



HOMIEWARD

Street Journal

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Diego de Leo

Californians Unite For Survival – The SSI/SSP Campaign Today

By Cathleen Williams

We are seeing it across the state and even across the nation. People are coming together to advocate and claim their human right to survival. Something so simple. Something so hard. But there's reason to believe the time has come.

Some of California's poorest and most vulnerable residents – seniors and persons with disabilities – have flocked to the State Capitol to challenge and reverse California's brutal cuts to minimal subsistence, backed by a broad statewide coalition of 200 organizations, "Californians for SSI," – CA4SSI.

SSI/SSP (usually just called "SSI") is the state and federal program that was established in the 1970's to guarantee basic support to persons with disabilities and seniors who are unable to work – in California, currently 1.3 million people depend on it; nationally, it provides support for over 8 million people. The current

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THE TRUTH ABOUT \$1 BILLION IN SSI/SSP "SAVINGS"

MYTH

The government has saved
\$1 billion in SSI/SSP cuts



REALITY

"Savings" have come at the cost of 1.3 million blind, aged, and disabled Californians being pushed below the poverty level



MYTH

SSI/SSP grants have kept pace with the state's rising cost of living



REALITY

Grants are now even lower than they were in 1990, a loss of \$400+/month

Grants have not been adjusted to account for a 14% rise in cost of living since the cuts.

MYTH

\$889* is enough to make ends meet

* Maximum individual grant as of 2015

* In every county, the Fair Market Rent for a studio apartment exceeds 50% of the maximum individual grant.

In 13 counties, it exceeds 100% of the maximum individual grant.

REALITY

It's nowhere near enough.



\$735
Avg 2014 Fair Market Rent for a studio apartment in CA



\$257*
Avg monthly food costs



\$239*
Avg monthly transportation costs
*Public transport = primary method for half of recipients



\$334*
Avg monthly med + healthcare costs



\$249*
Miscellaneous costs

= \$1,814

* The Elder Economic Security Index is the only county-specific measure of the minimum income necessary to cover all basic expenses.

The Non-Solution Solutions to End Homelessness

Western Regional Advocacy Project
(WRAP) www.wrapphome.org

It is easy to forget that homelessness was supposed to be temporary. As homeless states of emergency continue to pop up all over the U.S., as ten-year plans to end homelessness continue to expire and get renamed, and as evictions and displacement and the numbers of community members living on the streets continue to increase; homelessness becomes more and more entrenched as a permanent phenomenon.

The Neoliberal policies that first became prominent in the 1980's decimated federal public housing funding and created the contemporary homeless problem. It also has shifted our entire material reality by privatizing formerly public goods includ-

ing public space, housing, and healthcare, expanding the prison system and criminalizing social behaviors, destroying the welfare state and centralizing wealth for a small few while increasing poverty for most.

Instead of addressing the political and economic policies that have been forcing people out onto the streets for the past 30 years and fighting to end homelessness entirely, the political discourse has continued to focus on how to manage an increasingly impoverished population. These management tools include using police to criminalize people for existing in public, creating a multi-billion dollar industry to "help" homeless people and continually cooking up new non-solution solutions to end homelessness.

In the rush to appear to be doing something

about the "homeless problem," politicians often funnel large amounts of money into projects that do little or nothing to change the material conditions of the lives of homeless people, or are simply harmful. While the intention to be helpful is great, the end result of being deceitful to the broader public and wasting millions of dollars on these solutions is not. Although many of these non-solutions have positive sides that make some lives easier, they are not actual solutions towards ending homelessness. The solutions that are most helpful to homeless people actually come from homeless people themselves, foster self-determination for everyone, stress the need for housing and do not involve the police at any step of the project.

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Occupation Update - We Struggle Still

By Niki Jones and Cathleen Williams

Why does it matter that activists, housed and unhoused, slept on the sidewalk near Sacramento City Hall for the duration of a rainy winter calling for a repeal of the city ordinances which literally make it a crime to live outdoors, to have personal survival property such as sleeping bags or tarps, or even to allow others to stay on ones own private property for more than 24 hours?

