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# HOMeward

a street journal

Volume Four,  
No. 1

Member NASNA  
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March,  
2000



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## HOMELESS BEGIN THEIR OWN RIVER CLEAN-UP



by Al  
Rasmussen

Photos by Jim  
Taylor

Homeless individuals organized to clean-up an area of the American River commonly used by campers.

The River Clean-Up officially started on January 17, 2000 along the American River Parkway in Sacramento.

Supported by S.H.O.C. (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee) volunteers began the clean up despite rainy weather.



see Clean-up  
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# Homeless Prevail and Stop Sidewalk Sweeps

Press Release by the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless

Three homeless individuals and the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless settled with the City of Cleveland to stop the sweeps of homeless people from the sidewalks. This means that City officials cannot use disorderly conduct statutes against homeless people who are sleeping, eating, walking or sitting on the sidewalk.

Three individuals came forward to assure that others would not be threatened with arrest for being homeless. Cornell Carter, Law Director for the City of Cleveland said in a December 23, 1999 press conference, "It is clear that the city's enforcement effort is not only legal it is humanitarian." The three individuals and the many other affidavits that the Coalition for the Homeless took show a more inhumane treatment of people who look transient.

One individual was put in custody for accepting food on the sidewalk. Another was told by police that he could not be walking on the sidewalk after 9 p.m. and had to get into shelter.

One individual, Ronald Russell, was told to move along 12 times as he greeted people in the morning at the welfare building with a friendly "good morning." The police officer told him that he was no longer welcome in the area. Another individual, Jason Maiden, was told he had to keep moving or he would be arrested.

The suit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Coalition for the Homeless is aimed at stopping the threat of arrest by City officials for the crime of using the sidewalk while homeless.

The City of Cleveland agreed to a court supervised consent decree to

prevent the case from going to trial in federal court. The Mayor claimed that they are just enforcing existing laws and attempting to help homeless people in a press conference at First Church. A federal judge had extended a temporary restraining order through the trial date, which exempted the Downtown area. The consent decree does not include any exempted areas or limit the protections to only homeless people downtown.

Affidavits from experts in the community show a lack of adequate housing in this City and a lack of an adequate safety net. Jim Schlect, outreach worker of Care Alliance, said in his affidavit that he was concerned about people being pushed off of the public sidewalks and disappearing. It is dangerous for a person with a chronic health problem to be out of more public areas. If an emergency happens and no one is around to call for an emergency vehicle that individual may die under a bridge. The other concern is that homeless people who sleep off of the public areas will be targeted, as has happened in Toledo, where six older homeless people who were staying under bridges were killed over the last four months.

The Mayor had rejected a similar settlement offer by the ACLU in December. The American Civil Liberties Union was scheduled to begin depositions of police and city officials 24 hours before the consent decree was announced. Plaintiffs expected the police to verify all of the facts put forward by the ACLU in the lawsuit. It was anticipated that the police would confirm that the genesis of the policy was in City Hall, and that it was a stretch to tie the policy to existing laws in the City Code.

# Bamboozled

An Advocate's view of Workfare politics

What unlikely thing do these businesses have in common Arthur Andersen LLP, Bell Atlantic, Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and Company, GTE, Hertz Corp., IBM, Mortgage Bankers Association of America, Republic Industries, Southwestern Bell, and U.S. West? The answer is that they all want to solve the problem of homelessness, or, at least, that's what you might gather from the fact that they're all contributors to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, a Washington-based advocacy group.

On the face of it, this might be perplexing. Arthur Andersen is a consulting firm notorious for helping local governments throw people off welfare. In Toronto, where they've got a contract, they've been accused of employing a bureaucratic goon squad to deprive people of their benefits for trumped up reasons like failure to provide documentation on what happened to cars disposed of a decade earlier or failure to attend a meeting deliberately scheduled for a distant, hard to get to location. People have been arrested protesting Andersen's policies which, a group of thirty Canadian activists — including members of Homes Not Bombs, Toronto Action for Social Change and the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty — recently called "cruel and heartless."

made ANY proposal that would, in HUD's assessment, actually end homelessness? Despite their repeated promises to get back to me, HUD let the deadline for the broadcast expire without answering, and even though I contacted them again and said I'd still be willing to air their response, they still have failed to reply. I suppose they just don't want it nakedly exposed that, of course, they're not on their way to ending homelessness, and that the real posture of this administration is to leave hundreds of thousands of people on the streets, which brings me back to the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

The Alliance is touting their goal of ending homelessness "in ten years." I'm sure this timetable (how did they ever come up with it?) is little comfort to, say, the mother of a five-year-old out on the streets. Their implicit position is that homelessness isn't a dead-canary-in-the-coal-mine emergency symptomatic of something deeply wrong with America, but a social condition we can tolerate, like some national lawn that sooner or later we should get around to mowing. And if during these high times for some, they say we can't end homelessness quickly, what will they say if there's a recession? Will they shrug their shoulders and say now we need 100 years?

