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# HOMeward

## Street Journal

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SACRAMENTO, CA: Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson called a press conference on August 24 to inform the public about the outcomes of One Day to End Homelessness Campaign and Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). It took place at St. John's Church. St. John Pastor Scot Sorensen welcomed the press and other guests to his church and announced that St. John's will be hosting SafeGround campers that same night, to give them reprieve from the sweltering heat.

One Day to Prevent Homelessness campaign officially began in March 2010. Individuals were asked to donate one day's worth of their rent or mortgage payment to the Sacramento Region Commu-

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Representatives from the Salvation Army, Lutheran Social Services, and the Volunteers of America in front of St. John's Church in Midtown. Leo McFarland of the V.O.A. is speaking, Mayor Johnson is in background.

## Homelessness and Housing in the United States

### an interview with Shaun Donovan

By Tony Taylor  
Street Sights (USA)

Shaun Donovan, named Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development served as an intern at the National Coalition for the Homeless when his career in Washington was just getting started. In an interview with current NCH intern Tony Taylor, Donovan answers Taylor's questions about homelessness and housing across the United States. But first, the new Cabinet secretary reflects back upon his days at NCH.

"As an undergraduate I was volunteering at a homeless shelter in Cambridge and went to hear Robert Hayes, founder of Coalition for the Homeless, speak. His powerful words moved me to ask if there was any work I could do with the coalition in Washington as I was moving there to intern for Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Robert Hayes directed me to Maria Foscarnis and the National Coalition for the Homeless. I interned

for the Coalition at the same time as working in Senator Moynihan's office and conducted research federal housing policy at both places. I remember staying up all night to set up an exhibition of photographs from Stephenie Hollyman's book "We the Homeless" in the Senate Rotunda. "

**Street Sights:** At a recent news conference, President Obama was asked to comment on the growing crisis of family homelessness. The President responded by acknowledging that the homelessness problem in this country "was bad even when the economy was good," and cited the importance of creating quality jobs to help homeless families and individuals afford shelter. While job creation is certainly an important component of a federal response to homelessness, it is only part of the solution. What would you add to the President's response?

**Shaun Donovan:** For many Americans, the previous economic prosperity was largely fueled by the artificial growth in home val-

ues. This put tremendous pressure on the rental marketplace as lower income families struggled to find a home or apartment they could afford. They experienced none of the benefits of a booming housing market and all of the negative consequences.

President Obama and I are convinced that any recovery must be sustainable and based on real growth, not only on the jobs front, but in the housing market as well. And this absolutely must include a more concerted effort on the part of the federal government to encourage the production of more affordable rental housing.

**Street Sights:** What steps have the Congress and your Administration taken thus far that will prevent more people from becoming homeless and help put people experiencing homelessness back into homes?

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# Privatizing for Social Insecurity

By **Nirode Masson**  
InDepth News

**WORLD:** Billions of poor people who lack adequate access to healthcare and old-age security are posing a key challenge in developing countries that undertook drastic reforms and privatized social security systems at the behest of the World Bank.

A new report by the Washington-based Bretton Woods Project (BWP) says that the privatization reforms, which were first launched more than three decades ago, are failing to benefit the majority. But national governments, pressed by local elites, multilateral agencies and global corporate and financial interests, have contributed significant public resources towards enacting the reforms.

What is more, despite having their images tarnished by the global financial crises, international corporate and financial interests are still pushing the increasing 'financialisation' -- the expanding systemic power and scope of finance and financial markets and actors -- of people's lives in developing countries, says the report authored by Sheena Sumaria.

Social security systems matter as they can impact existing inequalities, and have the potential to transform society where markets are failing to do so. Private systems, in the hands of private finance, are embedded in existing social structures and serve to further marginalise the large numbers of those in poverty.

"This is especially important in today's globalising world in which inequalities between and within countries are widening, and ever increasing numbers of the world's poor only have access to sporadic and informal employment," says Sumaria.

The author of the report goes on to say that the liberalisation of trade and the relocation of multilateral health corporations to developing country markets have contributed to the privatisation of health. Several U.S.-based managed-care organisations have entered Latin America and Asia, seeking access to public social security funds.

Over the last three decades, finance has grown rapidly in terms of activities, markets, institutions and profits. By the end of 2008, the global insurance industry held \$18.7 trillion of funds under management, with global insurance premiums at \$4.3 trillion.

"Banks and insurance companies earn interest spreads, fees and commissions directly off worker health insurance and pensions contributions, including from the poorest layers of society," says the report's author Sumaria.

