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A Voice for the Sacramento Area Homeless Community Since 1997



HOMIEWARD

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WHO IS UNHOUSED AND WHY?

A New Report “The California Study of People Experiencing Homelessness” Explodes the Myths

By Cathleen Williams

Tucked away in the suburbs east of Sacramento, easy to miss along the heavily travelled boulevards and busy parking lots, there’s a grassy patch of land, ringed by old cypress trees, next to a construction site. If you look closely, though, under the drooping branches, you will see a tarp hung up for privacy. And if you push it aside and enter there, you will step into a peaceful, carpeted communal space and see a few tents. This is an encampment, a small haven, a spot where unhoused residents have put down fragile roots.

I spoke to one of the inhabitants here a couple of weeks ago. This is what he said:

“Oh, you want to know how I became homeless? I was a paid care-giver for my disabled kid – when the check came late one month – actually it happened all the time -- I couldn’t pay rent on time and my landlord got fed up. I got evicted. And then I lost custody of my daughter. For the first couple years I was houseless, I just rode buses and light rail – I didn’t stay anywhere. Rode them at night, rode them during the day -- got lots of tickets for not paying the fare. That was my existence until I finally accepted that I had become homeless and got a tent.



“Have I looked for work? Of course. But it’s tough when you live outside. People look at me suspiciously. I’ve been turned away because I don’t have a regular address, discriminated against because I live outside. And it’s hard to maintain a phone, keep it charged – you really need those connections to get a job. Also, it costs a lot to work – you need transportation, clean clothes, the whole nine yards.

“Yes, the police have come and taken our stuff, they’ve threatened us with arrest and told us to get out, take what we can carry. Then they’ve destroyed our belongings, our tents, our blankets, our food and gear. It’s violent – they bring in a bob cat and crush everything, throw it into a dump truck. So we’ve been forced to move, over and over. But this is our neighborhood, and in this spot, we’ve found something precious. We have fresh water – the dog dug up an old connection, we put a hose in. We can wash our hands and fill bottles of drinking water!” His face lighted up with a triumphant smile.

“Oh, those numbers we are supposed to call to get help from the city? No one answers. No one offers us housing. I’m on waiting lists, supposedly. I’ve stopped calling.”

More than 171,000 people in California are unhoused. Yet this voice speaks for the overwhelming majority, if not all, unhoused people in our state and nation. The series of reversals described here, each disaster falling like domino on the next, turns out to be typical of the process of becoming homeless.

These disasters can happen in any order, a spiral of interlocking triggers which thrust people already in poverty into the street. First the loss of income. Then the loss of housing. Then the loss of family and their ways of sharing housing, affiliation, and support. Finally, the loss of the path back to the old life, especially when you are over 50 years old and no longer have a foothold in the workforce. In this age of automation, the race for employment is won by the technologically equipped, and the low wage jobs available to the rest of us just aren’t enough to pay the rent, a steadily rising source of profits for private equity firms and landlords.

“The California Study of People Experiencing Homelessness” (UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative) sheds clear new light on these causes of homelessness. As the LA



Continued Page 4

Los Angeles Community Action Network passes America's Got Talent audition with 4 yeses!

Report by Paula Lomazzi

The Los Angeles Community Action Network organizes people to fight back against oppression. They recently showcased their talent in an excellent musical performance at an America's Got Talent audition. They were really good! But very importantly they also showed their excellence as fighters for justice, taking full advantage of this national platform.

SHOC has worked with LA CAN for many years, appreciating their leadership in our mutual membership in Western Regional

Advocacy Project, and in their many accomplishments as social justice innovators. We are so proud of this group that formed in LA CAN's Arts & Culture Department.

They introduced themselves "We are the Freedom Singers". Pete added "So, we're located not far from here in a community called Skid Row. Skid Row is in the heart of downtown Los Angeles where five people per day die on the Streets, houseless people. And so for us Freedom Singing brings us close together. It's that medium we've always used to

come together as America."

