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Sequestration Threatens Sacramento Housing

By Cathleen Williams

At 75, Charlotte Delgado is in fighting trim, a bantam weight contender on behalf of housing rights in Sacramento's downtown Alkali Flat neighborhood. Delgado became a tenant in multi-family, federally subsidized (Housing and Urban Development [HUD]) housing more than 25 years ago after being diagnosed with cancer. She may be poor, she may be vulnerable, but as a voice for low income HUD tenants locally and nationwide, she is gearing up to fight the impact of sequestration, the \$85 billion automatic federal spending cut which became effective on March 1, 2013. (See, Homeward Street Journal, July/August issue.)

While the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) is not releasing its plans or projections, the Bee has reported that SHRA will lose \$13.9

million in 2013; the bulk of the money goes to subsidize rents for poor families in the Section 8 program ("Housing Choice Voucher Program"); this reduction could have an impact on as many as 1,700 families. Section 8 subsidizes rents so families pay no more than 30%-40% of the family income. The Bee projects that more than 4,800 people in Sacramento – all poor, and many of them children, elderly, and disabled – could be put out of their homes. (See, "Sequester Cuts Could Add to Homelessness," Sacramento Bee, 3/31/13.) Also, \$1.2 million has been cut from the maintenance of Sacramento's public housing units and HUD projects.

Charlotte is keenly aware of the impact of these cuts on local neighborhoods like Alkali Flat, especially because, despite the "revitalization" of downtown, and the new lofts and apartments rising near the Capitol, thousands of residents of Sacramento are

struggling to find a place to live. Last spring, 50,000 families signed up for just 3,000 openings in the Section 8 program, which indicates just how urgently affordable housing is needed in the region.

Also, the number of homeless families living in shelters and emergency housing is rising sharply, increasing nationally by one third since 2007. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, April 2, 2013, "Sequestration... Cuts Come at A Time of Rising Need for Housing Assistance...")

"We have Section 8 housing all along E Street, in Alkali, and at H and 13th, for example. And of course, where I live, at E and 8th Streets, is "project based" Section 8 housing," Charlotte points out. "Think about it. Alkali is 95% renters. Without these hundreds of Section

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Our Sinking Suburbs

By Joanne Zuhl

If you want to know what homelessness looks like in the 21st century, you have to look beyond the familiar hoods and urban alleys. You have to head out to the 'burbs. A study by the Brookings Institute showed that by 2011, some 16.4 million residents in suburbia were living below the poverty line. The Brookings Institute's Elizabeth Kneebone speaks about her new book, *Confronting Suburban Poverty in America*.

Nationwide, there's been a tipping point: The suburbs are now home to more people experiencing poverty than our nation's cities, with the population increasing at twice the rate. According to a new study by the Brookings Institute, the poor population in our suburbs grew 64 percent between 2000 and 2011, compared to 29 percent in our cities. By 2011, 16.4 million residents in suburbia lived below the poverty line, more than 3 million than the number in living in U.S. cities, according to the study.

Across the country, poverty grew to record levels in the 2000s ("It's the economy, stupid.") But the numbers of poor amassing in our suburbs was on the rise even before the Great Recession and

the sluggish, jobless recovery. Once an icon of America's upwardly mobile, suburbia is grinding against the weight of economic stagnation, and the dynamics of urban versus suburban poverty is posing a challenge to how we identify who is poor, why they are in need and subsequently what society can do to reverse this trend.

The Brookings Institute's Elizabeth Kneebone, who along with Alan Berube co-authored the new book *Confronting Suburban Poverty in America*, says their book is as much about how we got here as it is understanding what needs to be done to get us out.

For decades, programs and agendas have focused on inner city poverty, but that agenda won't work as well with suburban populations where economic opportunities are limited. Kneebone says we have to approach the solution not as a collection of government agendas, but with a more metropolitan approach.

J.Z.: What's causing this?

E.K.: Big picture, there are two main reasons we see growth of poverty in the suburbs. It's when poor residents or families are moving into

suburban communities, or as longer term residents have slipped down the economic ladder. In terms of people moving in, suburbs have grown faster than cities in the 2000s. And as they grew they became more diverse, economically and demographically.

Part of this is due to where affordable housing is in a region, and that can be shaped by a number of factors. Zoning and land use make a difference. But so do things like housing age. As housing becomes older, it becomes more affordable.

There is also the role of subsidies. We've seen an increasing shift toward Housing Choice (Section 8) vouchers, a portable subsidy, and they have been increasingly used in the suburbs.

And then you have the role of the foreclosure crisis recently. Across our metro areas, about three-quarters of foreclosures that have happened since the collapse of the housing market happened in the suburbs.

Housing dynamics definitely play a role, but so do jobs. Jobs have continued to suburbanize over the years. And lower-wage jobs tend to be even

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2000-2011
29%
PERCENT GROWTH IN
CITY POOR POPULATION
NUMBER OF
POOR IN CITIES
2011 / 13,359,850

CONFRONTING SUBURBAN POVERTY IN AMERICA
What's Driving the Rapid Rise of Poverty in the Suburbs?

2000-2011
64%
PERCENT GROWTH IN
SUBURBAN POOR POPULATION
NUMBER OF
POOR IN SUBURBS
2011 / 16,361,075

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8 apartments, the rents would go through the roof, and we would be out on the street – including seniors, disabled, and children. And our community would be torn apart. “

Nationwide, Section 8 helps 2.2 million low-income households; half are seniors or disabled; most of the rest are families with children. By early 2014, 140,000 fewer families will likely be covered under Section 8, both through reducing the re-issue of vouchers when families leave the program, and through the withdrawal of recently issued vouchers. Many agencies will increase the percentage of family income that must be used for rent, and/or use their discretion to set minimum rents at rates up to \$50 per month for families that have little or no income.

At the same time, sequestration will cut by about a third the grants (called Emergency Solutions Grants) that communities spend to assist homeless people, funds that are used to operate emergency shelters as well as provide temporary rental assistance and other services to help at-risk families avoid homelessness or gain housing; it also will reduce funding for Continuum of Care grants, which are used to renew rental assistance and supporting services for homeless and formerly homeless residents. These grants have been used to reduce chronic homelessness, which affects tens of thousands of homeless people with physical and mental disability.

Last but not least, nationally the millions of tenants of public housing – including tenants living in three thousand low income units in Sacramento – will see cuts in maintenance (which already is backlogged) and potential increases in the cost of living in these units, through raises in utility charges and other fees. (See, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, above, April 2, 2013.)