## CASE STUDIES

The report examines the role of private financial institutions in the reform process by considering two case studies: private pensions in Chile and private health insurance in Argentina.

In 1981, Chile was the first country to push through private pension reform, serving as a model for other developing countries. However, many private pension fund management companies are in the hands of foreign financial conglomerates.

Chile's largest private pension manager, Provida, with \$36.1 billion under management, is owned by Spain's largest financial institution BBVA. Between 1981 and 2006, Chilean workers contributed approximately \$50 billion from their salaries towards the private pension schemes, of which private pension managers and related insurance companies kept one third as commissions and profit.

In Argentina, says the report, the healthcare reforms enacted in the 1990s have also benefited financial corporations, who have extracted large profits and moved capital outside of the health system and the country.

According to professor Celia Iriart from the University of New Mexico, U.S.-owned private health insurer Exxel Group, used high levels of debt to evade tax, transferred capital from Argentina to foreign private accounts by paying high interest on the junk bonds it issued, and drained government resources by keeping part of the revenue of public hospitals it was managing.

The report titled 'Social insecurity -- The financialisation of healthcare and pensions in developing countries' notes with satisfaction that problems arising from privatised models of health insurance and pensions have not gone completely unnoticed and those who have been adversely affected by such reforms in developing countries have engaged in public campaigns, protests and social movements.

For example in Egypt, several different civil society organisation and political parties are currently battling to stop the World Bank-supported privatisation of

the health insurance system.

In El Salvador, the government's health privatisation reforms came to an end in 2003 after solidarity protests and strikes by health workers, doctors, unions and other civil society groups.

Although the private pension system still exists in Chile, in 2008, the country's then president Michelle Bachelet responded to a public campaign, and acted to restore a modest, tax-financed non-contributory public 'solidarity' pension of \$150 a month to those with no pension entitlement. Additionally, she established a supplement to AFP pensions that were lower than \$400 a month, recognising that even private pensions do not deliver to the majority of their customers.

The global financial crisis further served to expose the fragility of the financial system, changing public opinion about the effectiveness of financial actors to deliver long-term benefits. The financial services industry, including many pension funds and health insurers have seen huge losses, wiping out the gains made in the 'boom' years.

At the onset of the crisis, Argentinean president Christina Kirchner took the radical step of nationalising the pension system, which had been privatised 14 years earlier. The state regained control over accumulated pensions savings, replacing the private administrators who had paid billions to their executives in salaries and bonuses, while at the same time making huge losses during the credit crunch.

As a result of the nationalisation, Argentineans are now entitled to pensions which are over two-thirds of their salaries -- representing in most cases, especially those of women, more than double the private pension entitlement.

## CAUTION

Sumaria says: Although the financial crisis has stimulated debate on putting controls on finance, the strength and resilience of the financial sector should not be underestimated. The financial industry spent over \$3 billion lobbying the U.S. Congress on the U.S. Health Reform Bill, which in the end included several concessions for private insurers.

These include a provision which permits insurers to more than double charges to employees with high blood pressure, diabetes or other medical conditions. They also allow insurers to continue using marketing techniques to cherry-pick

healthier enrollees.

The report adds: "Although government-funded Medicaid will be expanded to cover 16 million additional low income people, for other Americans who are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid, they will be forced to take out insurance contracts with private health insurers. This represents an injection of billions of dollars to the very insurance industry responsible for the U.S. healthcare crisis, and some of the same private health insurers which entered Latin American and developing country markets to expand profits."

Turning to developing countries, the report says that by advocating a reduction in the size of the public sector, the governments there are unable to provide decent social protection of their populations as those in the industrialised countries were able to do in the early twentieth century.

However, such prescriptions ignore the models of the newly industrialised countries in East Asia, where publicly administered social security schemes have enjoyed higher coverage rates and lower administrative costs than the privatised systems in Latin America.

Sumana pleads for more research on the role and impact of private financial institutions in the private pensions and health insurance sectors in developing countries, and argues that with many local private providers in the hands of global financial corporations, much of the capital provided by those covered by private schemes flows to foreign accounts and investments over which savers have no control.

Furthermore, the use of leverage and tax loopholes means that developing countries' governments lose out on a potential source of tax revenue. The lack of regulation and instability of the financial sector means that members of the private schemes are left vulnerable to the collapse of the firms or fluctuations in investment returns.

The author concludes: "While much of the agenda of the G20 and other global bodies has turned to financial re-regulation because of the financial crisis, this agenda is ignoring the need of developing countries, especially their poorest and most vulnerable citizens."