When Howie Mandel asked another singer if she was houseless in Skid Row, she replied "Not anymore, but I was. Me and my mother, we were both houseless on Skid Row. Which it was very traumatizing going through the loss and being out there in the elements and especially with the city officials coming and taking away all of our personal belongings and leaving us there with nothing. I'm so blessed that I found the Los Angeles Community Action Network because they gave me a voice and an op-

portunity to rebuild myself. And through them we are housed, my mother and I."

The eight-member group then performed Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Under the Bridge" culminating in a standing ovation from the audience and judges. They received four YES votes and much praise from the judges which will put them through to the live competition starting this August.

Check out all of LA CAN's great work and keep up with their progress at www.cangress.org



Organize Sacramento Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary!

Organize Sacramento celebrated their Ten Year Anniversary on June 24 where they honored community leaders: SEIU 1021 members, Civil Rights Attorney Mark Merin, Community advocate Tamika L'ecluse, Councilmember Mai Vang, Kim Williams of the HUB and Sacramento Investment without Displacement, and AFL-CIO's Sacramento Central Labor Council.

For more than a decade Organize Sacramento has provided training, education, and technical assistance in the form of individual and group classes, presentations, research assistance and coaching in order to educate community groups, individuals, organizations, small business owners and others on techniques of community organizing, local government processes, and community and business resources. The purpose is to equip residents to think and act strategically to produce positive results when local community issues become organizing campaigns.

Organize Sacramento's major accomplishments this past decade include:

- Sunset on big-box repeal ordinance
- 3 Strong mayor defeats
- AB759- moving DA and Sheriff election to Presidential years state-wide
- Fight for \$15- We were the first in the country!
- Rent stabilization ordinance

- Restoring eliminated bus routes
 - Voters Choice Act coalition building and education campaign
 - Keeping 3-minute comment time at RT meetings
 - Free RT student transit fares
 - Campaign against the Anti-homelessness Initiative
 - New elevators at Watt light rail
 - Racial Equity Committee
 - City Independent Redistricting Committee in City of Sacramento
 - Census education Campaign
 - Redistricting Education Campaign
 - COVID worker education campaigns
 - Ongoing Programs:
 - Sac Transit Riders Union
 - Mark Whisler Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute Sacramento
 - Investment Without Displacement Sacramento
 - Racial Equity Alliance
- Ongoing, they have Community Meeting Space & Event Space (an excellent place where this event was held)

Check them out! Get involved! www.organizesacramento.org



Top Left Photo:
Mark Merin (Civil Rights Attorney) and Tamie Dramer (Organize Sacramento Director)

Top Right Photo:
John Shaban (OS Board Member), Tamika L'ecluse (Community Advocate) and Tamie Dramer

Bottom Photo:
Tamie Dramer, Councilmember Mai Vang, and Cha Vang (OS Board Member)



Who is Unhoused and Why? CSPEH

Continued from page 1

Times comments in its review of the study, “Public policy and common perception have long tied the road to homelessness with mental illness and drug addiction.” But the CASPEH report, described by the LA Times as “the largest and most comprehensive investigation of California’s homeless population in decades” — pierces the hostile myths surrounding homelessness and pinpoints the root cause, that is, “the precarious poverty of the working poor, especially Black and brown seniors.” As the lead investigator told the newspaper, “These are old people losing housing... They basically were ticking along very poor, and sometime after the age of 50 something happened...that something — divorce, a loved one dying, an illness, even a cutback in hours on the job — sparked a downward spiral and their lives just blew up.” (LA Times, 6/20/23)

At the outset the study frames a powerful analogy, imagining the process of becoming houseless as a game of musical chairs. When the music stops, the circling players dash for the open chairs — but in the scramble that follows, too few chairs remain, of course, to seat every player. Someone is going to be left standing — and that might be the person, say, who’s disabled and isn’t fast enough to grab a seat. It’s a deadly game in which individual vulnerabilities (health, age, adverse childhood experiences, being targeted because of race or gender) to name a few) interact with structural conditions (like poverty, low wages, high rents, mass incarceration in jails and prisons) to push a whole class of dispossessed working people out of the economic mainstream and into homelessness.