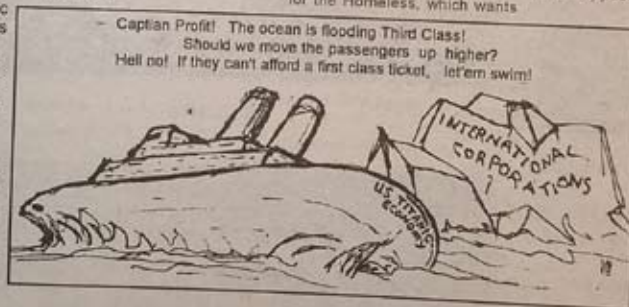
Unlike the National Coalition for the Homeless, which wants

that the Alliance sees a clear and present danger in welfare reform, but that would be a misimpression. Note the clever insertion of the word, "may". Slashing funds going to the poor "may" cause homelessness, but then again, it may not.

We're not just talking about the we-can-jumpstart-the-poor-with-a-kick-in-the-pants philosophical pretext for slashing entitlements. The Alliance's posture is far more extreme than that. Even low wages only "may" cause homelessness. And cutting benefits may actually HELP end it, which is why an entire section of their policy paper is entitled (in bold capital letters), "THE VISION: WELFARE REFORM AS A TOOL TOWARD ENDING HOMELESSNESS NOW."

Once again, Cassandra had it right. The Alliance suggests that "a long-term commitment is required, to coordinate services in a holistic manner while the worker is struggling to gain the ability to support her family."

Note the use of that hip, well-intentioned catchword "holistic," the oh-so-politically-correct feminine pronoun "her" and the generally sympathetic tone. But what they're really advocating for is "information gathering and capacity building" so we can deliver more "services," in an ineffectual welfare bureaucracy worse than the one that was supposedly reformed.



Similarly, mortgage bankers and corporate behemoths are hardly known for their compassion for the poor. And Wall Street goes crazy any time there's a chance Americans will be better able to afford housing by earning a living wage (they call this "inflationary pressure"). So what gives?

I directed three questions to HUD. I asked what it would mean to solve the problem of homelessness; would current government programs solve that problem, and, if so, by when; and if not, had HUD ever

national health insurance, for example, the National Alliance never argues for societal change.

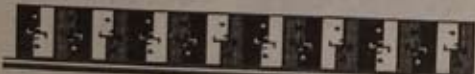
In a September, 1998 position paper entitled "The Homelessness and Welfare Reform Initiative," (a "project" of theirs), the National Alliance asserts that "Sanctions, time limits, benefit cuts and low wages may increase homelessness."

Well, as Cassandra said, "beware of Greeks bearing gifts." This Trojan Horse phrasing might lead one to believe

Now it's easy to see why this approach is so popular with corporate America. It's easy to see what Arthur Andersen likes. "Give people low wages and take away their benefits? No problem," they can say in their best imitation of populism.

"We've got programs for that, lots of 'em, and we've even got some high-fallutin' do-gooders in Washington 'splainin' how it all works out to the Feds." Only it doesn't all work out.

This isn't something that's been cooked up by anybody who actually knows about poverty. As the Toronto activists pointed out, "while single people on welfare [in Toronto] struggle to get by on \$520 a month, top Andersen executives are cashing it at \$575 an hour."



cont. from  
page 1

## River Clean-up

Local media stations Channels 3, 10, 31 and 40 were all present and filming as the crew began its work. Cleaning up the debris left over the years the volunteers quickly filled up the orange bags donated by the Rangers. Interviews of Blake Smith, Rev. James Snow, and Al Rasmussen made it on their evening news. Channel 40, FOX News, did an extensive interview with the project leader Mr. Smith which was broadcast the following day and was also broadcast statewide.

The reporters were given a tour of the clean-up site showing not only trash left by homeless people, but refrigerators, tires, old car and truck bodies dumped there as well.



Rev. James Snow told them, "And we're going to show that all this mess, including that truck behind you, wasn't put here by a homeless person. We're going to clean it up, anyway."

Blake pointed out dangerous objects as he was picking up the trash. He said, "We're going to clean it all up,

every stitch of it." Al told them he pulled up 200 pounds of glass that day and recycled it.

The Clean-Up project was spear-headed by Blake Smith and the Reverend James Snow with the support of County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman, Muriel Johnson and the Department of

Recreation (Rangers). Clean-up organizers also reported some opposition coming from some members of the Sacramento Police Department and the Salvation Army's Neighbors project.