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# Housing Interview with Shaun Donovan

Continued from page 1

**Shaun Donovan:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$1.5 billion in grants to rapidly re-house families who fall into homelessness or to help prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place. HUD's new Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) allows us to fund homeless prevention activities as never before. President Obama and the Congress recognized that too many families are experiencing a sudden economic crisis and are at extremely high risk of becoming homeless. The Recovery Act is just one way we're hoping to offer the kind of short- and medium-term help to put them on the path to self sufficiency.

**Street Sights:** For many years, low-income families and individuals in our nation have faced a severe shortage of affordable housing. How will the Department of Housing and Urban Development address this problem under your leadership?

**Shaun Donovan:** The prior Administration lost sight of how the housing boom, as beneficial as it may have been for homeowners, placed much of our available rental housing stock well beyond the reach of many lower income families. In particular, families living in high-cost areas continue to face a hard choice - either move to a lower cost area or live in substandard housing.

We must take a more balanced approach to our national housing policy. This is why we are seeking to create \$1 billion Housing Trust Fund to stimulate the production of affordable housing and to increase the number of available rental vouchers. We also intend to increase funding to our long-standing CDBG and HOME programs that will go a long way toward investing in the affordable rental market. I believe the President's proposed 2010 budget returns the federal government to its leadership role as a catalyst for expanding the availability of decent and affordable rental housing.

**Street Sights:** What role do you believe scattered-site public housing should play in your Department's response to homelessness?

**Shaun Donovan:** Housing First projects have shown that homeless persons, including chronically homeless persons, can be stably housed in scattered site housing, with appropriate support. Of critical importance is the ability of the families and service providers to be reliably in contact. Placing homeless families in locations that are distant to important service providers may add a layer of complication to the provision of services.

Placing homeless families in scattered site public housing is a local decision based on the type of housing available, and the type and location of the services being provided. I encourage PHAs to connect with their community's local continuum of care to secure services and to assess what the best housing option might be for homeless families.

**Street Sights:** What is your vision for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness in the coming years?

**Shaun Donovan:** The focus of the previous USICH was to end chronic homelessness. We learned from that experience that if we assess research and then clearly define a policy objective, target resources to meet that objective and then measure results that we can make a real difference. HUD, a member of the USICH, played a key role in this initiative. It's now time to use that same process and see what can be done not just for the chronically homeless but for other homeless populations, including homeless families. This Administration intends to have more engagement and collaboration through the USICH with Federal agencies to solve homelessness.

**Street Sights:** While many people experiencing homelessness live in city streets or in emergency shelters, countless others spend their nights in the homes of friends and family, in campgrounds, or in low-rent motels. How will this Administration plan to reach out and provide needed services to those households, as well?

**Shaun Donovan:** People are often forced to live with family and friends because they can't find an affordable home to rent. This is why it is critical that we do everything we can to stimulate the production of affordable rental housing.

The Recovery Act's Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program will help thousands of families to avoid homelessness by offering moving expenses, security deposits and temporary rental assistance. HUD is making significant contributions toward the capital needs of local housing authorities so they, in turn, can serve more families. And we're reaffirming HUD's support for our voucher programs by proposing nearly \$18 billion in the 2010 budget, an increase of \$1.8 billion over current levels.

It's clear that President Obama is intent on making sure that lower income families, and specifically those at higher risk of homelessness, must not be forgotten as we seek to put this nation back on the path of sustainable economic growth.

**Street Sights:** Homelessness is not just a housing issue, of course, but an issue pertaining also to health care, incomes, civil rights, education, jobs. In what ways do you plan on coordinating your efforts at HUD with the efforts of the other Departments in combating homelessness?

**Shaun Donovan:** To solve homelessness requires not just housing but access to an array of supports. The services by agencies such as the US Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Education are absolutely vital to help ensure that once persons are housed they have the services they need to become stably housed and improve their lives through education and employment. Clearly the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness will be playing a key role in coordinating government agencies on the issue.

**Street Sights:** During your years as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, what role did you play in providing housing resources for the city's homeless population? What lessons did you learn from that experience that will inform your work as HUD Secretary?

**Shaun Donovan:** In one of the most expensive housing markets in the country, we were able to make significant progress toward building and preserving 165,000 units of affordable housing, the largest municipal affordable housing plan in the nation's history. One of my proudest achievements in New York was the New York/New York III a \$1 billion agreement between the state and the city to finance and develop 9,000 new units of supportive housing in New York City. The lessons I learned are that if you hope to develop affordable housing, you have to be nimble and you have to gather a collection of partners to help make it happen.