As the study says, “...the reason California has so much homelessness is that we don’t have enough ‘chairs’ — in this case, housing affordable to the lowest income households. But, when we ask who is homeless, we find that those with certain individual vulnerabilities to homelessness—either because of a health condition or exposure to structural racism—are at increased risk of homelessness.”

In California, only 24 units of housing (33 nationwide) are affordable and available for every 100 extremely low-income households — households whose income

is less than 30% of the median income. In Sacramento, where the median income is \$75,000 per year, thousands of households have less than \$25,000 per year, and teeter on the edge of homelessness every single month.

In addition, in what can only be described as an understatement, the report points out that “our safety net is frayed.” If you lose your job, unemployment payments are brief and minimal for low wage workers. Only one in four households who qualify for help with rent (“subsidies”) under various programs (like Section 8) actually receive it, and in California the “voucher” is increasingly being refused by landlords because they can get higher rents on the market.

These facts may be familiar — but what is distinctive about the CASPEH report is its exploration of the interaction between individual vulnerabilities and structural conditions such as poverty and lack of available housing. The report distinguishes between causes of mass homelessness — which are rooted in lack of available housing and poverty — and the individual “triggers” or “precipitants” of homelessness, which are rooted in individual life experiences placing that person at risk. For example, the report looked at how being unhoused is intertwined with difficulties in dealing with substance use:

“Substance use, for many participants, was related to their homelessness. Some reported increased use as a way to cope with the challenges of homelessness... noting that they would likely quit once they were housed. A participant shared: ‘Well, if I found housing, I’d probably wouldn’t even get high at all... Like there’s stuff that I do [that’s] out of character, I probably wouldn’t do it otherwise. But as long as I’m out here, I have to do it. It’s like a survival tactic.’ . For some, housing would make going through symptoms of withdrawal less challenging. Others noted that housing would allow them to access medication assisted treatment for their substance use more easily and safely. Others noted that housing would give them the sense of safety and security that they needed to reduce or stop their use.”

In a similar way, the report looked at how mental health is intertwined with becoming homeless:

“The period prior to homelessness is frequently marked by multiple forms of stress. Decreased household income, difficulty paying for rent, physical health problems, conflict with others, and concerns about losing one’s housing can precipitate or worsen mental health challenges. Similarly, having mental health challenges can make it difficult to maintain work and relationships and can contribute to housing loss.”



The report concludes with policy recommendations which focus on the need to make housing available to unhoused people and those who are at risk of losing it, the millions of “rent-burdened” households in California who pay 50% or more of their income for rent -- until the day comes when they can’t do it anymore.

In contrast to these common sense recommendations, a campaign is now being mounted to end the federal policy of Housing First (which prioritizes housing and voluntary supportive services) demanding that funding be shifted away from housing to “groups like rescue missions that demand sobriety or employment” before any help or housing



is extended.

The Cicero Institute is one of the organizations that is driving the attack on Housing First. Funded by a billionaire tech mogul, it has described homeless people as “vagrants, bums, tramps.” It claims the life-saving Housing First program is “part of a ‘Marxist’ attempt to blame homelessness on capitalism.” The attack on unhoused people is being waged

at the highest levels. Ex-president Trump, “in seeking to return to office, has pledged to place homeless people in ‘tent cities’ and called unhoused people ‘violent and deranged.’” (New York Times 6/21/23). At the same time, even without the rhetoric, politicians of all stripes are ignoring the reality that housing for all must be funded — no ifs, ands, or buts.

More and more people are at risk in the deadly game of musical chairs that is our housing crisis. We know that it will take a massive mobilization to make the right to housing a reality. Here at the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, we are getting ready!