Sacramento did not budge; the city's policy to treat poverty as a crime is still in force. But advocates can see other changes. The winter's occupation helped to broaden the base of support and create community conversation around the "right to rest."

This Community Dinner Project (CDP) campaign became a coalition as a call to end the inhumane criminalization of homelessness went out. Other homeless advocacy groups, service providers, Black Lives Matter, UC Davis medical students, Punks 4 Peace, Black Team, the faith and queer communities, unaffiliated individuals housed and unhoused responded to the call— it brought people together around the crisis and continues to. Advocates experiencing homelessness note continued police harassment because of their housing status and often express their desire to "be back there again."

This occupation empowered and created space for folks to speak up for the betterment of their own lives, their families and their city. The City Council chambers are still attended by outspoken advocates, the local movement has connected to statewide efforts, and organizations such as CDP, SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee) and many others continue to train and prepare for the next phase of this irrepressible struggle for survival and self determination.

Of course the City "fathers" have resisted calls for relief from "move along" orders, citing, and even jailing those who must sleep outside if they are to get any rest at all. Enforcement of the anti-camping ordinance was harshly enacted day and night throughout the months long protest, over 80 arrests by Sac PD attempted to disrupt and intimidate— virtually every one ending with no charges filed by the city.

At a recent council meeting, activist Robert Coplin asked for an audit of the city's policing of the occupation, specifically the raid of Jan 1st and early morning hours of Jan 2nd when over 50 officers donned riot gear or body armor and used militarized policing tactics to arrest or cite less than a dozen sleepers and confiscate survival supplies. No response was made by council.

With no follow up in the court system, these tactics can only be seen as financially wasteful and suppression of expressive speech and assembly at best, and "cruel and unusual" sleep deprivation and displacement attempts at worse.

On January 5th approximately 3 dozen advocates spoke at, and many more attended, the weekly council meeting to decry the raid and the continued harassment of those experiencing homelessness by police. Mayor Kevin Johnson responded that night by establishing what he called a Homeless Task Force (later clarified as a council subcommittee NOT a task force); he said to meeting attendees "In terms of the homeless topic, your voices have been very loud and very clear."

In the months following, this subcommittee held meetings, mostly closed to the public, discussed options with law enforcement, the county and certain service providers, took tax payer funded trips to San Francisco and Seattle, finally issued a 56 page report full of options but no recommendations, and then dissolved.

Favored projects have, however, come to fruition or further funding. What council has called "the wonderful machine" the city and county have to "prevent and end" homelessness, Sacramento Steps Forward, is a nonprofit that funnels unhoused residents to existing housing programs, currently with a bottleneck of over 3000 people as they have been made the only access point for most programs.

Unlike traditional waitlists, which may take years, entry into this "community queue" comes with a reminder to folks that participation does not guarantee you will be called to apply for a housing program, ever. SSF was recently given \$1.2 million from the city, 700,000 for the cost of the funneling program and 500,000 for rapid rehousing, a short term subsidy program for market rate housing.

After years of pleas for dignity by homeless residents and advocates and international censure for Sacramento's lack of public bathrooms and access to water, we now



Police Sweep of City Hall Occupation Night of January 1st-2nd.
Photo Courtesy Community Dinner Project

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Californians Unite For Survival continued from page 1

maximum individual payment in California is \$889.40, which includes a state contribution of \$156.40 (this is the “SSP” or state funded portion.)

The total SSI amount (\$889.40) is less, of course, than the average rent for a studio apartment in most urban areas of the state, and in every county of the state, payment of rent would consume over half of the maximum SSI grant. And it’s only 90% of the federally declared “poverty line,” which in 2016 is \$11,880 per year for an individual.