Organizers of the clean-up said they would continue with it as long as necessary, weather permitting. Though the heavy amount of rain received in this area has postponed activity until the area is dry, the volunteers are waiting to resume the work in full force.



### Getting Permission to Pick Up Trash A short background of the river clean-up project

The American River Parkway, a most beautiful stretch of wild land surrounded by the City of Sacramento, serves as sanctuary for all sorts of natural life. Also serving as recreational land, there has been opposition to allowing homeless people to stay there. The main objection has been about the trash marring the natural beauty of the area.

Blake Smith, with Rev. James Snow as advisor, introduced the solution at one of our S.H.O.C. meetings. They said that the homeless could just clean it up, and that they had an enthusiastic response

from their fellow river dwellers to do the project.

Project organizers decided that the orange bags used by the County would be needed to show official proof of their work. The task of acquiring the bags involved contacting one official after another from various city agencies.

The game of phone tag finally led to Muriel Johnson of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, who had the authority to approve the project.

Ranger Dave Lydick of the Parks and Recreation Department became the ally that brought the project to actualization by agreeing to provide the orange bags to the volunteers. On January 12th, 150 bags were delivered to the S.H.O.C. office.

By this time 41 volunteers had signed up. As a precaution to avoid harassment, they were given volunteer cards to verify their purpose to the police and Rangers who patrol the parkway.

## Memories of Veteran's Day

by Vera Farris

Recently my husband and I went to the Vietnam Memorial in Capitol Park. I was overwhelmed emotionally by the effect this beautiful memorial had on me. It brought back so many memories of the 1960's, and all of the young men that gave their lives for our country.

My husband placed his finger on the Los Angeles section of the deceased veterans, and found three friends' names from his high school days. Tears ran down his cheeks as he mourned for his lost childhood buddies. I sat and listened as my husband reminisced about his duty in Thailand, so many scars imprinted on his soul.

As I walked around the memorial, I noticed many homeless men and women asking for change. A few pennies, nickels, or dimes to buy a meal. How ironic, that in this beautiful park, there were birds singing, people having picnics and children playing, but death and hunger spread its terrifying wings. My thoughts were of how Americans can close their eyes in denial, acting as if the plight of homelessness, hunger and young men dying in foreign wars did not exist. When did we first turn our backs to our brothers and sisters in need? Was it during the Vietnam war, or is this the history of our nation?

I was reminded of the year 1991, when I went to a Peace Rally for Veterans of Foreign Wars in Chico, California. These veterans spoke of how they felt abandoned by America. I spoke in honor of my father, who took his life after being rejected for veteran benefits. He wasn't the only one that committed suicide in 1991, there was a total of nine vet-

erans, just in the Chico area, who gave up on life that year.

When did apathy and indifference become the motto for today's society? How is it possible that we can walk over and around human beings that live and sleep on our streets? Many of these vagabonds are the same men that fought to keep our country safe. As long as it doesn't affect us, as long as we have a roof over our heads, and our stomachs are full, it's easy to look the other way. Why do we think that we are patriotic and good citizens if we vote once every four years? Why do we allow corrupt politicians to control our government, to continually cut social programs that would help the downtrodden? I wonder if we will ever wake up from our denial induced sleep, that heavy sleep where there is little or no conscious thought?

### Misdemeanor Expungement Clinic

The Voluntary Legal Services Program of Northern California is offering a clinic for low-income persons to increase employability by cleaning up their criminal record. This clinic is mostly for misdemeanors, but some marginal felonies may be dealt with.

Clinics are held on  
**Wednesdays**  
at  
**Central City Career  
Center**  
2718 G. Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

To sign up for the next  
clinic, call

**916-264-3372**

## Horseshoe Tournament...

Fair weather blessed what has been dubbed 'The Sister Judy Open', the first horseshoe tournament of the century held at Loaves & Fishes' Friendship Park on January 13, 2000. At 10 AM, Greenhat Robert called the "Games to Begin!"

First up were Doug vs. Mike. Doug, having the longest warm-up period before the games, may have intimidated Mike some, but as the game progressed, we assumed he had nothing to worry about. Comments from the gallery were, "Bowling for dollars", "The backdrop's takin' a beating", "Watch out for the cars", and "They must like playing" when points were slow in coming. 15-11, Doug turns his hat back. Mike's worried now. Doug wins 21-15.

Paula (that's me) vs. Neil are up next. It's 10:35 AM. Neil proves a worthy opponent when my first points are beaten by Neil's double-ringer. My personal trainer, Robert (is that a conflict of interest?) toweled my face. As the only woman entered in the tournament, I was given the option of a few feet, but for Womankind I refused the handicap. Neil, my worthy opponent, wins 21-2. (Hey, I did get 2 points. And, besides, my skirt kept getting in the way).