The current drive to implement sequestration should be seen in the context of a political agenda that forces low income, unemployed, and homeless to endure deepening hardship and insecurity – an agenda that gave rise to mass homelessness in the 1980's and has led to the destruction or sale of more than 1 million units of public housing nationwide – as well as the defunding of new public housing as a whole. According to Paul Boden of the Western Regional Advocacy

Project (WRAP), “Over the last several decades, Republicans and Democrats alike have dismantled public housing programs, deregulated housing finance, and passed legislation enabling the privatization of public housing.” (Paul Boden, HuffPost: The Blog, 4/12/12.)

Locally, SHRA has announced plans to demolish public housing in Sacramento, both the 750 units in Land Park (once called New Helvetia/Seavey Circle and renamed Marina Vista and Alder Grove) and the 218 units at Twin Rivers on Richards Boulevard. It will be crucial to ensure that no low income housing is lost in this process, by guaranteeing 100% rehousing nearby. In other communities, demolition of public housing has resulted in massive displacement of poor people, and the destruction of community networks, with less than half the low income units being replaced. (See, Hope VI Mixed Income Housing Projects Displace Poor People, Urban Habitat, Vol. 15, No. 1, Spring 2008.) Especially with the looming sequestration, this cannot be allowed to happen here.

As Paul Boden writes, “We can’t put our hope in politicians and organizations that attempt to smooth out the edges of terrible legislation while people lose their homes and programs are gutted. In communities across the country, groups are joining hands to build a movement for the human right to housing... They are also doing the difficult work of organizing across issues by linking housing to education, health care, dignified work, immigrant rights, and economic security. Together we will reclaim our communities from the greed and willful neglect emanating from the nation’s capital and create a society based on social justice.”

Charlotte Delgado couldn’t agree more. More than ten years ago, in 1998, when her building was privatized, Charlotte’s rent went from \$595 to \$825 overnight. She joined with other organized HUD tenants nationwide to bring about the passage of a “grandfather clause” that protected existing residents from rent hikes. But every year, these tenants must fight to continue the protection of the grandfather clause that keeps their rents relatively low.

“We can and should organize and speak out together,” Charlotte says, “We represent most of the people. I fight for homeless folks too. There, but for the grace of god, go I.”

Kings Arena Subsidy – Should The Voters Decide?

By Cathleen Williams

Julian Camacho has lived in a stately Victorian in Alkali Flat for decades – and can often be found in his garden, plucking ripe tomatoes off the vines or preparing for new plantings as Fall approaches. As a journalist for the Homeward Street Journal, I stopped by the other day to talk to him about Sacramento Taxpayers Opposed to Pork (STOP), the group of community members that is gathering signatures to put on the ballot the City Council’s decision to provide a public subsidy for arena construction. Last spring, the City signed off on a “term sheet” (a list of contractual and financial provisions) for the construction of a new arena. The NBA has now decided, relying on the “term sheet,” to allow the Kings to remain here. (See, “Eye on Sacramento” Report On The Arena Proposal, March 26, 2013; the financial details cited below were current as of the date of this report, and may have been modified somewhat since then.)

“I’m a sports fan,” Julian told me, “I love the Kings. I want them to stay in Sacramento. I would like to see a new arena. But I joined STOP because we are concerned about the huge subsidies – the massive debt – that the City will assume to pay 75% of the cost of the new arena. We happen to think that the voters should decide whether it would be better to have an arena financed by private enterprise, especially if the Kings are so profitable. Why should we rush into this? Why should the NBA call the shots, instead of the residents who will pay for it?”

When I asked Julian about STOP, he said, “This is a group of people that believes there should be full discussion and debate on the arena subsidy. The City is in debt already – look at the cutbacks in services we’ve seen the past five years. To us, this is about democracy. We are walking every precinct to talk to people, to get their views, and to circulate our petition to get the arena subsidy on the ballot in June, 2014.”

Certainly, the majority of the City Council is enthusiastic about luring the Kings to Sacramento through a multimillion dollar subsidy for a new stadium on K Street. After the vote, Councilman Steve Hansen stated exuberantly, “We have four billionaires who have said that Sacramento is worthy!” (See, the Orange County Register, March 28-April 2, 2013.) These billionaires are the owners of the Kings franchise.

So what does it mean to be “worthy” of the team? I was one of 56,000 Sacramento voters who recently received a robo-call urging me *not* to sign STOP’s petition because of the benefits a stadium would bring to Sacramento. I asked Julian to tell me why STOP believes the arena subsidy should be decided by voters. The following analysis sums up what he told me:

The first major reason to put the arena subsidy on the ballot is the *cost* of arena ownership to Sacramento residents and taxpayers. The interest on the bonds that will be issued to finance the arena is at a high annual rate because the bonds are regarded as risky by investors. For the first 8 years, the City will make interest-only payments of \$108 million. Over the term of the loan, 35 years, the principal and interest payments due from the City will be \$465 million – almost a half a billion dollars. (The “Eye on Sacramento”

Report provides these details.)

Also, the City is giving away city property and undervaluing assets to “sweeten the deal” with the Kings’ owners. This has been criticized as a gift of public funds.

So how does the City plan to repay this debt?

Currently, the City receives \$9 million annually in parking revenues which has been used to fund City services. It is now being proposed that these revenues be used to pay off the debt, and that other income (in part generated by the arena) be used to “back fill” (replace) the money taken from the general fund. But according to experts, the City’s projection of replacement revenues is “shaky and/or overstated.” The City of Stockton’s recent bankruptcy is partly the result of its lavish spending on a downtown arena, which failed to meet performance projections.

“The burgeoning number of public finance crises with roots in sports facilities points to a clear need for better understanding of the long term risks and implications for taxpayers,” according to an expert quoted by the “Eye on Sacramento” Report. Placing the issue on the ballot will allow taxpayers to consider these risks and implications.

The second major reason to put the arena subsidy on the ballot is that the promised benefits of the arena – the City’s “rosy projections of future economic growth,” and its claims that the arena will lead to “broad based urban redevelopment” – should be evaluated by voters. “The near universal judgment of academics is that the arena will have negligible impact on economic growth and job formation” – aside from the 800 jobs held by Kings’ employees and the 6,000 temporary jobs provided by arena construction. “If you want to inject money into the local economy, it would be better to drop it from a helicopter than invest it in a new ball park,” observed one economist quoted by the “Eye on Sacramento” Report.