Here, then, is one of the not-so-secret keys to the crisis of homelessness on our city streets, and to the quiet hunger in our neighborhoods: seniors and persons with disabilities living on SSI, the fund that was supposed to sustain them, cannot afford rent, and if they do



A group of advocates from Sacramento and the Bay Area hold a rally on the South Steps of the Capitol, energizing the crowd in anticipation of giving testimony in support of increasing SSI/SSP. Photo Courtesy Chris Jensen - Resources for Independent Living

pay it, they cannot afford food. California is the only state in the nation where people living on SSI are ineligible for food stamps – ending this ban on food stamps is one of the goals of Californians For SSI.

Behind this reality lies a history of betrayal and political cruelty. The state has asked – and continues to ask -- the very poorest Californians to shoulder the burden of austerity until the state economy “recovers” from the 2008-2009 recession. Everyone says the recovery is underway – but still the State continues to slash support for SSI:

- In addition, the state funded (SSP) part of the grant was cut – from \$233 a month to the federal minimum of \$156 per month.
- SSP grants for couples were cut to \$396.20 from \$568 a month. Total SSI/SSP grants for couples are now lower than they were in 2007. (See, CA4SSI 2015 Web Update)

To put this in perspective, the SSI caseload has climbed by some 75,000 since 2007, yet in 2015, the state proposed to spend only \$2.8 billion – an \$800 million cut from the \$3.6 billion spent in the 2007-8 budget, while the cost of living has risen by roughly 14%. The cumulative cuts just over the past four budgets are approaching \$4 billion. (See, CA4SSI 2015 Web Update).

Ultimately, in 2016, \$4.00 per month was restored to the SSP grant – a “diet COLA,” as it’s referred to by CA4SSI. It goes into effect January 1, 2017.

Today there is a broad consensus that something must be done to protect people in a state where the extremes of wealth and poverty have torn jagged edges in the social fabric of our communities.

On 8/23/2016, the Assembly passed AB 1584 in its amended form, (78 to 0). It will restore the SSI COLA on January 1, 2018, putting roughly \$25.00 back into the grant, at a budgetary cost of \$75-\$100 million per year. An earlier proposal to increase SSI/SSP payments so that they reach

the federal poverty level – an individual increase of \$200 at an annual budgetary cost of 1 billion -- died in committee earlier in the year.

The political opposition claimed that \$1 billion in “savings” resulted from the refusal to increase the grant at least to the poverty level. This “savings” is a myth – given the reality of the need. (See, the graphic illustration, “The Truth About \$1 Billion In SSI/SSP ‘Savings’”.)

“The COLA increase will make a difference,” says Robert Coplin, CA4SSI activist. “I know people who use their whole grant to pay rent and

“ SHARON: They give you enough so you can stay alive, but still struggle and be in pain. It's not enough to have any quality of life.

RON: With the way rents are, it's the rare landlord that will even consider subsidized or section 8. You just can't get housing.

ANGEL: If we didn't have extra help from the Food Bank, we would starve. Not to mention soap, toothpaste, toilet paper — stuff you need to survive. I'm just a paycheck away from being homeless.

MADINE: The worst thing about SSI cuts is that it's prevented me from being able to build equity and move out of poverty. I haven't been able to save any money.

BENNY: I don't feel like the world or society has been fair to me at all. I worked hard for years. I did what I was supposed to do. Yet every day is hell for me. I'm scared to death.

AB 1584 would increase SSI/SSP grants from 90.7% (1889) of the federal poverty level to 112% of the federal poverty level, or \$1,099 per month.

WHAT \$200 MORE EACH MONTH WOULD MEAN:

“Being able to eat more nutritious food and stay healthy.” 

“Clothing. I haven't bought things like that for myself in four years.” 

“Shoes for my grandson.” 

“I would finally be able to save some money.” 

POLICY ASKS

It's time to reverse these cuts. No person on SSI should be living in poverty or even at the Supplemental Poverty Level.