Randy vs. Jim, at 11:04 AM. Jim must have been in full form. Well, Randy may have been in good form, too, but, well, the wind kept blowing the horseshoe off target. Anyway, Jim won 20-5.

The real excitement took place when Keith vs. Neil were throwing the shoes. Neck-in-neck all the way. Cheers would have come from the crowd, except that the crowds had taken off to eat lunch. By 11:55 Keith came out on top with 21-17.

The championship rounds started at 12:30. Keith vs. James and Neil vs. Doug. Neil and Keith won to play against each other in the finals. 1:20 and arms are tired, especially Neil's, or was it that he didn't have a warm-up session. Well, anyway, he lost to Keith, 9-20. No one really lost but Keith really won. He won the blue bicycle, hands down (actually, for the last shot, the judges had to get down on their hands and knees to determine the winner). Neil won the second place bicycle. Robert's back went out (and he didn't even throw any shoes). Finalist won genuine gold-tone cardboard horseshoes. All participants won McDonald Gift Certificates. One of the runners up didn't want their horseshoe so I donned the trophy around my neck all day like a horseshoe princess. A Good Day. Come play next year. I'll be practicing until then.

## ... & Other Politics by Paula

Susan Ducker from the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC) and Cecilia Escamilla from the Sacramento Housing Alliance (SHA) set up a meeting with Jim Hyde of the Sacramento Police Dept. at Don Casimere's office (Office of Police Accountability). The meeting was originally arranged to discuss some matters that concerned SPD Captain Jim Hyde. It was originally planned for only a few members of SHOC and SHA to meet with Jim Hyde but as the date neared, other prominent members of the community expressed a wish to attend. The meeting, held on February 17, 2000, ended up including the following members:

From the Sacramento Police Dept.—Jim Hyde, Sam Vargas, Gary McLaughlin, Hugh McGee (Bike Unit) and Mike Summers, Lynda Buckmaster and John E. Hayes from Volunteers of America; Neal McAuliffe, Jerry Simpson, Jon Ciero and Chris McAdams from Vietnam Veterans of Calif.-HOPE; Jan Galloway, Homeless Programs-DHA; Michael Dueit of Consumer Affairs; From NSA Security Services were Steve Carson and Mark Thomas; Stephen Blus and Cecilia Escamilla from Sacramento Housing Alliance; Connie Miottel of Capitol Station District; Tommy Clinkenbeard from the Sacramento Public Defenders; Susan Ducker from Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee; Michael Ault and Ron Loofbourron from the Downtown Partnership; Tim Brown of Loaves and Fishes; and Don Casimere, Office of Police Accountability.

Though the purpose of the meeting was to discuss some issues Jim Hyde wanted resolved, it evolved into a town meeting where issues of major importance to the community as a whole were discussed. It was agreed by the members that the way things have been handled in the past concerning the homeless, was not effective, that the approach needed to change. It was agreed upon that the dialogue established there should continue, involving other organizations, government, businesses and the citizens of Sacramento. They planned a follow-up meeting for the first week in April.

I'd like to thank Julie Padilla for all the times during her Mayoral Campaign that she stood up for the homeless and for all the hard work she did trying to give us the best mayor that money couldn't buy. Also, it just went public that Julie Padilla is planning to make 62 acres available to benefit homeless people of Sacramento. It is in the early stages of planning but I thought it might give some hope to what seems a hopeless situation. THANK YOU, JULIE!

# Welcome to HOMEWARD:

Please help us make  
a difference!

"Homeward" is a publication of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC), which is a part of the Sacramento Housing Alliance.

Homeward's mission is to publish a newspaper for the homeless so that communications and concerns of and about the homeless are presented in a way that increases public awareness through education, involvement, and encouragement of our community about this segment of our population. It hopes to alleviate miscommunication by providing a dialogue between disparate communities. It also serves as a creative outlet for homeless people.

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 contribution. Articles, poems and other writing can be submitted in person or by mail at the SHA/SHOC office listed below, or given to Site in the library at Leaves & Fishes.

All writing submitted for publication will be edited as necessary, with due respect for the authors' 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, the editor 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 publishing excerpts on Homeward's webpage and possible reprinting in NASNA member papers, with due byline. Any requests for stories outside the above three will be referred to the author.

Mail subscriptions are available with a \$15 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC. All correspondence can be sent to:

Homeward  
926 J Street, Suite 1406  
Sacramento, CA 95814

For information call  
442-2156.

The paper may also be E-mailed at:

Homeward2@yahoo.com

Excerpts from the paper are published on the web at:

www.geocities.com/  
rainforest/andes/4085

# LETTERS

to the Editor

"And poverty has no respect for race, color,  
or creed."