Inside a Texas Homeless Village That Inspires California Replicas: Art, Movies and a Fishing Pond

by Marisa Kendall, Courtesy of CalMatters - 6/28/23

At first glance, Community First! Village looks more like an art commune or even a high-end summer camp than what it really is: Austin's formidable, 51-acre solution to the homelessness crisis.

Nestled amongst picturesque tiny houses and RVs – home to about 350 formerly unhoused people – are a ceramics studio, an outdoor movie theater and a game room. Quiet, winding roads lead past a pond stocked with catfish, a hydroponic vegetable garden and a yurt visitors can rent on Airbnb. The ashes of 36 former residents are interred in a columbarium on the property.

If you want a souvenir, there's even a gift shop of sorts – a convenience store that sells hats, infant onesies and other swag branded with the community's slogan: "Goodness."

"Right up underneath that windmill is where we have the farmer's market every Saturday morning," says village founder Alan Graham, CEO of nonprofit Mobile Loaves & Fishes, pointing from a golf cart as he gives a tour of the village. "We have a hair studio here. We got over 300 fruit and nut-bearing trees growing all over the property. This is a big, old pear tree right here. It's loaded with pears."

It's the same tour he and his team have given to multiple California officials and service providers, all of whom came looking for new answers to the Golden State's dire homelessness crisis. As a result, villages inspired by Austin now are popping up in California.

These developments put a new spin on the "housing first" philosophy that prevails among California homeless programs. In these Austin-influenced villages, the predominant belief is that housing alone simply isn't enough – one needs community, too.

The nonprofit Salt + Light is building an Austin-inspired permanent housing village near Visalia, in the San Joaquin Valley. Dubbed The Neighborhood Village, it will consist of 53 mobile homes with perks including a dog park, garden, columbarium, pop-up movie theater, art classes and mobile medical clinics. As in Austin, they'll also have "missionals" – volunteers who live on-site, look out for their formerly homeless neighbors 24/7 and help build a sense of community.

Salt + Light CEO Adrienne Hillman first visited Austin's tiny home village in 2018. "The first time I went, I cried, actually, when I got there," she said. "I was pretty overwhelmed with the beauty of it. It resonated with me on a soul level."

Convinced someone had to bring the model to California, Hillman upended her entire life, started a nonprofit and got to work.

She's not the only Californian to be taken in by Community First's utopian village of small, cutesy dwellings, lovingly landscaped gardens and roads with names like Peaceful Path and Goodness Way. Another copycat project took root in the East Bay city of Livermore. Two more are trying to get off the ground, one in Silicon Valley and the other in Bakersfield.

Two city council members from Richmond in the East Bay Area attended a symposium at Community First in April and came home with a vision to replicate what they



An aerial view of Community First! Village in Austin, TX May 12, 2023. Photo by Jordan Vonderhaar for CalMatters

saw.

"I was really, really impressed," said Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin. She wants to partner with Contra Costa County and local nonprofits to build something similar – though smaller – on a 3.5-acre site outside the city limits.

Not enough tiny homes for all who want them

Community First offers multiple tiny home options. Its 200-square foot micro-homes, for example, provide electricity but no plumbing (residents share communal bathrooms) and have room for a bed and a small living area that comes with a refrigerator, freezer, microwave, crock pot and coffee maker. The village has larger models, too, including manufactured homes that are about 400 square feet and fully plumbed. They have a bedroom, living area with a couch and small dining table, mini kitchen and bathroom with a toilet, sink and shower.

With land at a premium in California, it would be difficult to build enough tiny homes to make a noticeable difference in the state's homelessness crisis. Even Austin's tiny home village hasn't solved the problem.

Encampments still proliferate in the city's greenbelts, and the estimated number of homeless residents in the county grew 40% between 2019 and 2022, according to the federally mandated point-in-time count. In 2021, fed-up Austin voters passed a law banning public camping, and activists say unhoused people now are forced to move from camp to camp because there aren't enough shelter beds or long-term housing.