We're asking you to help restore both the SSP grant cuts and the cost of living adjustment!

depend on soup kitchens and food banks because they can’t afford the grocery store. \$25 more a month will mean they can buy a few days of food in case they can’t get to a food source. But we really need to get to the federal poverty level. That will mean a level of independence in buying necessities.”

The fate of this modest – not to say minimal – increase of \$25 is not yet known. But the fight is on.

AB 1584 now goes to the Governor’s desk for signature. He has until 9/30/2016 to sign it. Call the Governor’s office at (916) 445-2841 if you’d like to express your support.



During Disability Capitol Action Day, a group of advocates are waiting to meet with the Governor's office. Photo Courtesy Chris Jensen - Resources for Independent Living

The Non-Solution Solutions to End Homelessness

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WRAP tends to be critical of all these non-solutions because we strive for alternatives that actually address the needs of homeless people and move towards systemically eliminating the possibility that anyone would be forced to become homeless.

WRAP's abridged list of non-solution solutions that ensure the status quo remains:

1) Criminalizing Existence

The favorite go-to response from cities across the country is to force homeless people out of public space by criminalizing basic life-sustaining activities (sitting, lying, sleeping, resting, eating, etc.). Homeless people are told to move along, are ticketed and/or arrested with the goal of removing them from public space. This means criminalizing people for camping when they have nowhere else to protect themselves from the elements, and criminalizing people possessing "camping paraphernalia" with the "intent to use". Cities and police departments conduct sweeps, often confiscating people's property claiming that it is "garbage". After accruing fines for existing while poor in public, then given bench warrants for being unable to pay the fines, people are funneled into county jails and state prisons. Criminalizing existence entrenches people in poverty and creates more and more obstacles for people trying to get off the streets.

2) Collaborating with Business Improvement Districts – Gentrifying Cities

Another solution that excites the minds of business and property owners is to collaborate with the police through Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to "address homelessness" and gentrify neighborhoods. While it seems obvious that business owners, property owners, police and BIDs are not in an appropriate place to say what homeless people need, this does not stop them from doing so.

BIDs are non-democratic public-private entities, that charge fees to property owners to supplement parking infrastructure and lighting maintenance and additional fees to fund sanitation services, private security, more police and anti-homeless initiatives. BIDs are known to help "solve" the homeless problem by hiring poor and homeless people as security guards to police other poor and homeless people, and engaging in lobbying and public policy in favor of new criminalization efforts and against anti-criminalization efforts.

3) City-Sanctioned Encampments

That Deny Self-Determination

One of the most obvious non-solution solutions is the shelter system. Shelters were created as an emergency option for people on the streets--never intended to be used as a long-term solution. Some Cities are exploring the creation of sanctioned encampment shelters in abandoned areas – usually far away from city centers -- that are run by the city or a non-profit and function like outdoor shelters. Official strategies should honor the creative ways that homeless people are housing themselves and their communities, including tiny homes and resident organized encampments, in response to the lack of housing. But cities should not create or use these sanctioned communities to facilitate surveillance, to serve as justification to criminalize other incidents of homelessness, or to cease their focus on creating permanent housing.

4) Homeless Courts – Using the Criminal Legal System to Fight Problems Created by the Criminal Legal System

As was mentioned earlier, criminalization is not a solution to homelessness. In response to the non-solution of criminalization, there is a push for other criminal legal approaches to address homelessness, like homeless courts. The criminal legal system exasperates problems for homeless people in all of its iterations and should not be used as a solution. Homeless courts, created to address homeless issues outside of the regular court system, do not lessen or change the quality of life charges that homeless people are facing. Homeless courts often offer special services only accessible upon pleading guilty, which further institutionalizes and entrenches homelessness in the criminal legal system.