Dear Editor,

I want to address an issue that is all too pervasive in our society today. I must say that it is very alarming a city the magnitude of Sacramento could have so many citizens who have so little regard for the common man's plight.

First of all, I must state that homelessness is not a crime, and you can't legislate poverty. The march on November 11, 1999 was about more than disadvantaged people crying out for a voice. It was about the makeup of our community, and the general lack of concern around the world, for that matter.

I mean, they must think that people volunteer to be homeless or something. That just isn't the way it is! Homeless people come from all walks of life. And poverty has no respect for race, color, or creed. Homeless people come from uptown and downtown. They come from the suburbs, and ghettos, palaces and shanties.

It is little Johnny next door, who's father just lost his factory job after twenty years of loyal service to the company. It is Mrs. Wilson on the corner, who always had a smile and fresh baked cookies for the neighborhood kids. She was in a tragic car accident. Not only did she lose her husband, the sole bread winner in the home, she also lost an eye and a leg. It is your best friend, Craig or Suzie. They made a mistake in their younger years, ended up in prison, and now can't find work because of a felony on their record. It is Mom and Dad, sister and brother, man and wife, children and grand children, grandma and grandpa.

Homelessness is your neighbor! Look around you. Be a friend, and give those around you, whom are less fortunate than yourselves, a helping hand. For truly, that is the will of God.

Sincerely,  
Anthony Hunter

## Homeward Associates

SHA Director:

Cecilia  
Escamilla

Graphic Design:

Lee Parks

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Jim Taylor  
Susan Ducker  
Max Biddle  
Curtis Hagen  
Paula  
Art Clay  
Marvin Jensen

"...we live in a city that who's main industry  
and activity is panhandling..."

Letter to the Editor

I attended the Mayor's debate on 2/10/00 at the GrestTheater. Except for observing the candidates in person, there appeared to be little enlightenment on specific issues. But one issue seemed to have significant importance to two of the candidates. Mr. Robbie Waters and, especially, Mr. Joe Genshies, seemed to think that street panhandlers seem to be the most pressing problem facing the city. I find this concern somewhat amusing, since we live in a city who's main industry and activity is panhandling. For, after all, that is what lobbyists and politicians do full time - panhandle. They may call it fund raising or lobbying but it is nothing more than panhandling.

They are concerned about aggressive panhandlers. But there are no more aggressive panhandlers than your professional lobbyist and politicians. One must consider who is more detrimental to our society, the street panhandler who is looking for his day-to-day survival or the professional panhandler, the lobbyist and politician, who through their pursuit of money is corrupting the entire body politic.

For many of the candidates included in this debate we are told they have already panhandled their souls to special interest to raise funds for their campaigns. Especially the building interest. Let those who are without sin, etc.

Max F. Biddle,  
Treasurer, SHOC

"The merchants want our money,  
but not us."

Dear Editor,

On Saturday, February 5 at 11:05 AM two friends and I were asked to leave the Downtown Plaza because the Merchants didn't want us sitting in the mall. We were not bothering anyone. They did not like the way we looked.

Just because we are poor or homeless, that does not mean that we are trash. We are people, too. So why DISCRIMINATE against us? Just because we don't have a lot of money like they do. There are a lot of other people who sit down there. But they are never asked to leave because they have money, or fancy clothes. A lot of people do some of their work there. I've, also, done a lot of work there. But I forgot, I don't have their money or fancy clothes to wear. I think the mall should be for everyone. Not for the rich. The merchants want our money, but not us.

They told my friends not to come back for 24 hours. If they did, they would be kicked out forever. We could come in and buy stuff but not sit down. Everyone should be able to go and sit down and enjoy the mall. It was built for everyone, not just for the rich. Is the city going to let them get away with this DISCRIMINATION? Sure they will.

Jim Taylor

## "Homeless and Vietnam"

Dear Editor,

I am an eligibility worker for the Sacramento Overflow Program. I am also a freelance writer, and would like to submit my article "Homeless and Vietnam" for your wonderful and informative paper.

Vera Farris

Ms. Farris' article is printed  
on page 6 - HWed

## Joining SHA

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

The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.

You may call for info:  
(916) 442-1198

Annual Membership

dues:

Standard, \$35;

Low-income, \$15

Organizations:

Full, 0.1% agency

budget;

Associate, \$10.0

Send donations  
to:

Sacramento Housing  
Alliance

926 J Street,  
Suite 1406

Sacramento, CA

95814

## Coming in May!

Housing California and the National Coalition for the Homeless present an exhibit by artist

Tammy deGruchy

## Images of Homelessness

the largest current oil painting exhibit on homelessness



Rachie  
by Tammy deGruchy

## The Disabled Cowboy An Essay by George Nixon

Like the sound of Drums they heard the name of Loaves and Fishes and they came. Yes, it's true, they will come for today of the 6th of February of 2000, soon to be May is strong.