The third major reason to put the arena subsidy on the ballot is that, although many Sacramentans are Kings’ fans, and, like Julian, would like to see a new arena, *voters* should decide whether the City could or should fund *other* civic projects instead. The City won’t be able to borrow more money for a long time if the arena subsidy goes through.

Such projects would also generate jobs, and would also improve our quality of life. For example, new amenities in our neighborhoods, development of the river front, and the construction of additional units of affordable housing are some of the potential projects that Sacramento could build instead of the arena.

“We care about our neighborhoods. We have until December to complete our petition drive to put the subsidy on the ballot in June,” Julian Camacho told me. “We think we will be able to qualify. If we do, the voters will decide.”

For me, the visit to Julian generated a lot of food for thought. If you’d like more information, you can find it at STOP’s website, StopArenaSubsidy.com.

Segregation In Sacramento -- The Hidden History

By Cathleen Williams

Racial segregation – Sacramento? Deliberate, unrelenting, continuing, determining the very shape of our region, deciding who lives where, and as well, how investments and public services are distributed up to the present day. Can it be? Isn't racial segregation typical of the Southern states, not California, with its multiple layers of diversity and migration, its proud liberalism?

Certainly there is little discussion of racial segregation and ongoing discrimination here at home, even as the City undertakes vast new investments in infrastructure like the proposed downtown arena and Richards Boulevard. But research is now revealing the full history and extent of the deliberate policy decisions that created our segregated city. The scholarship of a Sacramento native, Dr. Jesus Hernandez of the U.C. Davis Department of Sociology, has documented just how racial segregation has been implemented and enforced here at home.

A glance at a map of the county reveals its raw reality – the isolation and concentration of low income and non-white residents in the north area, in neighborhoods like Del Paso Heights, and in south Sacramento, in neighborhoods like Oak Park, Meadowview, Glen Elder, Fruitridge, and North Franklin. And as Dr. Hernandez points out, all this has occurred, and continues to occur, without “racial actors” – it's just something inevitable, with the actual decision makers hidden behind a screen of complex, overlapping, non-racial justifications and motivations. Of course, segregation is profitable, too, in lots of ways.

What Happened?

Analyzing the long process of discrimination that has shaped our segregated city, Dr. Hernandez has identified three major “devices” which were used by locally powerful private interests, including mortgage bankers, real estate agents, and developers, and by public agencies which originally mandated segregation. (See, Hernandez, J. “The Residual Impact of History:

Connecting Residential Segregation, Mortgage Redlining, and the Housing Crisis,” Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, The Ohio State University (2009).)

The first device, put in place early in the 1900's, and soon evolving into a standard practice which was not fully outlawed until the 1960's, was the “restrictive covenant,” that is, “property deed restrictions on non-white occupancy.” (Hernandez, p.6.) Such covenants were initially used to exclude non-whites from subdivisions just south of the central business district, for example, Curtis Park, as well as East Sacramento. (Hernandez, p. 7.)

The second device was “mortgage redlining,” restricting access to credit by non-white borrowers (mostly African-American, Mexican American, Chinese and Japanese) who were concentrated in the few neighborhoods where they were allowed to live. Some 75% of Sacramento's non-white residents lived in the “West End,” the area west of the State Capitol bordered by the Sacramento River on the west and the American River on the north. By the 1930's, the practice of denying mortgage credit, initially implemented by local realtors and banks, was further institutionalized by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Federal National Mortgage Association (“Fannie Mae”) which was created to buy up FHA mortgages. (Hernandez, p. 8-10). These agencies *required* restrictive covenants.

As a result of mortgage redlining, West End property owners were without financing for rehabilitation and improvement; the West End became a rental neighborhood, considered a “ghetto” or “slum,” classified as “blighted,” and then, in the fifties and sixties, condemned to wholesale destruction through local redevelopment agencies under California law, agencies that received federal funds to accomplish this very result. The area is now dominated by the depopulated, impersonal blocks around Capitol Mall, by upscale housing, and by the downtown mall; it is cut off from the Sacramento River by I- 5, which also displaced area residents. (Hernandez, p.10-12.)

Redevelopment (and freeway construction) is the third device that determined the segregated shape of Sacramento, as the residents of the West End were evicted and had to find housing in areas *without race covenants* – such as Oak Park, Del Paso Heights, and south Sacramento. As Dr. Hernandez writes, “Displacement came at a high cost for West End residents...the forced relocation...effectively dismantled and neutralized the strong support networks for families and non-white businesses that made the West End a vibrant and vital community.” (Hernandez, p. 12.)

At the same time, federally subsidized freeways were creating a bonanza for banking and development interests, facilitating, up to the present, the construction of subdivisions outside of the urban core. According to a recent study, the notion that these areas were populated as a result of individually motivated “white flight” is a fiction which disguises the vast public investment in infrastructure which opened up these areas as primarily white enclaves. (See, Robert O. Self, *American Babylon*, Univ. of California Press, (2003).)

After decades of fair housing laws, our city still retains and perpetuates segregated neighborhoods as new development occurs outside the now “decayed,” neglected, poverty stricken neighborhoods in north and south Sacramento County. (See, for example, the Sacramento Bee 8/19/12, “Life Is About Survival On South Sacramento's Loucreta Drive”.)

The Tragic Harvest of Segregation, Displacement, and Disinvestment

In redeveloping the West End, Sacramento's single room occupancy (SRO) hotels were largely demolished in the 1960's and 1970's; there were some 3,000 SRO rooms downtown, which once provided shelter to low wage and unemployed workers for just \$5.00 per night in today's dollars. Little or no consideration was given to the fate of this population in redeveloping the area. Partly as a result of the policy decision *not* to provide comparable low cost housing (as well as political

decisions in the 1980's to stop building public housing and to stop housing the mentally ill), the poorest of the poor in Sacramento, as in other cities, are today “*incapable of securing housing at all times without assistance*” – they are homeless. (See, 2009 expert opinion by Dr. Jason MacCannell, *Lehr v. City of Sacramento*, District Court of Northern California.)

Outside the West End, the redlined areas of forced relocation included much of the north and south areas of Sacramento County. The scourge of predatory lending, subprime mortgages, and, ultimately, foreclosure, are also highest in these areas following the financial crisis of 2008 (Hernandez, p. 16), along with rates of poverty, unemployment, school drop-outs, gangs, drug addiction, and crime. And the main “solution” now proposed is to deploy more police on the street – as if this will cure the deprivation of credit, investment, infrastructure and public services in these neighborhoods. (See, Sacramento Bee, 6/11/13 “Guns Rule Street in West Lemon Hill Neighborhood.”)

What Now?