5) Outreach – A Great Way to Beef up Your Grant Proposal

Perhaps the most overused non-solution solution to homelessness is called outreach. Outreach can be a useful tool in gathering information and creating a connection between people. At its best, outreach provides food, blankets, medical supplies, harm reduction materials, access to showers and cop watching to people living on the streets. Outreach can also be used to perpetuate the myth that people are in the streets because they don't know where to go for help or are just too dysfunctional to get there. At its worst, this outreach is done to "look good," to aid in displacing



Outreach Workers + Cops = Sweeps

people from encampments with threats of police sweeps, or simply to justify increases to funding for organizations coordinating the outreach. Outreach is often a practice of futility when all the service providers, treatment centers, and housing have massive waitlists.

6) Case Management, Life-Skills Training and the Homeless Industrial Complex

An entire industry has been created to "help" homeless people over the past 30 years. Most homeless service providers are required to include case management and life-skills training. While these services are helpful for some, for most they do nothing at all or are directly harmful. Case managers, assigned to homeless people to provide emotional support and link them with services, are often unable to link them to the most helpful services. Life-skills trainings are often mandatory, including financial literacy, keeping appointments, interpersonal communication, etc., can often be found to be a deeply condescending and a harmful practice. Unless the life-skills trainings are about building housing and non-profits are purchasing land for people to put these houses – they are going to continue to be mostly irrelevant.

7) Navigation Centers, Coordinated Entry Systems, Vulnerability Indexes – The Many Ways to Link up Homeless People with Housing That Doesn't Exist

These solutions are the least harmful but are included because of how much

money they waste on being marginally helpful. There is a push for new Navigation Centers across the Bay Area in California, where homeless people can come to be "navigated" to services in the city. This \$3 million solution is meant to create a one-stop shop where people can access all of the services in the city at one place. In Los Angeles, the Coordinated Entry System (CES) similarly attempts to bring services together in one place for homeless people. In Sacramento, the Common Cents program also coordinates services, prioritizing the needs of homeless people at the highest risk of premature death using a vulnerability index to assess severity of need for housing. These are good approaches, but the reality is that there is not enough housing for the most vulnerable, and waiting lists can take years to show substantial movement.

Homelessness will end when everyone has a house to live in. This is not an idealistic and unattainable goal. There is enough money in this country to ensure that everyone has a place to live. After all, we have no problem funding home ownership for wealthier people and we have no problem building luxury condos in urban cities across the U.S. that are only accessible to the most wealthy.

Ending homelessness is a problem of political will and not economics. The time to be bold and invest in a world where we can all thrive is now.

Governor Brown, Where is Your Heart?

By Suzanne Hastings

Governor Brown has refused to declare a state-wide emergency housing crisis. This would have opened the door to more funding to fight homelessness.

For example, if the emergency housing crisis were declared, L.A. county could put a special tax on incomes over \$1 million dollars to help pay for programs that address homelessness.

But, according to the L.A. Times, Brown says he has “deep concerns” about the plan and about granting additional taxing authority to local governments. The governor has also said that a gubernatorial declaration of emergency “is not appropriate.”

When the L.A. county supervisors called for the declaration of a state of emergency, they pointed out, “If an earthquake or a flood suddenly left tens of thousands homeless the county and state wouldn’t hesitate to act swiftly and decisively.” They also stressed that the unsafe conditions for homeless people – in tent cities, cars, and under bridges – are no different. (source: 89.3KPCC)

Jerry Brown is the most anti-affordable housing governor of a “blue” (Democratic) state. (See, “Beyond Chron,” online.) He has done nothing to help working people afford rent. And rising homelessness is the result.

In 2011, Brown eliminated redevelopment agencies, the chief funding source for affordable housing, and has refused to reinstate these funds. This year, the bill introduced by legislators David Chiu (D. SF) and Toni Atkins (D. San Diego), AB 35, would have effectively doubled funding for affordable housing in California.

This bill addressed one of the biggest challenges faced by developers – the lack of funding to build apartments and homes that stay affordable. It would have expanded the state’s low income tax credit by \$300 million dollars yearly: developers would not only have more funding for permanently affordable apartments, but would be able to acquire additional federal funds (total \$600 million yearly) through tax credits to keep rents affordable. But it remains suspended in legislative limbo, effectively killed for this year.