**Street Sights:** How did you become involved in the issues of homelessness and low-income housing?

**Shaun Donovan:** As an eleven year old, I was sitting in Yankee Stadium during Game 2 of the 1977 World Series when Howard Cosell's uttered his famous words: "Ladies and gentlemen, the Bronx is burning." The Bronx burning on the city skyline was just one of the many visible signs that government institutions and urban programs were failing. People were asking if our cities were dead, and American families moved out of urban cores to the suburbs in record numbers.

It was a frightening and eye-opening time to live in New York. But it was a time that also sparked a deep interest in

me, an interest in how I could play a part in changing the policies that shaped the urban landscape and the built environment around me. I remember very vividly walking on my way to school in the morning and seeing people sleeping on the streets. I remember constantly asking myself why. Why was the world like this? And what can I do to change it?

I worked for a community housing developer in New York City after studying public policy and architecture in graduate school. Then one of my professors from graduate school asked me to join him at HUD in the Clinton Administration.

**Street Sights:** Why do you believe it is important for the government to play a role in providing and attaining affordable housing in this country? Do you believe that the federal government can really make a difference in preventing and ending homelessness?

**Shaun Donovan:** The resources of the federal government can help as no other entity can, either through direct investment, tax credits, bond financing or a combination of these tools. But government can't do it alone. The only reason we were so successful in New York was because we marshaled the combined resources of a number of public and private players. I also think we have to change our general approach to affordable housing and endeavor to create sustainable communities that are transit-oriented and energy efficient. That's why HUD is working closely with the Departments of Transportation, Energy, Labor and Education to cultivate a more comprehensive and holistic approach to development. We just have to think smarter about how we build the communities of tomorrow.

In the same way, I think the federal government can make a real difference in preventing homelessness as we work to end homelessness for those experiencing long-term or chronic homelessness. As you know, there has been a shift in how the federal government, as well as State and local communities, in how we confront chronic homelessness. All across the country, you're seeing the creation of thousands of new permanent supportive housing units and a noticeable decrease in our reliance on emergency shelters. I anticipate that we will continue to see this paradigm shift in the years to come.

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## SafeGround Celebrates Past Year's Accomplishments

SafeGround held a Jubilee on July 20th at Cesar Chavez Park downtown. Marchers gathered at Loaves & Fishes at 1:30 and marched with drummers to join the Jubilee, already in swing, at Cesar Chavez Park.

The celebration was to mark a year since Safe Ground's homeless members attempted to make a place for themselves on a piece of ground that was not being used by anyone else, but was not totally hidden far from public view. They were forced to move to another piece of land, similarly unused and in plain sight. Again they were

forced to move. They hid from view. They came back to try it again. This time they were arrested for the act of sleeping outdoors.

Though they have retreated again, the group has grown in numbers and in resolve to meet their goal of finding a piece of land they can call SafeGround Sacramento, a self-run community of simple cabins or cottages.

The afternoon was cool with a slight breeze. Rev. David Moss gave an invocation at the beginning of the event. There were

musical performances by Pinky and the Blind Resistance, and XMR that inspired dancing and celebration. G.P. Bailey, singer, homeless activist song writer performed his songs throughout the event. The True Life Ministries Choir also performed. Tracie Rice-Bailey emceed the event, introducing such speakers as Bill Camp of Sacramento Central Labor Council, many SafeGround pioneers and some board members, State Senator Darrell Steinberg, other prominent community members and activist from other cities around Northern California.

**Above: Two views of SafeGround Marchers arriving at Cesar Chavez Park**



**Above: State Senator Darrell Steinberg addressing participants**



**State Senator Darrell Steinberg with some of the attendees**



**Trimmie Sanders and Marcelina Johnson addressing the crowd.**



## SafeGround Protests City Council Agenda Change

SACRAMENTO, CA: At the August 17, 2010 City Council meeting, council members voted to move the open comment session to the end of each meeting. Mayor Johnson and Council Members Trethaway and McCarty voted against this change. Council Member Cohn was not in attendance. A Sacramento Bee editorial quickly came out in opposition to this decision. The ACLU and League of Women's Voters wrote letters of opposition to the City Council. Members of SafeGround believed this action was directed against their vigil, mostly.

SafeGround Sacramento and SHOC's Homeless Leadership Project started a vigil over a year ago where homeless and other SafeGround supporters would testify at the beginning of each Sacramento City Council meeting during the open comments section. This effort has been coordinated by Tracie Rice-Bailey, who spoke at each appearance, and sometimes two others would speak, sometimes 5, and once, when it was deemed appropriate, there were 50 speakers. Most vigil attendees were homeless from the SafeGround commu-

nity, and most were getting worn down by the lack of City Council member's help in getting approval for the SafeGround Sacramento project to go forward and getting a moratorium on the city's anti-camping ordinance.