The problem of discrimination is ongoing – for instance, the Sacramento City Unified School District recently decided to close seven elementary schools in the south area – mostly those in the same neighborhoods where non-whites are concentrated, a policy decision which the local federal district court found racially discriminatory in its impact, involving “troubling” inconsistencies in the criteria for closure applied to schools in more affluent areas.

It is important to understand the hidden history of segregation because it prepares us to unite and engage in action and advocacy to defend our communities from ongoing disinvestment, displacement, and discrimination, and to reverse these policies. Segregation hurts us all.

The author of this article has drawn from Dr. Hernandez' published work, and from personal interviews, for this article; however, responsibility for all errors and opinions are hers alone



**SACRAMENTO
STEPS FORWARD**

Ending Homelessness. Starting Fresh.

Sacramento Steps Forward launches Give One Day Campaign

Every member of the Sacramento community should have a hope for a better life. On any given night, nearly 2,600 people in Sacramento experience homelessness. Our community must come together to ensure everyone has a permanent, safe, decent and affordable place to call home.

Between September 1 and December 31, 2013 Sacramento Steps Forward challenges every Sacramentan

to GIVE ONE DAY, donating the amount they spend on one day's mortgage or rent to end homelessness. If everyone in the community donated we could move more families, children and individuals into a safe place to call home tonight.

Please visit us online at
www.sacramentostepsforward.org
to learn more.

Mental Health Issues and Poverty

By Frank Topping

Here's a snapshot in overview form of some of the most important items affecting our homeless population with serious mental illness in the Sacramento area.

Police and Sheriff's Deputy Training For Interfacing with Persons With Serious Mental Illness - Mental Health America of Northern California, the National Alliance for Mental Illness, Sacramento Chapter and Sacramento County Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services, many excellent volunteers from the MHSA Speaker's Bureau and others have teamed up to help provide training for all officers and deputies in Sacramento County on what mental illness is, what the suffering is like, how to diffuse tense situations before they escalate and help give officers real tools like knowledge of techniques like Mental Health First Aid and a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP).

Mental Health Treatment for Homeless Youth - Recent attention focused on the terribly high rate of suicides of youth in the LGBTQ Community, particularly our homeless LGBTQ youth or those who may have run away from home, has prompted legislation enabling many mental health services and counseling to be offered to youth confidentially, without parental awareness, since family rejection or ostracism may be an issue.

Mental Health Court - We have turned our prisons into de facto asylums providing almost zero treatment for mental illness with devastating results. The economic costs are far higher, the human cost and that to families and our communities is terrible, sending recidivism, as you might expect, is through the roof. Mental health courts, drug courts and veteran's courts (one is being discussed for possible Sacramento County implementation) each attempt to focus on providing appropriate treatments where possible instead of knee-jerk incarceration -- always the highest financial costs to the community with dismal social return. Reducing recidivism is how you prove to be really "tough on crime".

AB 109 Post Release Community Support - (PRCS) Individuals and Parolees - The PRCS returnees desperately need support after their release for employment, counseling, medications, treatment and housing if we are to succeed in reducing recidivism and breaking the prisoner over-population logjam -- but AB109 funds should be used

The Rewrite of the Lanterman Petris Short Act (LPS) - Does the "term" 5150 ring a bell? Right. That's part of the LPS Act -- the part they use to lock you up for cases of mental illness beyond a certain depth of debilitation. Actually, the law is flawed to the extent that it's interpreted differently by different counties, even different cities in the same county. As it

is, patients can find themselves strapped to gurneys in hallways outside of hospital ERs for days.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) -- Mental Health Parity - The ACA has stipulated differences as to how mental health and substance use disorder services are covered -- they'll now be covered "at parity" or similar to medical or surgical procedure coverage making a real difference for individual and small group insurance.

Remember, your own experiences, especially on homelessness and mental illness give a totally unique insight policy makers, officers and clinicians absolutely cannot get in any other way. As Secretary of the Sacramento County Mental Health Board (MHB), Vice-Chair of the Sacramento County Disability Advisory Commission (DAC), a member of the Sacramento County Human Services Coordinating Council (HSCC), a member of the Sacramento County Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee and as a Director of the 20 county Central Region, California Association of Local Mental Health Boards & Commissions (CALM Board) I often get the opportunity to weigh in on issues early since I was also homeless and suffering from mental illness and drug & alcohol addiction. By getting involved you too can help make a real difference! ...don't like the way a visit to the mental health treatment center went or how you've been treated by service providers? ...your opinion could make a real difference.

More than a Bill: a Campaign for Justice

Homeless Bill of Rights Update from Western Regional Advocacy Project

WRAP Report

Of course we were disappointed when we realized that having The Homeless Persons' Bill of Rights and Fairness Act introduced by Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (AB5) was being put on suspense by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. It meant that the bill was dead and would have to be re-introduced again next year and that we needed to start all over again legislatively.

The success in the Judiciary Committee was now just a fond memory in the past.

Sure everyone was disappointed, but only for a minute, only for the time it took to brush it off and like every other group of social justice warriors that has ever achieved anything, pick up the pieces and go on. It was time to get everyone together, review what lessons were learned, figure out what groups and communities can be brought on board so we

continue to grow stronger. We needed to hang with each other and have a party!

So on July 19-20th, the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP) and allies, gathered together for a strategy meeting in San Francisco to plan the next phase: how to re-initiate and move forward with Homeless Bill of Rights campaigns in both California and Oregon. Below you can follow in detail the results of these two days.

Members from Sisters of the Road and Right 2 Survive from Oregon, from Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, and from LA Community Action Network arrived the day before the meeting to get a good night's rest before the long and potentially grueling first full-day's work. Friday morning, local WRAP members and active supporters from the San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness, St. Mary's Center, BOSS (Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency), and Hayward Community Action Network joined. Three co-sponsors of AB5, the Western Center on Law and Poverty and Jericho, a Voice for Justice, and East Bay Community Law Center also attended.

Friday's morning's sessions reviewed lessons learned so far, positive and negative outcomes, and the results of prior organizing work. We reaffirmed the many benefits of using the bill of rights as an organizing tool to support and empower our communities and compiled a list of organizations that might support a Homeless Bill of Rights, but haven't been involved yet, that we will reach out to.

We also looked to the future. We prioritized the core components of a homeless bill that can be used for education and outreach in other communities across the country. We formed a separate committee to study the issue of Hygiene Centers and agreed to continue our number one message: "Until housing as a human right is achieved, we need to protect civil rights and basic survival".