Matt Bradley, 39, said it would be "lovely" to move into the tiny home village and stop constantly worrying that someone will steal his belongings. Bradley, one of many people living in a tent in the woods behind Austin's South Town Square shopping center, said he's been on a housing waitlist for three years. Periodically, police come by and check on him and his neighbors.

"They reassure us and say help is coming," Bradley said. "But you know, we're still waiting."

Austin vs. California

In some ways, California homeless providers are predisposed to like what they see in Austin. State and local leaders have doubled down on tiny homes as a solution to homelessness ever since the pandemic, when worries about

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Bongo Books
Mercy Pedalers
Organize Sacramento
Uptown Studios Inc.



A resident cooks breakfast for their neighbors in one of the shared kitchen spaces at Community First! Village on May 12, 2023 Photo by Jordan Vonderhaar for CalMatters.

Poverty is a Profit Center

Three Book Review – by Muriel Strand

If you are wondering why the middle class is disappearing and the number of homeless people is increasing, these three books describe a disheartening multitude of reasons. Too many people are parasites on the poor.

In two extremely disturbing books, *Injustice Inc: How America's Justice System Commodifies Children and the Poor*, and *The Poverty Industry: The Exploitation of America's Most Vulnerable Citizens*, law professor Daniel L. Hatcher blows the whistle on deep and long-term government corruption on the part of state and local governments.

Readers may remember the 2008 “kids for cash” scandal and trials after the discovery that two Pennsylvania judges were getting kickbacks in return for imposing harsh adjudications on juveniles to increase occupancy at for-profit detention centers.

However, state and county courts and various safety-net agencies nationwide have for years been committing massive fraud just like this except for the benefit of their criminal justice budgets and general funds, instead of for individual fraudsters. They are harming thousands, perhaps millions, of poor people, both economically and emotionally, skimming off \$billions that federal rules say should be spent on the poor. And yes, some of this is happening in California. Is it happening in Sacramento?

There corporations called “revenue maximization consultants” which specialize in identifying many ways of extracting cash from the misfortunes and exploitation of the poor, and assisting government agencies, who are supposed to be helping the hapless, in adding the cash to their budgets. These corporations typically take a commission on the money the agencies can scam from the poor, and these doubtless well-paid corporate staff are able to mine voluminous and legalistic government regulations for all the ways that the rules can be twisted for this generally illegal goal.

Conveniently, the well-off are exempt from many of the regulations that punish the poor. Given the recent Supreme Court decision about affirmative action, one cannot help wondering if such disparity based on economic status violates the 14th Amendment.

There are more than a few scenarios. The foster kid scam is when CPS takes a poor kid away from poor mom who is “neglecting” per. (‘Per’ is a term for gender neutral third person singular.) Then the foster agency adopts some of the federal safety-net revenue that should support the poor foster kid. Plus, if the foster agency staff notice some other source of revenue the kid might be due, such as SSI stipends, the revenue maximization consultants assist the agency in taking a bite of them too. Of course, the kid is clueless, and as a foster kid also twice as likely to have PTSD as a veteran.

Then there's the child support scam where an agency might strong-arm a poor mom to sue a poor father for child support he is supposed to pay from some essential but less-than-living-wage job but when most of his paycheck is garnished he ends up homeless and then jobless plus then he also faces the court debt and fines from not paying the child support which means the only realistic option is working under the table or black market. Or suicide. Not family friendly.

Now to be clear, it's generally the agency officers and state politicians who, comfortably distant from the societal carnage, seek to protect revenues while cutting taxes—or just to deal with cuts that are forced on them. It's not the actual outreach and administrative staff who are to blame. It's the system.

The books go into other scams in bureaucratically gory detail. Unfortunately, it seems that the federal government lacks the resources to monitor and enforce compliance to standards such as fiduciary responsibility, although there have been a relatively small number of successful lawsuits. Since Hatcher's first book came out in 2016, one would think there would have been more of them by now.