The morning of February 3, it was raining a very wet and cold day. The breathing of people around me and the steam from the nose of everyone as they pass by me.

A little man, a disabled man, sitting in a wheelchair and as I look over him, I saw that his feet were cut from his legs and still in the cold morning hours with a big Black Cowboy Hat on his head, he sat with a big bright smile on his face. As I look his way, a feeling of life and the Joy it bring for there in his face was Joy and Peace and a big smile of Happiness.

I felt a smile come to my face as I walked up to his chair and ask him how was he doing and could I help, he smile and said, "Just fine. I'm new in town (Sacto) I was in Merced and I was told to come to Sacto and go to Loaves and Fishes 'cause there they will help", and I looked at him and I was moved by the faith and the very strong loyalty that he had in his words of Loaves and Fishes and, I thank God for the disabled cowboy to us for I could tell in his voice the peace in him when he said, "now I'm at home and I'm glad I was told to go to Sacto and the loving people here and the love they show people like me (Handicapped) . . . Yes, I'm Home, I'm Home.

I know that the Spirit of love walks here with each and every one of us. Loaves and Fishes is a understanding of a need and workers that care, for they are here by a spirit and when people walk into Friendship Park it's as if you are stepping into a vessel of Peace. For if you could have saw the joy in the disabled cowboy's eyes and the Happiness on his face, then you would understand

ALONE?  
SUFFERING AS I LIE HERE ALONE  
LOST EVERYTHING I HAD SO MANY  
TIMES OVER AGAIN SCREAMING OUT  
LOUD WHEN THE PAIN GETS TOO STRONG.  
ALWAYS WONDERING WHY LIFE HAS DONE  
ME SO WRONG. IT HURTS HURTS MORE THAN  
LIFE ITSELF. I KNOW THAT IN TIME THE PAIN WILL  
FADE... AND THINGS WILL GO BACK TO A BETTER DAY,  
AND THEN I WONT FEEL SO DAMN ALONE.  
FIN  
anonymous

## Cops

The weather started getting bad, the homeless try to stay dry  
At 2am the cops come in and chase them into the rain. Why?  
They apologize to me as they do their job, they don't like what they do  
It's those sadists on top that give the orders, that gets passed on down to you  
You chase helpless people out into the rain and steal their camping gear too  
Now they sneeze and cough with a bad cold, they're also suffering with the flu  
Do you finish your shift feeling you did your part  
Or do you go home with an ache in your heart  
It's got to stop now I'm here to say  
The time has come to find a better way

Art Clay

## CLASSIFIED

Mail your classified to the Homeward office or submit it at the SHOC meeting every Wednesday at 10:30 am at Loaves & Fishes. One ad free to private parties and non-profits. Try to keep it under 25 words.

## Donations

### Wanted

Loaves & Fishes  
Retail Store  
1225 N. B' St.  
Open 10 am to 3 pm  
Mon-Sat  
Donations of unwanted items appreciated

## Jobs

### Wanted

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

Call

Loaves & Fishes  
job phone at  
446-9316;

Or mail to

Loaves & Fishes,  
Jobs for Homeless,  
PO Box 2161,  
Sac, CA 95812

## Open Art Workshop

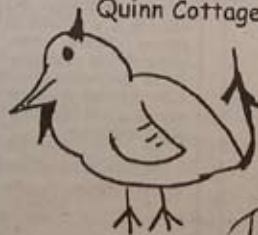
There is an on-going art workshop in the Friendship Park Library every Monday and Wednesday from 12 noon to 1:30 pm. Some art supplies will be provided.

Anyone interested is invited to attend. Please contact April in the library.

## Apt. Wanted

Couple, expecting a baby, interested in 2 br apt or duplex. Contact at 446-7235, Benjamin and Nellie Clemens. Negotiable on rent. Not more than \$475.00. Thank you.

The Divil has left the building at Quinn Cottages and has flew the coop!  
Who says there is no justice left in the world!!!



T. Ruth

# HOMELESS RESOURCES

## Overnight Shelters

**Overflow**  
sign-up 11 am to 3 pm Salvation Army patio. 14 day stay. Until March 31st.

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

**St. John's Shelter:** 12th & No. C Sts. Women/Children, 14 day max stay. 3:00pm to 7:30am. Weekday signups anytime at door. Weekend signups 3:00pm. Dinner & showers provided for guests. call 448-0701.