On August 24, SafeGround supporters and others from the community attended the City Council meeting, waited through all the agenda items, so they could speak out against the open session time change. Testimony included many arguments against the change. It was pointed out that it would be very hard for people without cars and especially those without homes to attend in the later hours and they would have to sit through all agenda items because they wouldn't know what time the open comment session would start. Joan Burke said it was like moving people to the back of the bus. Tamie Dramer, SafeGround Sacramento's Executive Director, said about the SafeGround campers "It helps them to come out of their very small invisible world, hold their heads up, stand up straight and know that no matter how poor they've gotten, no matter how broad the brush society paints them with, that they can still come here

and say what they have to say without interruption, to be heard by the only people, other than themselves, that can help change their circumstances. It is a very big deal."

At the end of the open comments session, Mayor Johnson said, "I think we want to be a body about transparency, about accessibility". He asked the council members to think about and reconsider last week's vote and suggested they come back next week when they talk about council rules and procedures to bring it up again. A couple of the council members seemed like they may change their minds if there were a limit on the total time of comments.



SafeGround Supporters Suzie, Glen, Tracie, John, Cat, and Tamie



Tamie Dramer speaking to City Council

## V.O.A. Clients to Compete in Homeless World Cup



Lisa Wrightsman practicing

SACRAMENTO, CA: When Lisa Wrightsman, the first female member of Volunteers of America's Sacramento Mohawks Street Soccer USA team, traveled to Washington, D.C. in late July to compete in the SSUSA Cup, she garnered her fair share of media attention - and it wasn't just because of her mohawk haircut.

Less than a year earlier, Wrightsman had hit bottom. A former collegiate and semipro soccer standout, her lifelong compulsion to excel led to drug and alcohol abuse. As she told The New York Times during the tournament in Washington, D.C., "This is so much more than a game, than a competition. It's not natural for me to handle things maturely and responsibly. Here, you're trying to solve the problem with something you love. I needed to change. I was going to end up in jail or I was going to die."

Wrightsmann applied to Volunteers of America's Mather Community Campus, where she reinforced her sobriety and began job training. Her case manager, Chris Mann, talked her into joining the Mohawks.

Wrightsmann's return to competitive soccer is taking her further than she ever dreamed of as Sacramento State University's second career scoring leader.

At the close of the SSUSA Cup, Wrightsman (the tournament's most valuable player) and her Mohawks teammate Nick Montez were named to the United States' women's and men's Homeless World Cup teams, which Mann has been tapped to coach. The trio will be flying to Rio de Janeiro for the Sept. 19-26 competition.

"I'm honored, shocked," she said of making the national team. "I've worked harder to do this than anything in my life."

Montez, whose family were students at the Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center's transitional housing program for families at Mather Community Campus, is equally excited about the upcoming trip.

Members of the SSUSA National team, including Wrightsman, Montez and Mann, will convene in New York Sept. 13-17 for practices and events before departing for Brazil Sept. 18.

Established locally in 1911, the Greater Sacramento & Northern Nevada affiliate of Volunteers of America is one of the largest providers of social services in the region, operating programs dedicated to ending homelessness, supporting the most vulnerable populations and transforming com-

munities. For more information, see [volunteersofamerica-sac.org](http://volunteersofamerica-sac.org), or call 916.442.3691.

Street Soccer USA/HELP USA was founded by Lawrence Cann in Charlotte, N.C., in 2004.

Street Soccer USA ([www.streetsoccerusa.org](http://www.streetsoccerusa.org)) is a sports-based organization focused on eradicating homelessness and poverty via onsite soccer programs and community building at social service agencies and homeless shelters across the nation.

Under the auspices of its parent organization, HELP USA ([www.helpusa.org](http://www.helpusa.org)), Street Soccer USA presents the annual Street Soccer USA Cup, which brings together more than 20 U.S.-based teams made up of homeless men and women across the United States for three days of competition and camaraderie.

The top male and female players at the SSUSA Cup, who exemplify leadership, sportsmanship, and skill both on and off the field, go on to represent the United States in the 54-nation Homeless World Cup. For more on Street Soccer USA, go to [StreetSoccerUSA.org](http://StreetSoccerUSA.org), or call Lawrence Cann, founder and CEO, at 646.385.1714.