These corporations include: Maximus - maximus.com; Wellcare - wellcare.com; PCG - publicconsultinggroup.com; Health Management Solutions - hmsconsultants.com; Centene Corporation - centene.com

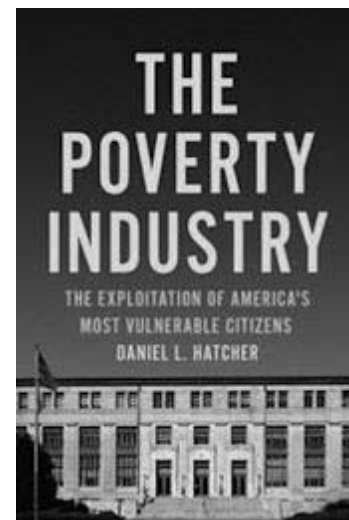
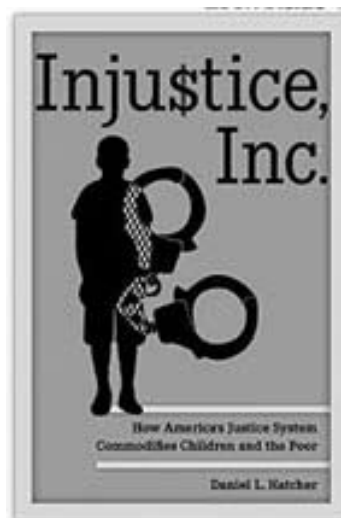
In *Poverty*, by America, Matthew Desmond describes the many ways that the rules of the US system help the rich and hurt the poor. “Every year, the richest American families received almost 40% more in government subsidies than the poorest American families.” But tax breaks just don't get the same attention as direct payments.

The ‘poverty industry’ is the many ways opportunists, public and private, make bank off people who have few other options and little or no meaningful recourse. The poor are confronted by online mazes of red tape in order to get any assistance, and are often disqualified due to common problems like debt, criminal record, etc. When it's effectively a crime to be poor, let alone homeless, economic security looks like a fantasy.

“[A]cross America, the debate about addressing the affordable housing crisis and fostering inclusive communities has turned into a debate about gentrification, one pitting low-income families who have stable housing against low-income families who need it.”

“Meanwhile, the housing market now recoups many of the gains workers make. After wages began to rise in 2021, following worker shortages, rents rose as well, and soon people found themselves back where they started or worse. It's an old pattern. Since 1985, rent prices have exceeded income gains by 325%.”

“Imagine what your life would be like if we abolished poverty. You'd go to bed at night worrying far less about being victimized by crime, for a country that shares its wealth is a much safer country.”



Texas homeless village - continued from Page 5

COVID-19 spreading in crowded shelters shaped state policy. Gov. Gavin Newsom is in the process of doling out 1,200 tiny homes for unhoused residents in Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Jose and San Diego County.

But there are some major differences between Austin's tiny homes and most of the similar programs in California.

In California, tiny homes are almost exclusively considered temporary shelter. Residents are expected to move out of the micro-dwellings and into traditional housing – sometimes within a period of mere months, and often with low success rates. Community First, by contrast, is permanent housing. Residents pay rent (between about \$370 and \$440 a month for a tiny home including utilities, or \$450 for an RV – plus electric and propane) and can live there until they die.

The sheer size of Community First also distinguishes it from other tiny home projects. It is likely the largest in the country for homeless residents. Built on 51 acres just outside the city's limits, its nearly 400 occupied dwellings house 345 formerly homeless people and 40 missionals, with plans to increase to 530 homes by the end of the year. In addition, construction is underway on another 600 homes across the street, set to be completed over the next six years. Travis County recently contributed \$35 million toward building another 750 homes on a separate property 15 minutes away.

The county's commitment marks the first time the organization has received public funding. Until then, it relied on private contributions and major gifts from wealthy donors like Michael and Susan Dell. That's another departure from

California, where tiny home projects tend to rely heavily on city, county and state funding.

Could the Community First model work in California?

In the big California cities where homelessness is most prevalent – Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego, for example – it's nearly impossible to find giant parcels of land that could fit hundreds of tiny homes.