**Union Gospel Mission:** 400 Bannan St. Beds for Men Only, sign up 5:30pm at mission. Newcomers/Referrals have priority. 7:30pm Chapel Service with meal afterwards. 8am breakfast for residents. Showers / shaves 9-11am & 1-2:45pm open to all homeless men. 447-3268

**SAEHC, Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center:** 4516 Parker Ave. 24 hrs. Family Shelter. Families, single adults with children who have no other resource. Women's Refuge, single women, no children. Call for screening/space availability 455-2160

## Day Shelters

**Francis House:** 1422 C st., coffee and donuts 9:30-11:30 am M-F: walk-in or referrals provides resource counseling, advocacy, emergency vouchers and referrals 1-3 pm weekdays 443-2646

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

## Meals

**Union Gospel Mission:** 400 Bannan St. 7 days. Evening meal, Men/Women. Church service 7:30pm 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; inquire on C street on weekends 8-11am.

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

## Free Clothing

**Sacramento Food Bank:** 3333 3rd Ave. (at Broadway) 8am-4pm 456-1980

**Union Gospel Mission:** 400 Bannan St. Men: M-Sat 9-11am or 1-2:45pm. Women and Children: Wed. only. Call for appointment to go in at 11am, 1 or 1:30pm, or attend Bible study at 9:15am and get clothing at 10am 447-3268

## Medical

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

**Capital Health Clinic:** 1500 C St. (near 15th) Adults 8-5 M, W, and Th., also child's vaccinations & well-clinic. 440-5302.

## Dental

**Sacramento Dental Clinic:** 1500 C St. (near 15th) Adults-Emergency Dental Call for Appt. M-F 7:40am-5pm. Walk-ins screened for eligibility. 552-8300

## Mental Health

**Guest House, Loaves & Fishes:** Homeless Mental Health Clinic, M,W,Th,Fr., 8-11:30am Tues 8-11:30am only. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, GA refs, SSI appt, refs to A & D counseling. 443-6972

**TLC Emergency Outreach:** 470 Bannan St (Trailer at No.B) 24hr answering machines, adults, referrals to clinics, help w/SSI appt, housing. M-F 9am-4pm 443-2996

**Consumer Self-Help (South):** 3031 Franklin Blvd. or 4972 Date Ave. A daytime mental health self-help program with activities and groups for mental health consumers. Referrals to mental health and other services available. 737-7100

## Crisis Intervention

**Wind Youth Center:** 300 Ahern St. Serves youth ages 12-19. Serves breakfast and lunch, offers clothing and case mgmt. Open six days: M-W & F from 8:30am to 1pm and Sat 11am to 12:30pm. Youth outreach.

**WEAVE:** 24hr. Battered women and children, rape, domestic abuse. Crisis counseling, long-term anger counseling for men, safe houses, children's program 920-2952

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

## AIDS / HIV

**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

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

## Legal Aid

**Protection & Advocacy Inc:** Free legal services for people with disabilities. Call for appt. toll free. TTY:(800)776-5746

**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. 444-6760

**Welfare Rights:** 1901 Alhambra Blvd. (2nd floor) M-F 9am-5pm, AFDC, Food Stamps, Workfare and Medical rep at hearings. 735-0616

**Health Rights Hotline:** 551-2100

## Miscellaneous

**Social Services (Welfare):** 28th & R St. M-F 7:30am-5pm. Call for asst. & location, 732-3156; TANF 732-3456, GA 732-3459; Food stamps, 732-3500

**Employment Development Department (EDD):** 2901 50th St. (at Broadway) or 8930 Big Horn Blvd. M-F 8am-5pm. Unemployment, job services. 227-0300

**Medi-Cal:** 4875 Broadway M-F 8am-5pm 732-3490; 7220 24th St. (at Florin) M-Th 8-11am, 1-3pm Fri 8-11am. Phone ap OK, ID needed 395-4551

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

**Infoline Sacramento:** Tele-info & referral service: 498-1000

**California Youth Crisis Line**  
1-800-843-5200

**VA Outreach:**  
923-9787



**Avid Reader**  
1003 L St.

**The Metro**  
11th and K St.

**8th Street Cafe**  
700 H St.

**Bakery and Donuts**  
1122 11th St.

**Tony's Deli and Mart**  
1131 J St.

**Open Book**  
910 21st St.

**Lunas**  
1414 16th St.

**Weatherstone Coffee**  
819 21st St.

**The Book Collector**  
1008 24th St.

**Fluff & Fold**  
21st and H St.

**City Suds**  
19th and L St.

**F.D. Coffee Shop**  
19th and L St.

**Greta Coffee Shop**  
19th and Capitol

**Noah's NY Bagels**  
1901 J St.

**Beers Books**  
15th and L St.

**Italian Importing Co.**  
1827 J St.

**Sacramento Public Library**  
828 J St.

**Senior Citizens Center**  
J and 27th St.

**Yes!**

I want to see **HOMeward**,  
a newspaper written by homeless people,  
expand in Sacramento. Enclosed find my donation of \$15  
for a one year subscription.