After Friday's long and successful day, WRAP met with the San Francisco Print Collective and artists who are creating a Homeless Bill of Rights mural project. As in past campaigns, WRAP will be using artwork from the community to inspire and spread our message.

A half day meeting on Saturday focused on setting campaign goals and organizational and regional commitments for the next six months: organizations and individuals to be encouraged to become more involved in the campaign. Three breakout groups in Southern California, Northern California and Oregon focused on their regional work and goals.

We all recognized the hard work ahead to redraft and pass a Homeless Bill of Rights in California and Oregon and, most importantly, to make the public aware of how unfairly poor and homeless people are treated. On why we need such Bills.

This strategy meeting last month inspired and energized all WRAP members and allies in the struggle for justice. We worked hard, felt renewed in our mutual dedication, and left in high spirits.



A breakout session - Sisters of the Road and Right 2 Survive from Oregon

Exclusion is NOT the Solution

By Erica Fonseca

It was early morning, around the first of the month when I first saw the fence. It spanned the length of Ahern Street, and completely enclosed the sidewalk where many people had just yesterday congregated, waving and smiling as I rode by on my bike. While fences, marginalization, and restrictions are nothing new to homeless people who daily come in contact with the exclusionary policies of Sacramento, this fence was unique. It literally enclosed the entire sidewalk on Ahern Street, rendering it useless, not only to pedestrians and cyclists, but to the many homeless people who routinely slept or gathered there. Through the erection of this fence or more aptly called - barricade, this relatively small, harmless community was instantly destroyed, of course, not alleviating any of the causes and consequences of homelessness, but only furthering the displacement of Sacramento's homeless population. Through conversations with folks who were sleeping on Ahern it was discovered, under the cover of early morning darkness, the fence was constructed, sending a clear message to homeless people in Sacramento: You cannot exist. Go anywhere but here.

SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee) activists, many of whom are currently homeless themselves, are acutely aware of the criminalization of homeless people, through laws and policies that make it illegal to stand, sit, or lay anywhere for very long. Within two days of the fence's arrival,

SHOC members were actively questioning the legality of the fence, and pursuing any information available that justified its existence. Quickly it was discovered that the fence had no permit backing its construction, and through a conversation with a city code enforcer, it was scheduled to be disassembled within the week. Surprised, yet excited by the ease in which the fence would be removed, SHOC members felt pleased at the immediate success of their action. However, by the scheduled date for removal of the fence, it remained. Unwavering in their commitment to challenge, not only the fence's presence, but the loud message it sends, SHOC members decided to pursue their cause at the next city council meeting.

On July 16, long-time SHOC activist Tracie Rice-Bailey addressed the city council, citing both the illegality of the fence as well as the message its presence conveys. Within her brief address she respectfully listed off six "city codes" that illuminated the illegality of the fence, not to mention the liability for the city should someone be hurt while biking or walking on the street. Within two minutes of her eloquent address, Tracie was interrupted by a concerned Vice Mayor, Angelique Ashby, who clarified the location of the fence, and with a sense of urgency informed Tracy that the City Manager would be sent out to investigate. In the week after SHOC members' address at City Hall, the fence came down.

Biking to work yesterday morning, I saw many of the same people congregated, whose smiles



The in-the-street fence on Ahern before it was removed. The barbed-wire topped inner fence protected an empty warehouse for over a decade, now it protects a vacant lot.

and waves I had missed over the past two weeks. These people are back, but they never really left. They were just out of sight, forced yet again, into the margins of the Sacramento landscape. If attempts to alleviate "the homeless problem" in Sacramento continue to manifest in criminalization, exclusion, and stigmatization, structurally-rooted causes of homelessness will continue to be ignored and overlooked. Isn't visibility the exact thing we need to get people concerned and

mobilized? Homeless people need housing and safe, sustainable places to sleep at night, not mysterious fences that seek to make them invisible. Until reactionary efforts, such as blocking a sidewalk to prevent people from sleeping are obsolete, efforts for wide-scale systemic change, preventative services, and immediate housing and quality of life services will continue to be under-explored. Indeed, the battle is won, but the war rages on!

New Round of Food Stamp Cuts Proposed

By Regina Range

I rely on SNAP (the "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" or food stamps) to feed me and my grandson who I am raising. With the expiration of the 2009 Recovery Act, in November, our food stamps will be automatically cut – a family of four will receive \$36 a month less in food stamps. As applied to us, this cut means we will be short of food about 2-3 days per month. We will be trying to stretch the food we have on hand to finish the month.

This cut will affect the 47 million people nationally who now receive food stamps, including 22 million children. And keep in mind that most food stamps recipients are children, the elderly, and the disabled, who together make up almost three quarters of the total number of recipients. Over forty percent are women. Food stamp recipients belong to all ethnicities – and live all over the country, in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Being able to prepare healthy meals on food stamps is always an issue. It's already hard to find the necessary foods needed to be healthy: when you shop sometimes you have to go to the Dollar Tree and buy those prepared frozen foods which are all high in fat, sugar, salt, starch – garbage for the body. It is hard for me to understand how the government can make these judgments on cutting food for the people of the nation.

People who do not know how to budget their food stamps allotment have more problems than I suffer. I make frequent visits to the local food banks, and volunteer with organizations that may give me a chance to secure some food items. I do odd jobs so that when my allotment for the month has been exhausted, I and my grandson can still eat. But I know people who may only have a chance at purchasing one loaf of bread and one gallon of milk in a month, in addition to a

little meat, or beans and potatoes, because they are single and receive only \$200 a month. Once you purchase these items, there is not much left for healthy foods – you can barely get fruits and veggies.

More cuts to come to food stamps? What shall my people do? There are reports that the House of Representatives plans to double the original proposal, made last Spring, to cut \$20 billion from food stamps over 10 years, which would have affected 2 million very low-income people. The new "stand alone" proposal – independent of the Farm Bill – would cut \$40 billion over ten years, with 2-4 million *more* people seeing their benefits eliminated or reduced. The new proposal may make it to the House floor in September.

If the House proposal is passed as proposed, the new cuts would come primarily from eliminating "waivers", that is, "opt out" provisions, that states could formerly use, and did use, during the current high unemployment, to ease a rule that limited SNAP benefits. This harsh rule restricted SNAP to *three months of benefits out of every three years* for people aged 18 to 50 who aren't raising minor children and are unemployed (without a full or part-time job), regardless of how hard they are looking for work. ("Millionaires Eric Cantor and Paul Ryan Plan To Cut Off Food for 4 Million Americans," by Jason Easley, Aug. 9th, 2013 PoliticusUSA.) Now they want to put this three month limitation into effect, without allowing waivers of the rule based on high unemployment.