# 2012 AND THE OTHER MOVIE THAT IS THE REAL REALITY

www.chongonation.com

By the homeless science writer,

## Chongo

Last issue's science article discussed the wobble of the solar system in association with the coming of the end of the Mayan calendar, on the twenty-first day of December, a little more than two years from now, in 2012, and in the context of a recent movie entitled "2012," the day that the "Mayan" calendar ends! Specifically, the movie explained how anyone keeping track of the planets with nothing more than the unaided human eye could, just like the ancient developers of the calendar surely did, track the wobble of our solar system and chart it's progressive intersection with the plane of our galaxy, the milky way.

The topic of the preceding article, and the one that preceded it, was chosen for the sake of the many misunderstandings emerging from the recently released film, entitled "2012." The movie paints a picture of inexorable doom for the entire planet on the aforementioned date, by natural forces far, far beyond the scope of technology to remedy or prevent.

According to the movie, no one will escape the doom that will overtake the world in 2012, except a very lucky (wealthy or powerful) few. Even though some humans do survive in the movie, it is only a fantasy to imagine that such survivors would last very long afterward, as every ecosystem on the planet, again according to the movie, is wholly devastated to the extent of being incapable of sustaining and preserving the very small population of humans that remain.

The events of the movie are physically impossible. However, the picture of doom that it leaves, rather than being physically impossible, may, in fact, become reality, and what is in store for nearly all who are alive today, if humankind does not act quickly. Humanity is in peril; there are now far in excess of 350 parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere (go to <http://www.350.org> for details), to be precise, at a point in excess of 390 parts per million. 350 parts per million is the limit for sustaining human life on earth, exceeding that limit leads to devastation of the Earth's ecosystem, and the probable extinction of humans, no less than in the aforementioned movie portrays the same.

As stated, we find ourselves dangerously far in excess of the 350 parts per million limit carbon limit in the atmosphere. Carbon that should remain safely buried, deep inside the ground, is now suspended in the air, slowly heating up the earth's surface and bringing upon its life a calamity that is the equal of the movie "2012," and unprecedented in all of human history. But unlike the movie, the calamity that we face is within the scope of our technology to avoid. There is another film like "2012" that presents the realities that we will actually be confronting, instead of a set of physically impossible fantasies that we need never fear. It is named "Home." And everyone in the world should see it. Unlike "2012," it is wholly fantasy free, and the photography much more interesting.

Just as the documentary "Home" is fantasy free, it is also free to watch on the internet, via YouTube. But here's an even easier way: simply go to the <http://www.chongonation.com> website, click on "Free Education," scroll to the Table of Contents, and there, at the top, as the first item in the list, you will find a link to the 90-minute documentary, "Home." Click on it to watch; and it is recommended that you watch the full presentation, especially the final fifteen minutes.

The documentary makes several very important points about the modern world that we inhabit:

- 1.) By the end of this century, we will have exhausted the world's supply of minerals.
- 2.) Half of the world's wealth lies in the hands of 2% of its inhabitants.
- 3.) 50% of the grain grown in the world is for meat production or bio-fuel.
- 4.) Three-quarter of all fisheries

are depleted

5.) Only half of the forests remain.

6.) 20% of the people on earth account for use of 80% of its resources.

7.) We have only ten years left to fix the world.

Although the date December 21, 2012 simply corresponds to what will surely be the otherwise uneventful day when the earth, sun, and center of the galaxy align in a 'straight' line, simply marking the end of one stipulated period for the Mayan calendar and the initiation of the next, new period. When it does arrive, there will be, nonetheless, signs of a different doom than that portrayed in the movie "2012." And this doom is, unlike the physically impossible doom of the movie "2012," very, very physically possible. Such a doom could, in fact, even become a certainty, unless humankind awakens to the threat that it is upon its own survival. In short, the rising levels of carbon in the air are heating up the atmosphere while consumerism exhausts the resources of the planet, as the documentary, "Home," reveals.

Now, one point made in the fantasy movie, "2012," was not fantasy at all. In the movie, as disaster after disaster overtakes the earth, thousands gather at the Vatican, in Rome, praying for a miracle from a supernatural source. In the midst of the prayer, instead of a miracle, a horrific earthquake strikes, toppling the buildings upon all the faithful, destroying everything and everyone. This part of the movie, in principle, is accurate; no amount of prayer will prevent the future that we ourselves are creating from coming upon us. The disaster that we face in the future is of our own making, not that of others. The solutions lie well within our own capacity to implement and not beyond. What reason should we have to expect any supernatural anything to solve problems that we are fully capable of solving ourselves?

