I will hold the key
so that everyone can see,
that I am not ashamed to have ridden
on the back of white pickup trucks.
All the doors will be open
all my hallways will be filled
with hopeful immigrants
and the only thing deported will be injustice.



Brenda Quintanilla was in her last year of high school when she became one of three Richmond, California Poets Laureate in August 2014. She has since gone on to attain a full scholarship to a University in Los Angeles, planning on attending law school after she graduates.

I want to help HOMEWARD continue in Sacramento.

Enclosed find my donation of \$20 for a one year subscription.

Please mail my copies to:

Name: _____
 Street & Apt: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____

21.3
Office Use Only

Received

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

clip & mail coupon

Resources List

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. Johnis 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: Womenis Refuge; single women, no children: Call for screening/space availability 455-2160

Volunteers of America Family Shelter: Adults w/children only. Apply Tues.-Thurs. 1-3 pm 1490 Blding B, N. "A" St. 916-443-4688

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 .

WomenisCivic 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

Calvary Christan Center Safe Haven: 1300 North C St. 8 am Sun, Coffee, breakfast 6 pm Wed. clothes closet after services.

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

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

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 signup, 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, 600 Bercut Drive.: Homeless Mental Health Clinic. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, GA refs, SSI aps, refs to A & D counseling: 916-440-1500

TLCS Intake Offices: 1400 N. I. 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

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

**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>

909 12th Street, Suite 114
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.

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

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. Must get a lottery number 9am. M,Tu,Th,F for Direct Services: ID vouchers, transp. assistance; In depth resource coaching by apt.; Veteran's advocac.; Notary services Thurs. call for apt.; Job Development Center M,Tu,Th,F 9:30am - 1pm. Family Rescue motel vouchers for qualified families Mon. 1pm. (916) 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, past the flea market) M-F 9am-4:30pm 381-9410: Natl line 1-800-772-1213

211 Sacramento

Dial 211
 for tele-info & referral service

Califorina 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 INSP 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.

All correspondence can be sent to:

Homeward Street Journal c/o SHOC
 PO Box 952
 Sacramento, CA 95812

The paper may be reached at:
 (916) 442-2156

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News & Opinion for Chico, CA

Presented by Bill Mash of *Without a Roof*

Butte County Youth Advisory Council Aims to Empower Emerging Youth Leaders

By Jessica Candela

Facilitator, Butte County Youth Advisory Council

On March 21, 2017 in the Chico City Council Chambers building, Hailey Sherman, 22, excitedly addressed a room of local service providers and community members who make up the Greater Chico Homeless Task Force and passionately told her personal story of youth homelessness. Her growing confidence emanated across the room as she spoke about youth hardships and successes.

Hailey is a member of the Butte County Youth Advisory Council (YAC for short), and the March 21 presentation was one of several activities she's been involved with through the Council. Hailey and Elijah, another YAC member, attended the Taking Action Conference, a youth leadership and policy conference, in Sacramento on April 4 and 5. Other Council activities have included collaborative artwork, creative writing, and radio programming. YAC has a radio show on KZFR 90.1 on the last Wednesday of every month from 5:00-5:30 pm. Listen online live and catch show archives from March 15 and March 29 at www.kzfr.org/shows/without-a-roof.

The YAC welcomes youth aged 14-24 who have experience with homelessness, foster care, incarceration, or poverty to join the Council. The purpose of the Council is to empower, develop leadership skills, and improve wellbeing for its members. The YAC aims to connect with local organizations to provide more culturally-competent resources for youth in similar situations. Moreover, the YAC assists in advising the Butte County Runaway & Homeless Youth Task Force -- a consortium of local agencies who serve homeless youth -- on how to better meet the needs of youth in Butte County.

The YAC began holding meetings in February 2017 and has grown steadily. Currently, YAC has 16 members and has held five meetings. Hailey and the other 15 YAC members are enthusiastic about sharing their stories through the Council. I've sat down with Hailey several times to listen to her story and thoughts on youth homelessness. Here's part of our most recent conversation.

JC: "What is your experience with homelessness?"