Without affordable housing, more and more working poor will be forced out of their homes, only to face fines and jail time for being homeless. We are suffering the worst housing crisis since the great depression. By not declaring a state of emergency, Brown has made it worse.

Many local jurisdictions have passed laws punishing homelessness as a crime – as Sacramento does through its anti-camping ordinance. How is this different from jailing the victims of Hurricane Katrina for being homeless because of a natural disaster? The only difference is that there’s nothing natural about the housing crisis - it’s man-made!

Recently in Oak Park, a homeless woman having breakfast on a friend’s porch was arrested by 6 members of Sacramento PD’s IMPACT team. She was arrested on a warrant for “illegal storage of personal property in a public place” which falls under the anti-camping law. She was told she was a “public nuisance,” taken to jail but later released. Sacramento’s IMPACT team was supposed to serve those in need. Instead it seems to have turned into a gestapo force that terrorizes the very people it’s supposed to help!

REGIONAL TRANSIT PREPARES FOR NEW ARENA

By Suzanne Hastings

It seems that the City is doing all it can to keep the poor out of the trendy new arena area downtown, the only “walkable” area of the region, the area where stores, restaurants, public buildings (library, post office, social services) are concentrated within a few square miles.

If you’re poor you probably ride the bus. But Regional Transit (RT) rates have gone up. Now that transfers are not included in the price, it has become very expensive to take RT. More people try to ride light rail without paying the fare -- and get ticketed as a result simply because they can’t afford nearly \$3.00 for a one-way ride. So they enter the criminal justice system with its warrants for failure to appear and failure to pay. It’s like a “go to jail” card in a Monopoly game.

Not only that, but it seems that RT has limited the amount that you are allowed to carry with you. I have heard from people in the downtown area that they are no longer allowing bags of recycling to be brought on trains. Security guards will not let you on.

Last week while I was riding the bus, a woman got on with a stroller, suit case, and backpacks. The bus driver looked her over and told her “normally” they are not supposed to let people on with a lot of stuff.

Some drivers just pass people who “look” homeless when they are waiting at a stop with their belongings. A few weeks ago, I had a driver who didn’t want to let me on, stating, “You have too much stuff.” I was only allowed to ride to the light rail station.

It seems to me they are trying to block homeless people from downtown. It’s like the old laws that did not allow the poor into certain parts of town at certain times, because the sight of them was so offensive to the rich. These laws may have been abolished under the civil rights laws of the 1960’s, but they seem to be resurfacing.

In the meantime, a street car line from West Sacramento to downtown is being planned. This trolley, which was discussed in a city council meeting earlier this year, is supposed to encourage business people to come downtown to use the restaurants and other recreation like the arena – the “entertainment city.”

The street car will cost at least \$195 million dollars from various tax payer sources just to build. It’s only proposed for a 3.3 mile route – which covers a very small section of a very large city where people already have to spend a large portion of their fixed incomes just to be able to get where they need to go.

Occupation Update continued from page 2

have one air-conditioned public restroom trailer open from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. near the area for homeless services – the Loaves and Fishes campus on 12th street. Councilmember Harris, citing the nuisance, public health threat and humiliation posed by “public defecation,” pushed for this “pilot project” at a cost of \$100,000 for six months. Councilman Harris speaks of the “Pit Stop” as a “little piece of safety, security, and community,” which will effect “positive social change.”

One of the non-profit men’s shelters is now funded to be open 24 hours – a recognition, finally, that closure during the day created a treadmill of wandering through the city by residents shut out for 16 hours without rest, perpetuating, ironically, the very conditions of homelessness that the shelter was supposed to relieve.

However, one disturbing consequence of the rising advocacy for homeless people has been intensifying suppression at City Council meetings toward advocates’ speech. Early in the Community Dinner Project efforts, public comment was moved to the end of the meeting, the time, now constantly in flux, has created myriad difficulties for anyone in the city wanting to speak out.