If we ignore the dangers that lie in the future, or hope that they will be solved for us, then the worst

that can happen to us will. If we love our children, indeed if we love life itself, then we must take responsibility for the future, and try to make it the best future it can be for everyone and anyone. We are stewards of the earth, as there are no other who can be.

Again, go to the <http://www.chongonation.com> website, click on "Free Education," scroll to the Table of Contents, and there, at the top, as the first item in the list, you will find a link to the 90-minute documentary, "Home." Click on it to watch. And be sure to watch the WHOLE presentation. Unlike the movies "2012," there is hope in the end for everyone on planet earth, not the illusion of it for a fortunate few who are either wealthy enough or powerful enough to buy a seat on a physically impossible ark.

We have only ten years left to act, by 2012, only eight, industrialized society must either change, or face a future that will be fit for no one human, not even a fortunate few.

(His text is from no science book that Chongo has ever written. However, to see the books that Chongo has written on nature [on physical science] - in collaboration with Jose - go to the web site [chongonation.com](http://chongonation.com), which is a web site dedicated to educating those who have least opportunity for learning the scientific foundations that describe nature more accurately than any other body of ideas ever conceived. Chongonation.com provides books that allow such opportunity, in lay terms, and most significantly, without any math whatsoever. Simply go to the [www.chongonation.com](http://www.chongonation.com) home page and click on either 'Books on Nature' [Conceptual Physics] or 'Products & Prices' to see just how many books are available. To see the other science essays that Chongo has written, simply click on 'articles' or 'science articles'. To see links to science videos, click on 'Free Education')

## Press Conference

continued from Page 1

nity Foundation. The campaign reached its goal of \$400,000 and was used to leverage federal money in the amount of \$1.6 million to help fund HPRP housing for people that were close to becoming homeless or were homeless, eventually helping to house 1,800 families and individuals. This program was featured by HUD as a national model.

The Mayor announced that "Sacramento Steps Forward", an organization he formed last year to oversee the Homeless Continuum of Care and the 10 year plan to end homelessness, has housed over 1,168 families, which is ahead of their 2012 goal of housing 2,400 homeless households. The Mayor said he wants a city that works for everyone.

## Inns at the Crossroads

I never had a place to call home,  
Every place I've been are only inns.  
A place to stop and rest at life's cross-  
roads,  
A peaceful place I seek to rest my mind.

A temporary dwelling is fine for awhile,  
Yet, still I yearn for a restful place.  
Some have been crowded, noisy and vile,  
But patient I'll be and slow my pace.

My Lord will provide my quiet space,  
And there I'll spend my remaining years.  
I hope for solitude from all the chaos,  
Surrounded by nature's beauty so pure.

By Barbi Baker ©2008

## Belonging

Oh night so long  
cold, awesome  
where do the homeless belong?

Not in a nearby park  
where they sleep  
fearing the dark.

Or to families that scatter  
as the homeless wonder  
what's the matter.

Always longing, never belonging

By Lenore Mathews

## Message from 2013

Just tell the truth--that's the lesson in your time. If you could only reveal to Republicans the sense of humor they deny in themselves, that truth could avert the Apocalypse, we'd be LOL. They are scary funny--shining lights from the Dimbulb tribe.

Most of us know right from wrong because, hopefully, "someone" taught us to believe in our separate and communal agreement of that truth of right v. wrong. This is called socialization. Rednecks have it too on another level. Angels fly because they take themselves lightly. Why are you so serious? Look at the cultures whom have warred with each other for hundreds if not thousands of years. Watch the news--you know who they are. Are these places any wiser, more creative or virtuous? Talk about slow learners!

Anyway, back to those people who taught (or failed) us. As examples we found some of them flawed so we learned on our own. Big deal! We're a fraction of a second, illusions, dust. We know nothing. Our peers are mostly human--some politicians, pedophiles, the over-medicated, wannabe militias and assorted freaks aside. You don't have to be psychic to see the trouble you're in.

As adults you're the new examples,

more's the pity. YOU are "those people"--the Teachers. If Wall St. steals so does a homeless person. That's absolute truth relative to many being wealthy and one being hungry. Kindness doesn't weaken law, it opens one blind eye. It preserves what you say you want to protect. Children see this clearly. Remember?

But we're barbarians. Ego led us to nuclear weapons. We're fearful, rageful, insecure people. Something we were taught? We're defined by squiggly lines on a made-up map, or by race. Quality people can change and think outside this sleepy, unimaginative box. They understand the precious beauty of the world. Can we manipulate, control and deceive? Yes we can! Can we co-operate, empathize and love? Uh-huh. But we need some kind of government because of the hormonal, volatile, fickle, primal, afflictive emotions. Most can't face this horror alone.