"The tiny homes are often just not at a scale to be helpful," said Marybeth Shinn, a professor at Vanderbilt University specializing in homelessness.

And there is debate about whether tiny homes should be accepted as permanent housing. About two-thirds of the tiny homes in the Austin village have no plumbing, forcing residents to leave their units to access communal bathrooms.

The units without bathrooms don't meet the housing quality standards set by the federal government, which has given some activists pause.

"The focus has to be on housing somebody," said Alex Visotzky, senior California policy fellow for the National Alliance to End Homelessness. "And housing means having a bathroom, kitchen, a sense of privacy, the rights of tenancy and the stability that comes along with it. That has to be the end goal. That's what ends somebody's homelessness."

Austin's Graham says that's "bullshit." If people want to live in a small unit they can afford with no bathroom, that should be their right, he said. Besides, no one in his community has to walk more than 100 feet to a bathroom, he said.

"People should have a choice,"



Tiny homes used as residences at Community First! Village in Austin, Texas on May 12, 2023. Photo by Jordan Vonderhaar for CalMatters.

living in as fast as we can."

A sense of belonging

Graham, who lives in the tiny home village himself, describes the community as joyful with a "side salad of tension." Many residents have mental health conditions, and it's not unusual to see someone walk naked down the street, he said. The program doesn't require residents to be sober, and many have addictions. But after moving into the village, residents who use drugs self-report using an average of 80% less than they did on the street, Graham said.

Blair Racine, 69, has lived at Community First in Austin for five years. He pays about \$500 a month to rent an old RV from the 1990s – one of the original dwellings set up before the organization

began building fancier tiny homes. A graduate of the University of Minnesota and a former realtor, Racine said he fell into homelessness after an ex-business partner landed him in financial trouble and he had no family support to fall back on. He spent four years on the street and in homeless shelters.

Now, Racine feels like he belongs. People here call him "the Mayor," and he spends his days lending a listening ear and emotional support to his neighbors. He plans to live here until he dies. Then, he wants to be interred on site.

"I came out here and found this is my place," he said. "And the rest is history."

This article was originally published by CalMatters



Blair Racine, who lived on the streets for years before becoming a resident of Community First! Village in Austin, Texas on May 12, 2023. Photo by Jordan Vonderhaar for CalMatters.



A Tiny Home Village, for an affordable solution towards housing the homeless, in Sacramento on Sep. 29, 2022. Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

Resources List

Sacramento Loaves & Fishes.

1351 North C Street - www.sacloaves.org - (916)446-0874
 On Campus Programs:
 Friendship Park – Day center for homeless adults. Mon-Fri, 7AM-2:45PM
 Welcoming Center – Donation drop-off and admin. Mon-Fri, 7AM-3PM
 Dining Room – Lunch served. Get tickets in Friendship Park. Mon-Fri. 11:30AM-1PM. Sat-Sun 11AM to 12:30PM
 Maryhouse – Women & family services. Mon-Fri, 7AM-2PM. (916)446-4961
 Mustard Seed School – For children ages 3-15. (916)-447-3626
 Men's Wash House – showers and laundry for men. Mon-Fri, 7-11AM, 11:30AM-1:30PM
 Anneke's Haven – Kennel for spayed & neutered animals. Mon-Fri, 7AM-2PM, Sat-Sun 8:30AM-1:30PM
 Guest Advocate office. Mon-Fri, 8-11AM
 Library – Reading room, computers & glasses. Mon-Fri, 7:30-11AM, 11:30AM-1:30PM
 Jail Visitation – For individuals in custody or recently released. Mon-Thurs, 8AM-12PM. (916)447-9472
 Genesis – Mental health counseling. Mon-Fri, 7:30AM-12PM, 1PM-2:45PM, (916)669-1536
 Mercy Clinic – TB tests and General medical assistance. 8-11:30AM
 Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic. Mon-Thurs, 8AM-12PM. (916)446-0368
 Miscellaneous on campus services; Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, El Hogar Mental Health, DHA, Mercer Clinic for veterinary services, Harm Reduction Services.