Council meeting code of conduct has been modified to discourage cheering and



Some homeless advocates & supporters check out the “Pit Stop”

applause (enforcement absent in matters unrelated to homelessness) and even mentioning a specific council person’s name. Such a mention can get a speaker interrupted, made to stop, or even removed from council chambers.

Holding signs, even 8” by 11”, is now prohibited and will get you escorted out by police. An officer even removed a blank sheet of green paper from an advocate’s purse before entry saying she could potentially make a sign with it.

Aren’t those officers and their metal detector there to ensure the safety of the meeting? The possibility of expression is now apparently a threat.

Councilmember Steve Hansen has asserted the protestors have done Sacramento a “disservice.” Perhaps he could not see the value of community conversation when it was critical of city policy or perhaps could not connect his work with the subcommittee as directly related to the occupation’s push. Perhaps he was simply annoyed and thought the protest a waste of City time.

In any case, that shortsightedness on his part around the value of protest does a disservice to historical progress and the first amendment. The right to survival (life) and the right of free speech are intertwined. We need to encourage our city and county officials to recognize both these essentials. More importantly, we need to build the community we desire, treating one another with dignity and care until our basic needs are met and we are thriving. Institutions of state power have proven they will not do this for us, especially without strong demands and viable examples.



Right-to-Rest activists resting in front of a mural by local artist Ryan Stark at Earth Day festivities 2016

*A Special Thanks
to Our Homeward
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Make checks payable to the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC) and mail to: PO Box 952 Sacramento, CA 95812

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Resources List

Night Shelters

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

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

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

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

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

Day Shelters

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

Meals

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

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

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

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

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

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

Women & Children

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

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

Young Adults

Wind Youth Services: youth ages 12-24 experiencing homelessness: 24 hour emergency shelter line for 12- 17 yo (18 if in highschool) **1-800-339-7177:** the Drop In Center located at 3671 5th ave. open 9-3 m-f 10-2 s/s **916-561-4900.**

Free Clothing

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

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

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

Medical

Mercy Clinic: For homeless adults, children: Nurse's office in Friendship park 7:30am & 12:30pm. or on North 'C' next to fire station week days. 446-3345

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

Mental Health

Guest House, 1400 N. A St.: Homeless Mental Health Clinic, Tues,Wed,Thurs, 8-am 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. Blding. A; Adults 18 yrs & up; Referrals to transitional living programs, independant living, mental health support services; SSI/SSDI application assistance; Walk-ins 8-11am M-F 440-1500

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

Crisis Intervention

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

AIDS / HIV

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

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

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

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

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

Legal Aid

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

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

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

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

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

Veterans

VA Outreach: 1-800-827-1000

Homeless VA Coordinator: (916) 364-6547



About SHA

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

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

(916) 455-4900

<http://sachousingalliance.org>

909 12th Street, Suite 114
Sacramento, CA 95814

The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.

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

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

Miscellaneous

Francis House Center 1422 C St. Must get a lottery number 9am. M,Tu,Th,F for Direct Services: ID vouchers, transp. assistance; In depth resource coaching by apt.; Veteran's advocac.; Notary services Thurs. call for apt.; Job Development Center M,Tu,Th,F 9:30am - 1pm. Family Rescue motel vouchers for qualified families Mon. 1pm. **(916) 443-2646**

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

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

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

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

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

211 Sacramento Dial 211

for tele-info & referral service

Californina Youth Crisis Line:

1-800-843-5200

Health Rights Hotline: 551-2100

Welcome to Homeward:

Please help us make a difference!