HS: "I was homeless at various times in my childhood while living with my mother. We would stay [at] different friends' houses when we didn't have any money, or we would rent a house or

apartment for a month or so until my mother could no longer pay for rent and we would get kicked out. My mother went in and out of jail thought my life. I remember hitchhiking to the jail at 12 years old to bail her out so she could get to work."

"I believe that my childhood not only affects my personal choices but my career path. I want to protect and advocate for children who need it the most. Many children grow up too fast and are forced to lose parts of their childhood simply due to the fact that they were born into a certain family that is dealing with unfortunate circumstances."

JC: "Absolutely. What are youth facing who experience homelessness, poverty, foster care, or incarceration?"

HS: "Youth are facing judgment, misunderstanding, lack of support, lack of resources, and many basic human needs. Youth come from diverse backgrounds, each of their stories different from the next, but each of them could benefit from more support in our community."

JC: "Definitely. Speaking of community support, what was it like to present at the Greater Chico Homeless Task Force Meeting on March 21?"

HS: "After presenting at the Greater Chico Homeless Task Force I realized how many organizations are here wanting to help the [homeless] population. [These organizations] are fighting for more recognition, funding, support, and empathy from the community so that homeless [people] in Chico can have more resources and opportunities to be successful."

JC: "How has the opportunity to join the Butte County Youth Advisory Council affected you thus far?"

HS: "The Butte County Youth Advisory Council has opened my eyes more than I ever thought possible. I made it out [of homelessness]. I did not want to look back at the "bad" times. But this Council has shown me that turning my back is not the right thing to do. I need to help spread awareness that [becoming homeless] is not something that people do to themselves. [Homelessness] is something that can happen to anyone if enough of life's metaphorical foundational blocks fall out from under them and they don't have a safety net."

Youth are invited to join the YAC to share their thoughts on homelessness, poverty, incarceration or foster care.

What: Butte County Youth Advisory Council
When: First and third Tuesdays of every month
Time: 3:00 - 4:00 pm
Location: 6th Street Center for Youth
 130 W. 6th Street,
 Chico, CA 95928

Light refreshments are provided at all meetings.

Follow the Butte County Youth Advisory Council on the web at www.facebook.com/BCYouthAdvisoryCouncil/.

Questions can be directed to BCRHYTF@gmail.com.



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Freestyle

I'm sick of all this insignificance, I don't stop like I'm limitless
 You're tapped out while I still finish this, and life is simple you can riddle me this
 I got a brain with mental static, I'm just and addict, runnin' past it
 Not a badass, just a savage, I'm on a passage like I already past it
 My speed is blazin', too fast so I'm crashin', get back up - I'm everlastin'
 I get free through my breathing mouth, nobody even wants to hear me out
 Personal fallacies and beliefs are what their lives are all about...

-Sonny, from the latest edition of Writing for Donuts



YAC with collaborative artwork created at a February 2017 meeting.

What I Want You to Know About Me

The knowledge I have gained from being homeless on more occasions than one is that there is this stereotype that is almost branded on our foreheads once people find out that we are in fact homeless or if we have been frequently seen sleeping out on the streets. That stereotype is that we're lazy, druggies, went to jail, and/or just plain criminals. They almost look at us like less of a human being. People would be surprised if they took the time to hear our stories & understand why we are in the spot we are in. What I am hoping to achieve when I join the Youth Advisory Council is to be the voice of all the homeless, to show the world that we are more than our mistakes and our struggle, that we are human beings & we deserve a second chance.

What I want people to know about me exactly is that I am in fact just as human as anyone else walking around the streets of downtown Chico. I just in fact do not have a place to call home. I am one of the most non-judgmental people you will ever meet, caring, & loyal. I always try to understand where someone is coming from even if they are wrong. I always try to see the good in people. I have a few neck tattoos that I got when I was a teenager that make people look at me like I'm a thug, or like I'm a felon but I actually have never been arrested or in a gang. I am in fact going to college to become a motivational speaker. So I want to speak on behalf of every other homeless youth when I answer the question "what do you want people to know about you?". Because everything I just described in myself I have in fact seen in every other youth, with some minor differences. So that is what I want people to know about me & my fellow peers.

- Jeremy William Wolf



YAC and adult mentors at the Taking Action Conference in Sacramento in April 2017