Street Sense

Where D.C.'s poor and homeless earn and give their two cents

$1

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Shelter Opens to Applause, Apprehension

By Nicole Duran

John Taylor stands next to four bunk beds in the new shelter on New York Ave.

Some of the first residents of the new shelter on New York Avenue, NE believe they have found more than a place to protect them from the cold: they think they have found hope.

"This is hope," said Robert Taylor, a 56-year-old homeless man. "We were in a state of hopelessness just a few weeks ago. This is…recovery."

Tony Woods, a 50-year-old man who has been homeless off and on for years, agreed. "I need places like this to get me straight."

But though the District's newest facility for homeless people, at 1355-57 New York Ave., NE, opened Dec. 19 with fanfare by city officials, it was quickly greeted with questions from homeless people and their advocates about the location of the center and the status of other shelters.

The city promptly answered the Gales School question, saying that the emergency hypothermia facility at 65 Massachusetts Ave., NW would remain open for the winter. The shelter there was supposed to close Dec. 19, with its residents moving to the New York Avenue site. However, city officials still intend to close the facility for renovations when temperatures rise again at the end of March.

Gales School was opened in 2001 as a temporary facility, said Lynn French, a senior policy advisor in the Deputy Mayor's Office for Children, Youth, Families and Elders. "It was always temporary," she explained, adding that the city has other plans for the former schoolhouse.

The second question — why the new shelter is so far from

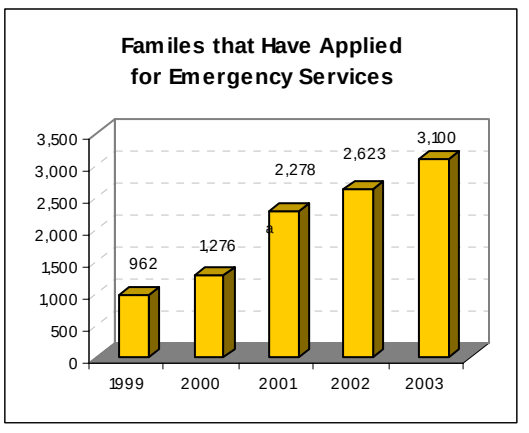
See NEW YORK AVE p.4

Homelessness in DC on the Rise: 2003 in Review

By Amy Levey

Although Washington, D.C., is famously resilient amidst the economic downturns and jumps in unemployment that usually hit hard in other parts of the country, it has not been able to escape the past year's nationwide surge in homelessness.

And area experts say that the District's increase in homelessness will likely continue, unless low-income housing programs are expanded and made more available to the city's poorest residents.



In 2003, Washington, D.C., reported that 3,100 families applied for emergency shelter, a 18% increase since last year and a whopping 143% increase from 2000. And 12,297 adults were served by the shelter system last year, a near 10% increase from 2002, according to Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness. (The number of families served

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After the Volunteer Surge

How homeless organizations handle the drop in help after the holidays

By Chantal-Majken Grinderslev

This past December, the phone message for So Others Might Eat greeted many willing volunteers with: "Hello! And happy holidays from So Others Might Eat…We are very fortunate to have enough volunteers throughout the holiday season. If you would like information on volunteering at another time…"

And Martha's Table also had to turn away volunteers during the holiday season, according to its volunteer coordinator Juliet Orzal. Though the organization serves about 2,000 meals a day, the 30 to 40 volunteers a day calling up during the weeks before Christmas were more than Martha's Table could handle.

"Trying to accommodate people's schedules is time-consuming," she said. "I tell them, 'There is January. There is February.'"

The situations at these two food and social-service providers are reflective of the dilemma that all groups that work with the homeless in Washington and across the country face: How to balance the upsurge of volun-

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Street Sense

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Street Sense Mission Statement and Editorial Policy

Homelessness in Washington, D.C., is at its highest level since 1996 and is increasing. However the attention the media is giving the issue remains very low and inconsistent.

As a result, the main objective of *Street Sense* is to make the public more aware of issues related to poverty and homelessness. Its secondary goal is to provide homeless people with an economically beneficial opportunity and forum to be published.