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

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

Submissions and Editorial Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All correspondence can be sent to: Homeward Street Journal PO Box 952 Sacramento, CA 95812

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

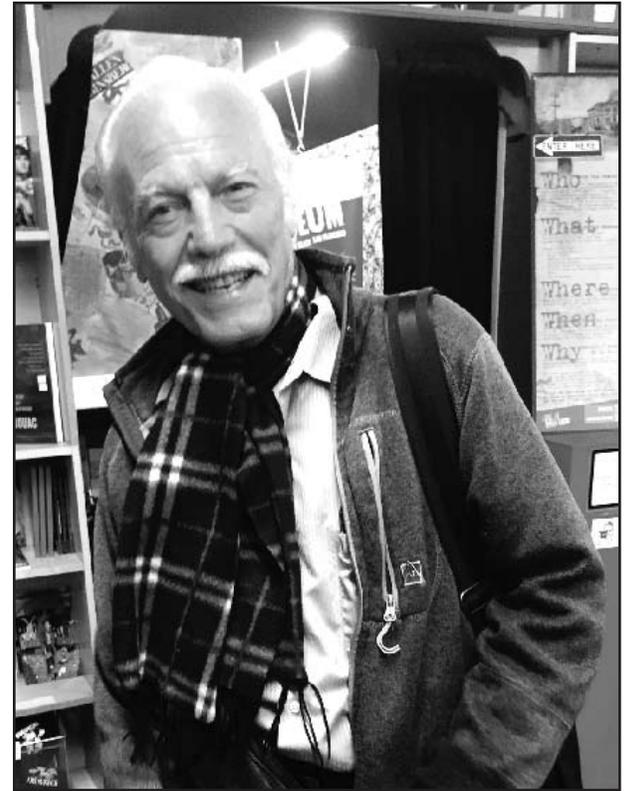
The paper may also be E-mailed at homeward2@yahoo.com

On the web at: <http://homeward.wikispaces.com>

Poems by Diego de Leo

Diego de Leo, now 81, began writing poetry at the age of 77. Today he is facing eviction from his apartment in San Francisco's North Beach, where he's lived for over 30 years, under the "Ellis Act," the state law that gives landlords an unconditional right to evict tenants if they wish to "go out of business," that is, remove all units in the building from the rental market.

According to the San Francisco Tenants Union, Ellis Act evictions are generally used to convert rental units into condos, or to merge apartments into single family "mansions." With the wealth flowing into San Francisco from tech and finance, Ellis Act evictions have mushroomed – almost 7,000 families have lost their homes since 1994, when the law came into effect.



EVICTION!

*I'M BEING EVICTED.
I'M INNOCENT.*

Evicted for whatever reason,
the obvious one is greed.
Seniors at age 70 (me 81), some older,
to be castigated by this snake of a law
might be legal, but it's immoral for sure.
Having lived where I am for decades
with my family (I'm a widower now), it
isn't just a place to stay, it's my home
-- an emotional investment.
Mayor Lee, Supervisors, you've entered
the elite group with the
honorably attached.
Very well then, act like it, do the honorable
thing:
make active evictions "null and void"
so I can live the rest of my life in peace.

Why Say It

To make connection with
the people of the world
or only a few
To uncover poet's lament: life
is good death not so good
To inject some idealism
into our life to improve our lot
To influence a few toward
the beauty of expression
To say children before schooling
say pure innocent phrases
they are our joy – our living poetry
To say great minds don't make
great poets big hearts do
To say life is a deadly affair
we can fight with love and win.

Always Like A True Friend

A lover – the sun
comes out to see me
this is a deal
we made long ago
so far he hasn't disappointed me
on cloudy days I don't worry
I know he is there
and when my forever
comes about he will
come out for me still
I will be in the roots
of my trees wave
with my branches
moved by the wind
breathe with their leaves
no I won't be done

Tree of Love

Gratitude, Patience,
Understanding, Generosity,
Compassion, Friendship:
branches of the same tree.

If you grow one,
the others will
spring out of you.

Smiles

The smile of a woman
is for the heart,
The smile of a child,
for the soul.

Rejoice

Our heart beat,
Handed down to us
With pleasure
From untold generations
Keeps on going
Into the future
Until life on earth
Is no more.