In other words, if you do not work, you will not eat: if you are unemployed, and childless, you will be eligible to receive food stamps for only three months, and then you will have to wait almost three years, even if there are no full or part-time jobs available to you because of the high unemployment

rates that are becoming permanent. And the people who will be mostly affected are those whose average income is just about \$210 *per month*.

One of the Congress members preparing the new bill, Eric Cantor, was frank about the disqualification of the unemployed. "If they are able bodied people who can work, they ought to do that in order to receive a public benefit. That's the proposal we are bringing forward." (See, "Millionaires," above, Aug. 9th, 2013 PoliticusUSA.)

The implementation of this rule would have an overwhelming impact on my adult children, my neighbors, other friends and family who are not working because they can't find jobs. No one is saying where these new jobs would come from: the economy is generating only 150,000-200,000 new jobs a month – about enough to keep up with population growth. Anyway, these aren't necessarily jobs you can just walk off the street and get, especially if you are young, unskilled, or have some disability, some other strike against you.

I refuse to accept the idea that I have no worth to society if I can't find a decent job. I refuse to accept the idea that our nation, as a community, has no responsibility to take care of the millions of people who live in poverty. *I refuse to accept the idea that we can be written off as full members of this society.*

This is why more education on this issue is being done by me. I'm trying to get the word to the streets through my words in the Homeless Street Journal, in the hope it wakes my people up so that we can begin to do something about this before it's too late.

Sinking Suburbs

continued from Page 1

more suburbanize than higher-wage jobs. Manufacturing tends to be more suburbanized, and that was hit hard over the past decade.

J.Z.: Is there a cultural impact to these facts? Is there something not good that this is where it's happening?

E.K.: With (Section 8) vouchers, there have been concerted efforts from a policy perspective to de-concentrate poverty, especially in particularly distressed and very poor urban neighborhoods. The idea is you want to offer mobility so that these people can move to higher opportunity areas. There are a lot of challenges that come along with living in concentrated poverty. It can make it that much harder to get out of poverty because many of these communities are facing higher crime rates, poorer performing schools, poorer health outcomes - so there is a benefit to de-concentrating poverty. The challenge comes when mobility alone doesn't necessarily ensure that these residents are moving to higher opportunity places. They may not have the counseling services or information about where those opportunities are. So even as the population becomes more suburbanized, in many cases they're ending up in lower-income suburbs that are less jobs-rich than elsewhere in the region and may not have those connections to transit or better schools that one would hope for.

J.Z.: Do you think there's anything to the argument that we've become a magnet for services and that's why those numbers are climbing?

E.K.: Looking at the magnitude of these numbers, it's clearly more than just people moving into the region. This is a region that has grown over the decade and the suburbs did grow faster than the city. The suburb grew about 18 percent compared to 11 percent in the city. This is a good pace of growth in the community, but not enough to explain such rapid increases in the poor population.

It's about longer-term residents falling behind economically. And you can look to a decade that saw two downturns, including the worst recession since The Great Depression.

There are also structural changes that impact these trends. We've seen some of the fastest job growth occurring in occupations that pay lower wages, that even if a family is working full-time, it may not be enough to keep them above the poverty line.

J.Z.: If this trend continues for another 10 years, what are we in for?

E.K.: It's so important to not just look at the overall changes in the poor populations, but to understand how these trends are playing out across communities. Suburbs increasingly struggle with these issues alongside cities, yet, our perceptions and policies haven't kept pace with how quickly things have changed. And the challenge there is that we don't really realign programs and policies that are in place to address poverty in communities, than

we risk creating the same kind of challenges in suburban areas that we've been struggling with for decades in urban areas.

We've seen concentrated poverty rise in cities and suburbs. A third of the poor population in suburbs live in neighborhoods where poverty rates are 20 percent or higher. And that's about the level where we see the challenges associated with concentrated poverty begin to accrue. There should be some feeling of urgency here in thinking about how do we better adapt to the new geography of poverty, especially in a narrative of limited resources to better meet the needs of both urban and suburban residents. Thinking regionally how we can connect these residents in these communities to the kinds of opportunities that provide a pathway out of poverty.

J.Z.: Do you conclude that our anti-poverty efforts from the federal level have failed us?

E.K.: In the 50 years since Lyndon Johnson declared a war on poverty, we've learned a lot, from both the successes and the failures over time, on how to address the challenges of poverty. The challenge is that the systems we've built up over the decade to alleviate the poverty in place have left us with a very fragmented system and one that was build largely to address distressed inner-city neighborhoods. So it can be very difficult to make that system work and adapt to the landscape of poverty in the suburban communities.

This is not about how the problem has shifted. Really this is showing that these are regional challenges - that suburbs and cities alike are struggling with these issues, and the resources have not grown to keep pace with the need. So how do we better deploy those resources to try and overcome the challenges of a fragmented system? From the regional perspective and ending the poverty silo.

It's not just about finding stable housing for a family, it's also about housing near good education opportunities and growing job opportunities so workers can connect to the kind of employment that would help them work their way out of poverty. If not nearby is there transportation? All of these things relate to each other. I think the most promising models we've seen in addressing this are ones

that try to overcome the fragmentation of the system to create a more scaled approach that cuts across jurisdictional boundaries but also these policy silos to really address this at the scale at which these challenges play out.

J.Z.: Can you give a few examples of what you're talking about?

E.K.: There are a number of good examples. In the Houston region, there's a human services provider called Neighborhood Centers. This is a \$275 million operation in 70 sites across the city and suburbs. It blends 35 federal programs with state, local and private investments to create a really seamless continuum of services for residents. At the same time, it has the scale to operate across all of those programs, but really invests in understanding the needs of the different communities that it's serving. It takes a lot to do that. There are a lot of administrative costs to working this way, but their scale allows them to do this and navigate those barriers so that they're more effective, efficient and responsive.

In Chicago, it's municipalities that came together after the foreclosure crisis and instead of competing with each other, they worked together to attract federal funding and have continued to work as a collaborative around things such as neighborhood stabilization and housing, transit development and long-term planning in how to revitalize their community in balanced ways.

In Seattle, southern suburban districts came together with the Seattle School District to address achievement gaps, and did so with a cradle-to-career collective impact model, where they're working together and agreeing to the same set of metrics and the same set of goals to close the achievement gaps. The program just recently won a Race to the Top award.