Articles in *Street Sense* reflect the perspectives of the authors. We invite the submission of journalism, opinion, fiction and poetry, hoping to create a means where a multitude of perspectives on poverty and homelessness can find expression. *Street Sense* reserves the right to edit any material for length or style.

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Are you from out of town and want to continue to support *Street Sense* throughout the year? Do you live in Washington and want to make sure that you get the latest copy of Street Sense? You can now order a subscription. Street Sense is a monthly newspaper with a circulation of about 7,000. When you order a subscription, you are contributing to the efforts of raising awareness on poverty and helping the homeless.

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FACES OF THE HOMELESS: The Formerly Incarcerated

This series exames how and why certain segments of the homeless population are on the streets

By Ted Henson

When an inmate is released from prison, his or her debt to society is not always fully paid, and for many formerly incarcerated people, taking the next step is not easy. Finding a place to live, securing employment and picking up their lives where they left off can be enough to force some people into a life of homelessness.

After serving 85% of a 52-month sentence for robbery, Allen Jones was released from prison and admitted to a halfway house. With a felony on his record, Jones was pressed to find adequate employment. Relations with his family grew tense, and within three months, Jones had nowhere to go but the streets. He became homeless.

"It was in and out at the halfway house," said Jones, who spent about one month in a transitional facility before living with family and, subsequently, on the streets. "I think former convicts are at a much higher risk for being homeless because it is hard to go back into society, especially when there is no real structure for you."

Although director of Community and Organizing at the National Coalition for the Homeless, Michael Stoops, estimates that a relatively low segment of the homeless population are ex-felons, he also admits that more needs to be done to address the needs of former inmates.

The inmate population in 2002 was 2.1 million people, a 2.6% increase from 2001, according to the Associated Press. The Bureau of Justice also identified more than 6.1 million people either on parole or in America's prison system in 2002. A major reason for the increase in incarceration, experts said, is mandatory sentencing, particularly in regard to nonviolent drug offenders.

For the majority of former inmates, finding adequate alcohol and drug treatment can be critical. And for many of them, the window of opportunity that exists before relapse is tiny. Inmates are often paroled on the condition that they check into a rehab center upon release, but in some parts of the country, and particularly in rural areas, accessibility can often be a problem, and waiting lists are generally high.

We need to find out what happens to these people when they are released from prison.

In Virginia, many restrictions exist for felons. For example, if you are a convicted felon:

- You can't live in subsidized housing for at least five years after your release. If your family happens to be living there when you get out, you can't live with them.
- You can't receive food stamps for five years if your offense was drug-related.
- You can't vote, at least not until you petition the governor.
- You are barred from working in a wide range of occupations, including some types of health care, banks and schools.
- You can't go hunting (even if your offense was nonviolent and did not involve firearms), an especially painful penalty in rural areas of Virginia.

Another common problem for former inmates is the stigma that is often associated with serving time. "People who served time are automatically looked at as outcasts," Jones said. "I applied for about ten jobs at hotels and drugstores and I didn't get one call back. No one wants to hire someone with a felony."

Inmates are often faced with a choice of either moving back to their home community, where they have some sort of support but also the environment that led them to jail in the first place, or moving to a new community, where they lack support.

There are programs across the nation, such as Re-Integration for Offenders (RIO) in Texas and the National HIRE Network, sponsored by the Legal Action Center, that actively work to increase the number and quality of jobs for the formerly incarcerated. Last year RIO placed 23,351 ex-inmates in jobs, according to Joan Goodwin, a RIO program specialist.

Though both public and private firms work toward reintegrating offenders into society, many experts said there is an apparent need for further research on the correlation between homelessness and incarceration.

"By releasing people from prison with no structure, are we just setting them up for failure, particularly when places like shelters don't specialize in the therapy that these people might need," asks Stoops.

"There really has been little done on this issue of how incarceration can lead to homelessness. We need to find out what happens to these people when they are released from prison."

Street Sense

Volunteers Needed!

Writers:
Everyone is welcome to join our volunteer staff! All different levels of writing experience are welcome and appreciated. There are only two requirements: 1) you have a passion for ending economic injustices and 2) you are interested in creating social change through your writing.