River City Food Bank

(916) 446-2627. Food Distribution
 Hours: Midtown, 1800 28th Street – Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30am to 1:30pm. Arden Arcade, 2300 Edison Ave - Friday-Saturday, 10:30am to 1:30pm.

Food search by zip code: www.sacramentofoodbank.org/find-food

Sacramento Safe Space for Unhomed Youth –

Tuesdays, 9am to noon, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 1430 J Street. Temporary sanctuary for ages 18-30. Breakfast, hygiene items and other supplies when available. For more information: www.engage.us.org

Pilgrimage Program –

Rotating support from congregations in Midtown Sacramento. Overnights temporarily canceled. Clothing, Meals, and mobile showers one or two days a week at:
 Bayside Midtown (19th & W) (916) 706-2337;
 First United Methodist (21st & J) (916) 446-5025;
 St. John's Lutheran (17th & L) (916) 444-0874;
 Trinity Episcopal (25th & Capitol) (916) 446-2513;
 First Church of Nazarene (28th & S) (916) 452-6171
 See @PilgrimageSac on Facebook for the calendar. or **call in advance** for place and times.

Midtown HART Respite Centers –

Tuesdays: St. John's Lutheran Church, 1701 L Street, 9:30AM-12:30PM.
 Fridays: Trinity Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Ave, 9:30AM-12:30PM

Sacramento Self Help Housing

offers housing counseling and lists, and shared and supportive housing. sacselfhelp.org - (916) 341-0593

Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic

provides free legal services to homeless people relating infractions and misdemeanors in Sacramento County. Also manages court-ordered community service sentences. (916) 446-0368

Legal Services of Northern California:

Helps with cases about Housing, public benefits, including CalWorks, CalFresh (food stamps), Medi-Cal, General Assistance (GA), Social Security, SSI, unemployment insurance benefits (UIB), and state disability insurance (SDI). lsnc.net – (916) 551-2150

Sacramento Tenants Union

– Advocacy support for tenants: sactenantsunion@gmail.com

Department of Human Assistance(welfare)

Mail – use drop boxes outside office, or submit documents online through mybenefitscalwin.org, or mail them to: P.O. Box 487, Sacramento, CA 95812
 Apply for Benefits – apply online at www.mybenefitscalwin.org

General Assistance, call (916) 874-3100
 EBT – new or replacements, call (877) 328-9677

Harm Reduction Service:

2800 Stockton Blvd. Open from 4-6PM weekdays. Call for

Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee



<https://sacshoc.org>
 (916) 442-2156

SHOC office hours Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30AM-12PM @Friendship Park. SHOC open meetings are held first Tuesdays at the Delany Center and every Tuesday via Zoom at 10am. Email for Zoom link--shoc_1@yahoo.com

outreach schedule or supplies. (916) 456-4849

City of Sacramento:

For general information or questions about Sacramento shelters, safe camping and safe parking facilities, call 211 or 1-800-500-4931 or 916-498-1000. You also can email info@211sacramento.org

City services: 311

Community Resources: 211

Sacramento Covered
 (916) 874-9670

Elica Health Centers
 (916) 454-2345

WellSpace Health
 (916) 737-5555

Sacramento County Health Center
 (916) 874-9670

Sacramento County Department of Health Services: www.saccounty.net/COVID-19

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans:
 (877) 424-3838
 Healthcare & Program Referrals

Donate online www.sacshoc.org



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.

The paper's mission is to lessen misunderstandings between communities by educating the public about housing and poverty issues, and by giving homeless people a voice in the public forum. Homeward also provides a financial self-help opportunity for those individuals who wish to participate by being a Homeward Distributor.

The opinions expressed in Homeward are those of the authors, and not necessarily of 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:
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 PO Box 952
 Sacramento, CA 95812

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

The paper may also be e-mailed at HomewardStreet@gmail.com

On the web at:
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