Carl Jung said there is a collective unconsciousness (evil if you will) as well as an collective consciousness (right or wrong), unspoken and spoken agreements. Time homogenizes this into everything from visionary leaders and humanitarians to the KKK and right-wing wingnuts, depending on who bought into what when. We all go through these two realms many

times every day, so pay attention.

Great truths are now being exposed, like the myth of you not living in a caste system. One historical lesson is that we can't brainwash, bully or legislate people into a nebulous notion of morality. Morality is too personal, like religion. A Buddha said, "The true test of honoring Buddhas or God is by the love we extend to each other. Unknown said, "Tell the truth, shame the devil."

You have awards for everything but where is true honor? Make the choice to tell the truth and your perception will open. It's in your stars. Pray for imprisoned souls, incarcerated, ill, Taliban and incognito. Tickle them when you can and for Goddesses sake laugh at SOMETHING and care for one another in the false darkness. Your very presence will be required at auspicious times in varied spaces. Live boldly with flair and joy. Don't complain about where your spirits lead you. Look around and prepare. Clarify priorities. Earth is coming along nicely except for letdowns, buzz killers and die-hards. We're strong. Still herding cats. Have you heard the one about the Pope and Rabbi Ortiz?

by Anonimouse  
Playful the First



## Obituary

**Booker Elliot**  
d. 6/16/10 aged 71  
natural causes

**Andrea Pursley**  
d. 7/10/10 aged 42  
natural causes

**Ginger Ball**  
d. 7/31/10 aged 56  
run over by RV on North A



**Yes!**

I want to see **HOMEWARD**,  
a newspaper produced by homeless people, expand in Sacramento.  
Enclosed find my donation of \$15 for a one year subscription.  
Please mail my copies to:

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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

SAEHC, Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center: 4516 Parker Ave. 24 hrs: 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

Helping Hands: 3526 5th Ave. Sundays, 8-11 breakfast, sack lunch, clothing

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

**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

also see Wind in 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: Wed. only. Call for appointment to go in at 11am, 1 or 1:30pm, or attend Bible study at 9:15am and get clothing at 10am 447-3268

**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. Next to Friendship Park gate. 699-1536

**Youth Services**

Diogenes: youth 16-21 yrs old. Hot Line call 1-800-339-7177

Wind Youth Center: 701 Dixie Ave. Serves youth ages 12-20. Breakfast and Lunch; Clothing; Laundry and Showers; Case Management. Drop-in Hours: M-F from 8:00am to 4:30pm and Sat 10am to 2pm. 443-8333

**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

Sacramento Mental Health Center (County): 2150 Stockton Blvd (at T St.) 24hr. Will evaluate anyone for voluntary or involuntary psychiatric care due to danger to self or others. In-patient care facility, drop-in. 732-3637

**AIDS / HIV**

AIDS Housing Alliance provides residential care, transitional housing & permanent housing services to homeless persons living with aids. 979-0897 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: 3640 40th St.; High risk outreach; HIV, Hep-C testing; case management for HIV; free medical clinic, needle exchange. 456-4849

Alternative Test Site: Free anonymous 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

**Miscellaneous**

Francis House: 1422 C st. 9:30-11:30 am M-W & 1-3 pm M-F: walk-in or referral providing resource counseling, advocacy, vouchers for IDs, Dvr Licenses, Birth Certificates, plus motel vouchers for qualified families. 443-2646

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. 800-300-5616

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

Social Security Office: 8351 Folsom Blvd (College Greens Lite-rail stop) M-F 9am-4:30pm 381-9410: Natl line 1-800-772-1213

**About SHA**

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

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

You may call for info:  
**(916) 455-4900**

Individual Membership dues:  
Standard: \$50;  
Low-income, Student: \$10

**Organizations:**  
\$200 - \$1,000  
Dues based on organization budget, please call to get estimate.

**Send donations to:**  
Sacramento Housing Alliance  
1800 21st St. Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**CLASSIFIED**

Mail or bring your ad to the Homeward office. Try to keep it under 25 words.

**Jobs Wanted**

Give hope and happiness.  
Give a job, such as moving or yard work, to a homeless worker.

**Call Loaves & Fishes  
job phone at 832-5510**

**Or mail to:**  
Loaves & Fishes  
Jobs for Homeless  
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Sac, CA 95812

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

Health Rights Hotline:  
**551-2100**

VA Outreach:  
**1-800-827-1000**  
Homeless VA Coordinator:  
**(916) 364-6547**

**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 \$15 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee).

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