Editors and other volunteers:
Individuals interested in gathering stories, proofing stories and helping with layout (Pagemaker) are needed. Must be available for at least five hours for every issue.

Come to the next *Street Sense* meeting on Jan. 21st @ 6:00pm. Meetings are held at NCH headquarters (1012 14th St., NW, Suite 600).
For more info contact Ted at 202-737-6444 ext. 17

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downtown — is a little tougher to answer, French said. "Our goal is to have things as close to downtown as we can but we need safe and good places for people to live."

The other issue, of course, is money. Real estate in the central downtown area is phenomenally expensive, French said. If the city does not already own a parcel, it must buy one, and it is often difficult to find structures that will suit the city's needs. Further complicating the matter, French explained, is that whenever she publicly expresses interest in a location, speculators jump on it.

While praising the new shelter, Chapman Todd of Catholic Charities says it is still not "a substitute for a low-barrier facility downtown." Though the city owns the New York Avenue Shelter, Catholic Charities runs it along with a handful of other sites.

"It's an on-going issue about the location," Todd said. "It's a great-looking facility, but it's not downtown."

Back at New York Avenue, Woods does not think the shelter's location is that great an inconvenience. "You can walk downtown. It's really not that far. If you have the money, the bus is right here." And the shelter provides a bus in the mornings that takes clients to First and P streets in Northwest, where So Others May Eat's (SOME) breakfast program is located, Woods said.

Finally, the city's hypothermia van will bring men to the shelter in the evenings.

Word is quickly spreading about the 200-bed facility located right in front of Dream, an enormous posh nightclub. Woods said occupancy has doubled since he first arrived Jan. 2.

Stephen Prue, a program coordinator for Catholic Charities who works at the shelter, supported that assertion, saying that 147 men stayed in the shelter the night of Jan. 7. He predicted they would soon reach capacity.

Right now the shelter is serving as a low-barrier shelter, meaning that clients do not have to visit a caseworker and are not screened — other than for weapons and drugs — upon entering, Todd said.

Eventually the city wants the site to be a model of what other new shelters in the District will look like, French said. It is to be a homeless assistance center. The first level of response — giving men shelter — is already there, but clients will also have access to additional services, such as psychiatric care and job training. Social service workers and health care providers already have offices in the shelter, and a job board has been posted, listing several opportunities

Homeless people "need better places to live and help the transition into independent living," French said.

The shelter has dormitory-style bunk beds for emergency use, as well as special rooms designated for "working men," employed homeless men. They live two to a room and are allowed to personalize their surroundings and leave their possessions.

One meal is served in the large cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. But both the kitchen and laundry room provide more services.

The kitchen is suitable for commercial use, and eventually men will learn how to cook in there and will be prepared for food service jobs, she said. There are also laundry facilities where the men can wash their own clothes. The laundry area is split into two with a separate, industrial area that the city can use to clean linens for all of its shelters. French said men would be trained to work in that area as well.

A man serves food at the New York Ave. shelter.

"The facility is great," Woods said. "I've stayed in others where there weren't any showers or working bathrooms. It's clean, you can have a warm shower and you can get your same bed every night if you come back by a certain time."

Additionally, men who volunteer to keep the shelter clean by helping out with mopping, sweeping and other household duties can leave their belongings, he said.

"It's the place to be if you got to be here," he added.

Taylor is just as happy with his accommodations. "I've never seen anything like it," he said. "You can help out and stay in; some people have already found jobs. The programs here are like one-stop shopping."

"It's designed to get you to independent living," he said, showing excitement about the prospects, although he knows not everything is in place yet.

"You just have to be patient," he concluded.

French says that the New York Avenue shelter is just the beginning for the District. Plans are underway to replace La Casa with a "state-of-the-art" facility at 14th and Irving streets in Northwest. A women's facility is being erected at the edge of downtown on New Jersey Avenue too, she said, not wanting to reveal more details for fear of the property being snapped up by someone else.

Within 10 years the District plans to have 6,000 units for the homeless — half for singles and half for families — French said, adding that New York Avenue is just the down payment toward that goal.