The most promising models find ways to work at a better scale. They're working across jurisdictional and policy silos to make limited funding stretch further and more strategically address the issues of the residents they're serving.

J.Z.: Why was it important for you and your co-author to create the Action Toolkit?

E.K.: It's intended to help people in these communities engage in these issues. It's really trying to give people the tools to start the conversation in their community and think about creating change to more effectively address the needs of people.

J.Z.: I'm assuming you're talking about bringing not just government officials, but nonprofits and organizations around the table. How much of this involves bringing people who are experiencing poverty to the table?

E.K.: I think having that community engagement is very important. Given the scale and scope of need today, this is not something that's going to be solved just by government, or nonprofits or even the private sector. It's really going to take collaborative and integrated solutions. And for those solutions to be really effective it is important to have the voice of the residents and the community that's really struggling with these issues at the table.

J.Z.: How much do stereotypes become an issue or obstacle in dealing with this?

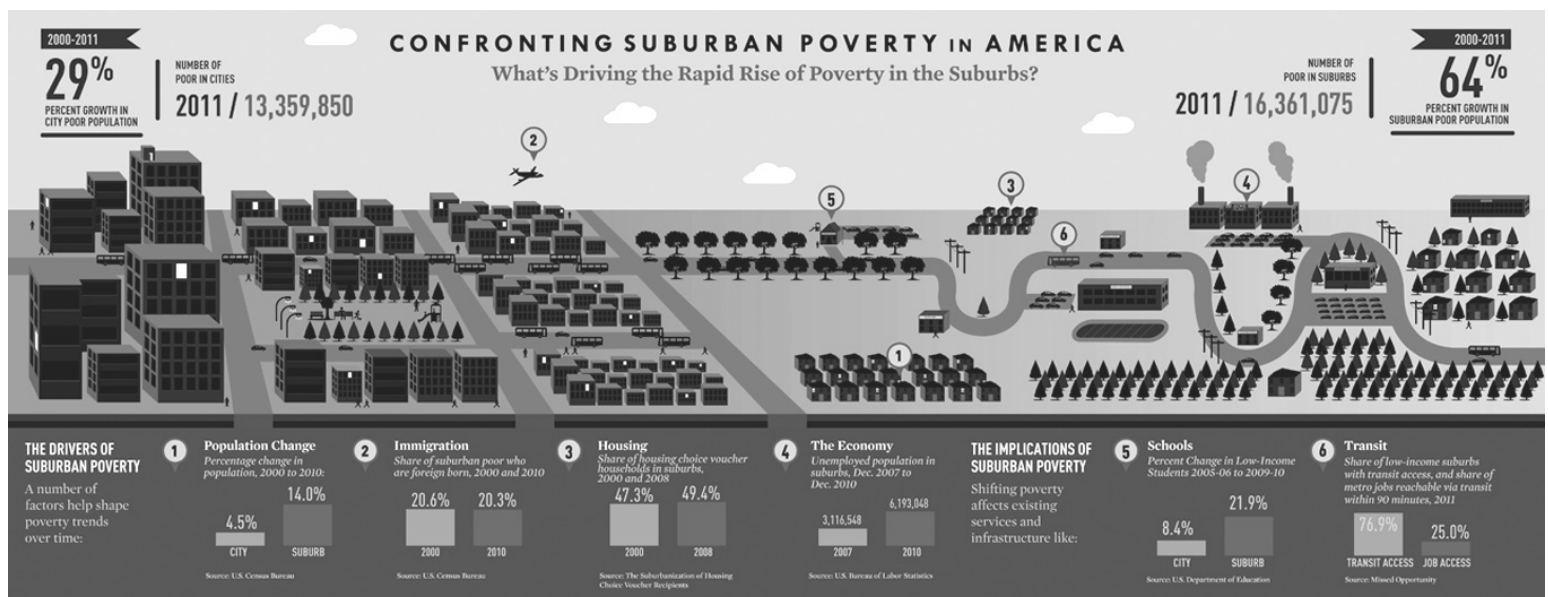
E.K.: That's a really important point. The geography of poverty has changed, but our perceptions haven't kept pace. That can be a barrier, in both understanding where the need is but who we are talking about. And in some communities, there can be real tensions that come out because a community is changing. People can marginalize the issue or turn away from the issue. Whereas when you really look at the numbers of who is struggling, this is happening in all communities, including places people often thought of as immune to these trends. And it can be invisible in these communities to a certain extent. And no one place can really tackle this on its own.

This is a shift that has been playing out over decades, and the tip that we've seen toward the suburbs happened even before the Great Recession. So even as we hope to see the poverty numbers move in the right direction as the recovery numbers begin to take hold, the idea that this is a regional challenge will persist.

Learn more about suburban poverty and the Action Toolkit at

www.confrontingsuburbanpoverty.org

www.streetnewsservice.org/StreetRoots



The Brookings Institute's Action Toolkit. Photo: courtesy of the Brookings Institute.

BEALE FIVE CONVICTED FOR PROTESTING DRONE WARFARE

Staff Report

"The government accuses us of breaking the law... I see it differently... I crossed the line at Beale Air Force Base because my government is violating international law. I was being faithful to a higher law – the law of love... These people are our neighbors... They are being killed without trial, without a judge, jury, or defense, outside the parameters of international law... For me, inaction is complicity, silence is consent."

Sharon Delgado stood before the federal courthouse in downtown Sacramento on August 12, and spoke these words to explain her decision to trespass over the "demarcation line" established by military personnel outside the main gate of Beale Air Force Base. With four other protesters against the U.S. drone warfare campaign, David and Janet Hartsough, Jane Kesselman, and Shirley Osgood, she was ready for trial on this August morning. Each protester faced six months in prison and a \$5000 fine.

At her feet, bright banners had been spread across the plaza in front of the courthouse, each painted with panels that portrayed the children in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, and Somalia who have been killed by drones. Shirley Osgood, also facing trial, read some of the hundreds of names of the kids under ten years old. The panels showed the children waving, running, working in the garden. There was one panel of a baby in a crib.

The "Beale Five" were convicted in a one day trial by a magistrate, without the jury they had earlier requested. Sentencing will be held on September 9, 2013, and supporters are urged to attend.

(See the July/August issue of the Homeward Street Journal for Shirley Osgood's article on the drone warfare program and the ongoing protests at Beale.)

Photo Right: Shirley Osgood standing between children's panels.