Please mail my copies to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street & Apt: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC) and mail to:  
Homeward, 925 J Street, Suite 1406 Sacramento, CA 95814

Office Use  
only

received

mail list

# SHOC Bulletin

## What is SHOC?



SHOC is a homeless advocacy non-profit organization currently working under the umbrella of the Sacramento Housing Alliance (SHA).

### SHOC is a voice and a tool for the homeless.

Any homeless person with an idea that will benefit the homeless population can have access to SHOC's office equipment and expertise to make their idea a reality. For instance:

Scott Frates came to SHOC with a complaint about how the downtown guides were abusing the homeless people with not only words but physical harm as well. Scott headed up a committee to deal with this problem. Scott gathered up complaint forms from those who were being abused and took them to the ACLU who started their own investigation. Don Casimere's office also got involved and now there are regular meetings to make the downtown guides accountable. (Don Casimere is an independent investigator appointed to investigate complaints about the Sacramento Police Department.)

Blake Smith and James Snow came up with an idea to clean up the trash along the American River. With SHOC's help the River Clean-up Project got an OK from Muriel Johnson of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. The Forest Rangers have also given them their support by furnishing trash bags and removal. This project has been delayed by rain but with nice weather approaching it will start back up soon.

SHOC has been gathering up complaint forms from the homeless who have been abused by the local police and security forces. These forms have given Casimere's office the teeth it needs to hold the police accountable. There are now monthly meetings with Don Casimere, the Sacramento Police Dept, the Downtown Partnership, the Sheriff's Office, NSA Security and SHOC just to mention a few who attended the first meeting.

### Donations Needed

The River Cleanup Project needs donations of shovels, rakes, pruning shears and other gardening tools. The Forest Rangers are supplying the large orange trash bags and pick-up and disposal. Contact SHOC at (916)442-2156 for instructions if you have anything you wish to donate.

### Wish List

SHOC was donated a very fine video camera by Steve Buelow, but to make it work we need the following:

Video tapes                    video 8  
Batteries                    SONY NP-22 battery pack 6V  
2 VCRs for editing  
A small screen TV, 10 to 13 inch.

SHOC also needs:

The loan of a cell phone for about 3 months  
Money  
Office supplies and Equipment

All donations are tax deductible. Contact SHOC at (916)442-2156 if you wish to donate anything.

## Did you know?

Do you know what would happen to you if you were to somehow become homeless and end up on the streets and caught sleeping in your car?

You will go to jail, your car will be towed away, and if you have children, CPS (Child Protective Services) WILL TAKE THEM AWAY FROM YOU!

If you have a dog or a cat, SORRY, Rover and Kitty go to the pound. To get your pet out will cost you somewhere between \$70 and \$250 or more.

### CONSIDER THIS:

You have no job, but you have to come up with about \$80 for the towing company, plus about \$28 a day for vehicle storage. PLUS (this is a big plus) the City of Sacramento will throw a fine at you in the amount of \$400 to \$600.

YOUR CHILDREN will be placed in protective custody by the CPS while you're in jail. To get your kids back may take months, even years.

All of this because you were caught sleeping in your car.

### HELP UP PUT A STOP TO THIS ABUSE!

### CHECK THIS OUT:

The City of Sacramento is not renewing the mail service permit at the Union Gospel Mission where many homeless men get free mail service. This is just another example of how this and many other cities across California are deliberately making life difficult for those in need.

### One Additional Indignity:

When you become homeless many restrooms become off limits to you. Cities across California are blaming the homeless for answering nature's call and at the same time locking off the restrooms to them. In Sacramento the city provided "Porta-Potties" for the homeless then when they became full to overflowing refused to service them. Then blamed the homeless for not using these disgusting "Porta-Potties" and had them removed. The homeless are forced into this uncomfortable life style by unfair laws. Don't believe the lies told about the homeless. Families with children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. This is another thing your government doesn't want you to know about being homeless. When you see a homeless person have a little compassion.

## ATTENTION CAMPERS

The Homeless Artisans, along with Blake and Snow's River Clean-up Project, will be working with SHOC to protest the camping ordinances and the brutality inflicted on us by law enforcement officers.

If you have had enough of this abuse come and join us to demand that the State and Cities of California give us free zones where we can camp without fear of being run off or jailed.

If you have an art or craft that you can sell, you will be given first choice of a camp spot. (Other considerations may apply, contact Art Clay at SHOC's office (916) 442-2156 for more information.)

If you wish to participate in the clean-up project contact Blake or Snow at SHOC's office (916) 442-2156.

Be forewarned, we will be at risk of being arrested and ticketed. If we go to jail we will return when let out. If we don't get compliance we will rally at the State Capitol—our voices will be heard.

Art Clay