The National Coalition for the Homeless

Mission

Founded in 1984, the National Coalition for the Homeless is a national network of persons who are or have been homeless, advocates, service providers and other committed to a single goal of ending homelessness.

- We take as our first principle of practice that people who have experienced homelessness must be actively involved in all aspects of our work.
- We are committed to creating the systemic and attitudinal changes necessary to end homelessness.
- We work to meet the urgent needs of persons who are presently homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

Organization

The NCH Board of Directors is composed primarily of service providers, activists, researchers, and people who have experienced homelessness. Currently there are 52 members representing 36 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

We use four strategies to accomplish our mission of ending homelessness: Policy Analysis and advocacy, public education, grassroots organizing, and technical assistance. In addition, we focus our work in the four areas: housing justice, economic justice, health care justice and civil rights. For more information, visit:

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No Room at the Inn

On Dec. 24, homeless families, church parishoners and advocates lead a posada procession to the Virginia Williams D.C. Family Shelter Intake Center at 25 M. St., SW. Community members depicted the Virgin Mary and Joseph seeking room at the inn to call attention to the more than 300 families on the waiting list each day for emergency shelter in 2003.

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by the shelter system actually went down 28% in 2003 because the length of stay for most families significantly increased.)

While D.C.'s increase in homeless single adults is on a par with the average increase nationwide, the city's surge in homeless families is well above the 15% percent average increase for the nation's 25 largest cities, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors' 2003 Hunger and Homelessness Survey.

"The reality is that our nation has not been committed to enough housing through the most obvious, necessary means: providing more affordable housing," said Stephen Cleghorn, deputy executive director of the Community Partnership. "At this point our nation has other priorities."

Cleghorn pointed out that in addition to the lack of affordable housing, Washington also has a lack of well-paying jobs for low-skilled workers. Individuals would need to hold 2.5 full-time minimum wage jobs to afford the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment, which is $1,154 according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Donald Whitehead, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said he expects the situation to worsen because there is less affordable housing and more people living below the poverty line—two major causes of homelessness across the country. Whitehead and others attributed the problem, in part, to the trend of replacing low-income housing with high-end apartments and condominiums to attract higher-income individuals to the area.

Washington finds itself with an increase of high-paying jobs, which has drawn many upper-income people to the area, Whitehead said. While this helps the District's overall economy, it adds to the rise in housing and living costs, leading to homelessness and further difficulties paying for other basic needs.

Lynn French, senior policy advisor in the Deputy Mayor's Office for Children, Youth, Families and Elders, said that the mayor's goal is permanent housing for D.C. residents of all income levels. To that end, in fiscal year 2003 the city helped finance more than 2,700 affordable units, compared with 1,900 units in fiscal year 2000. For the mayor's entire tenure in office, he has overseen - through work with the Housing Finance Agency, Housing Authority and Department of Housing and Community Development - about $1.1 billion in affordable housing development, including more than $650 million in affordable housing east of the Anacostia River.

The District government is also improving emergency shelters and establishing supported housing where people can move into homes much more quickly than in past years, when the wait sometimes dragged on for two years or more. French also said that as further evidence that housing options in the city are increasing, the District has just received $863,352 from HUD to help fund emergency shelters.

She admitted the city still has a long way to go to meet its goal. "The challenge is to produce housing that's available to all people," she said.

But homeless advocates said that unless a city implements a "wraparound approach," one that treats homelessness as more than just a housing problem, and offers a range of services including health care, job training, education, legal services, substance abuse services and transportation, homelessness in D.C. will likely remain at current levels or increase.

A Look Back: 2003

Below is a brief chronicle of some of the major events that occurred in the homeless community in Washington D.C. over the past year.

January

- Community of Hope Belmont Shelter, which had housed 12 families, closes.

February

- Funeral services are held for Mr. Juan Pastor, who died of hypothermia on the steps of Asbury Methodist Church.

March

- Approximately 200 people, including many homeless individuals, protest the city's planned elimination of the DC Interim Disability Assistance program, which gives income to people awaiting federal disability benefits.
- Calling themselves the Urban Union, homeless men and women provide testimony to the City Council Committee on Human Services on priority funding needs for fiscal year 2004.