Good Cause, Inc. Opens New Office

Good Cause, Inc. serves as a Charity Non-Profit Organization, founded by Mr. Thomas Allison of Faith by Works, for the purpose of helping individuals to not only help themselves, but others as well. Team Good Cause will serve by helping individuals, families and businesses in different communities come together; finding the proper services to assist and meet the needs of many. By doing so, we are certain that we will enhance the dignity and quality of life for many, while equipping them with the tools and resources needed to live and enjoy a productive life.

At the present time Good Cause, Inc. is opening their corporate office at 1400 North C Street, suite B to better serve the community in the Sacramento area, partnering with Loaves and Fishes and Family Promise; as well as serving other organizations in the immediate area to realize our shared vision.

Our core program will be Men's Empowerment and its focus will be on restoration of men in our communities, bringing jobs, housing, life skills and vocational opportunities by uniting the services of other organizations.

The program will require that participants work, without receiving pay, in order to build work ethics and vocational skills; go to classes such as, anger management, parenting, life skills and much more; Participants will attend counseling, 12 step meetings, listen to lectures and attend various character building workshops. Spirituality is part of our curriculum and we will require all to participate in spiritual services and counseling.

The program will be a 6 to 9 month program that will lead up to job placement, housing and the support needed to maintain such a lifestyle. We are seeking donations of household items and men's job interview clothing as well as financial contributions to realize our goal. You can reach us at 916-341-0881 if you are interested in helping.

The Costs of War

By John C. Reiger, Veterans for Peace, Ch. 87

Former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower, the last president with any major war experience, put it bluntly, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not

clothed. This world in arms . . . is spending the genius of its scientists, the sweat of its laborers,"

Now that the wars are winding down, we tend to focus our attention elsewhere and forget that there are fiscal and human costs for these wars that will go on for decades, even for generations. Heck, we have not finished paying for World War II, much less Korea and Vietnam.

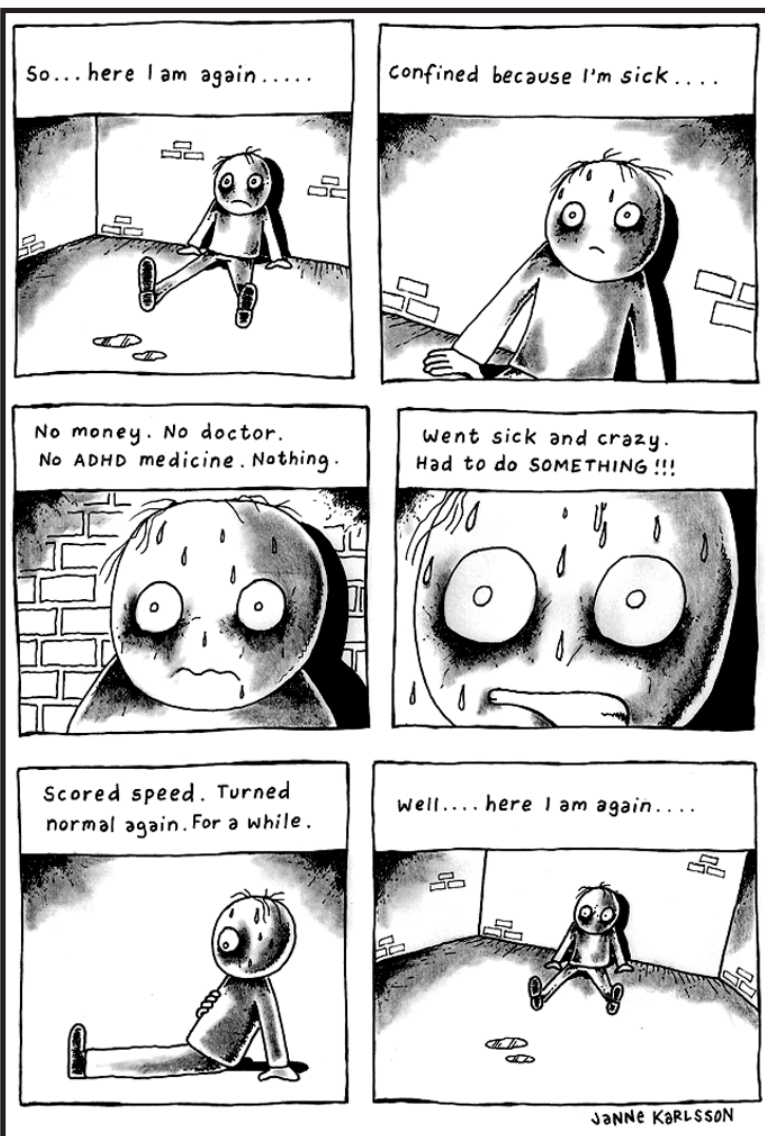
War Money and Debt: The most obvious cost of the invasion of Iraq and Afghan is the money that was wasted. So much money was spent on these wars that it stunted our economy. Much of that war money was actually borrowed. We will be paying off those debts for a long time, and that is money (up to \$6 trillion dollars) that could be used for other, better things.

The Human Costs: All that money out of our wallets is bad enough, but there is also a terrible human cost to war. Injuries, deaths, and crippled lives will linger for decades. Next time you see a young veteran missing body parts remember that this is a very personal, very human cost of war. These war injuries need to be treated and compensated for until these young veterans reach old age and fade away. And if the world were fair we should be paying for all the civilian misery we caused by our invasions.

Secret Wars - Secret Costs: The Obama administration seems to be shifting away from full-frontal-assault, boots-on-the-ground military invasions in favor of drones and the secret operations of special forces. While we may celebrate the lower cost (we hope) and fewer casualties (to our troops at least) the fact that the costs of these sneaky attacks are often hidden in "black" budgets means we may never know their true financial costs, or human costs.

Militarization of Society: There is one cost of war that is never even noticed, much less mentioned - the militarization of society. How often do we see obvious civilians parading around in military-like clothes? Our police forces now have military weapons and sometimes tank-like vehicles. Drones are next. School children dress in lookalike clothes, just like soldiers. We have "wars" on poverty, drugs, terror, etc. And these are just some obvious signs of military influence on civilian society. This kind of military thinking can lead us regular citizens to willingly give up precious freedoms, all in the name of the illusion of "national security."

And that is the ultimate "Cost of War!"



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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. 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: 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.

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

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

Women & Children

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

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

see 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

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

Medical

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

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

Mental Health

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

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

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

Youth Services

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

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 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>

1800 21st Street Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95811

*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

Miscellaneous

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

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

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

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

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

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

211 Sacramento

Dial 211
for tele-info & referral service

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 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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The paper may be reached at:
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