April

- DC Councilmember Sandra Allen, along with 7 co-sponsors, introduces the Homeless Services Reform Act of 2003.

May

- The DC Council provides funds to continue the Interim Disability Assistance program and significantly increases funds for the Housing Production Trust Fund, which helps fund affordable housing development.
- District government reverses initial plans to close Gales Shelter. Homeless residents and allies rally in support of keeping the shelter open permanently.
- Franklin School at 13th and I Streets, N.W., originally opened by the District as a hypothermia shelter for the 2002-2003 winter, closes.

July

- Activists from Mayday DC occupy the Franklin School and hang banners from the building to call for the shelter's reopening.

August

- The Poor People's March for Economic Human Rights arrives in DC and sets up "Bushville," a tent city on the National Mall, to call for economic justice for low-income and homeless people. After several days, Bushville is closed by the national park police.
- More than 300 D.C. homeless residents and allies march for affordable housing and the preservation of Gales School Shelter services in front of the Wilson Building offices of the mayor and city council.

September

- The district government reverses its plan to close the Gales Shelter on September 19, 2003 after residents hold protests and vigils and call for the shelter to remain open.

November

- *Street Sense* publishes its first edition.
- Fannie Mae Foundation holds its annual Help the Homeless Walkathon to raise money for DC metropolitan area homeless service providers.
- In response to organizing and testimony by La Casa Shelter residents and concerned Columbia Heights community members, the National Capital Revitalization Corporation (NCRC) votes for a section of land to be returned to the city for new La Casa site.

December

- The District government reverses plans to close the Gales Shelter and announces that the shelter will stay open for 90 days.
- The District government opens a new shelter for 200 men at 1355-1357 New York Avenue, N.E.

Complied by TJ Sutcliffe of SOME, Marne Brady of Neighbors Consejo and Mary Ann Luby of the Legal Clinic.

Politician, Civil Rights Leader and Reverend: Walter Fauntroy Speaks on Social Issues

Born in DC's Shaw neighborhood in 1933, the Reverend Walter E. Fauntroy served ten terms in Congress as the District of Columbia's pioneering delegate. After his election in 1971 he became an influential voice for twenty years shaping national policy and founding the Congressional Black Caucus and the National Black Leadership Roundtable. Further he launched a campaign to obtain DC home rule with an elected municipal government chosen by the people.

Fauntroy settled in at New Bethel Baptist Church in 1958 where he still serves as pastor upon graduating from Virginia Union University and Yale University Divinity School. He is a respected civil and human rights activist, and former associate to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who appointed him director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and coordinator of the historic 1963 March on Washington. A master strategist, his activities directed towards ending racism and social and economic injustice in the world have distinguished him as an important historical figure.

Muata Jordan Langley interviewed him in his office at New Bethel Baptist Church.

SS: *We are about to observe the King Holiday. Of course, you worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. What thoughts would you like to share with our readers?*

Rev. Fauntroy: My work with Martin Luther King, Jr. was a fulfillment of my understanding of principle and social justice work. A fellow student at Virginia Union Wyatt T. Walker, asked me to provide overnight lodging for the son of a southern preacher from Atlanta. He said his name was Martin Luther King, Jr. who was preparing to study in Massachusetts. He came, and we stayed up until four o'clock in the morning talking about the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and the condition of black people.

From a religious perspective, Martin Luther King, Jr. was very clear that we are anointed of God to bring good news to the poor and good news to those who have least income, education, health, housing, and justice.

SS: Forty years ago President Johnson declared the War on Poverty. Given where we are today, has the war been lost?

Fauntroy: It is being lost. It was launched because we had a new force in the body politic. Four million new black voters who teamed with the least of these – whites in Appalachia, Hispanics, Asians, and those who had the least education, income, health, housing, and justice. We would tax those who have a large income and redistribute their income in programs that increase income, education, health care, and housing for the least of these. That's the tax system. And, we had politicians who were elected and concerned about these things. Who taxed those who were making money and redistributed it as Medicaid for the sick and poor; redistributed it as section 236 and 221d3 housing for those who could not afford market rate housing? We redistributed it in terms of Pell grants and guaranteed student loans for those who had the minds but not the money to go to college. And so we had a golden era in the Great Society years.

[President] Clinton left us with a $260 billion surplus of funds that could have been converted into Pell grants, guaranteed student loans, and job training programs and so forth. But instead when [George W. Bush] stole the election by not counting votes in Florida they came in with a program and it's run our surplus down to a $400 billion deficit. They did it by giving $400 billion in tax relief that was coming in to the top ten percent income earners of the nation.

As a consequence, we are losing the War on Poverty. Because of taxing and redistributing it [Republicans] have said 'No, we know better what to do with it; cut those programs.' So, those programs are being cut. Those who are elected decide who gets how much. They have elected to cut the programs that meet the needs of the least of these and to give the money that was coming in back to the people who have more than enough income, more than enough education for their children, more than enough health care, housing and justice.

> *As a consequence, we are losing the War on Poverty.*

***SS**: It is said the Bush administration is preparing a 2005 budget with deep cuts to domestic programs. How will this affect the District?*

Fauntroy: The most serious problems confronting the nation manifest themselves most acutely in the experience of District of Columbia residents. In income: 10% unemployment. In education: only 7% of our children in our public schools perform at an average level in the nation. Crime, justice: Most of our young people, I hate to say it, are headed for privatized prisons which are becoming a very major Wall Street investment. Since people are not going to have income if kids get into trouble they will keep them in privatized prisons.

Look at a community that just had its last public hospital taken. That has had its higher education institution snatched back. That has had the highest infant mortality rates. That has a disproportionate number of its poor going to jail. And that has a disproportionate number of its poor having no prospects between now and 2005. They are going to end up in the justice system.

***SS:** Hunger and homelessness continue to rise in major American cities over the last year according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. What is happening to our American cities?*

Fauntroy: They are in transition. Twenty years from now the Mayors of these cities will be in good shape because the affluent will be living there. The Jack Johnsons of the country are going to be removed from the centers of economic power and activity, struggling with people who are going to have to get off buses and travel for three hours a day; one and one-half hour in to make a little money and another hour and a-half out because they will not have a place to live.

***SS**: Are you saying that there will be a transplanting of the poor?*

Fauntroy: No question. You need only to go to Harlem; or, to Watts, the south side of Chicago, or Buttermilk Bottom in Atlanta. What's happening here is happening in all of them.

The Mayors, twenty years from now, will have their problems taken care of by people who are making good money and people who can pay for good policemen and for the streets to be cleaned and for everything. The wealthy and the upper-income people will be in the cities and the middle class who ran from us will be saying, "Why did I come out here? And I can't get back in because I can't pay the money"

***SS**: What happens to the poor and the homeless given this scenario?*

Fauntroy: They become the subject and object of the activity of the people of goodwill. You may not always win, but you never lose when you do good.

PERSONAL PROFILE: Leonard Cannady

By Rebecca Schlesinger

Leonard E. Cannady, Jr., or 'Brother L.C.', lives a life of struggle. While he now manages to build a career, pay rent for his newly acquired efficiency apartment, and stay clean of addictive substances, L.C. is on a self-proclaimed mission to spread a message to his community.

"I want to share my experience, knowledge, and hope to the youth," affirms Cannady. "I want to make them aware of the dangers of a life involving DAT." 'The War on Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco' (DAT) is the title of Brother L.C.'s campaign to bring ideas and positive change to kids on the street who are in dire need of guidance. "The youth can't live a positive life in a negative world where no one really tells them how to deal with what's out there waiting to consume them."

Since the mid-1980's Cannady has chosen to voice his opinions and advice through spoken lyrics. "I fight my war through music." Although he considers himself a rapper, LC makes it emphatically clear that unlike others in his profession, his songs are not assembled with opulent images such as luxury cars, jewelry, or champagne. "Good rappers give you insider knowledge to what's actually going on in the streets."

And Brother L.C. knows what is happening on the street. He has lived there, in and out of shelters, battling 'Drugs, Alcohol, & Tobacco' both personally and publicly for more than 15 years. He has also been incarcerated for possession of narcotics.

Throughout these trying years, Cannady developed a resolve to help prevent others from ending up in a condition similar to his own. He rapped on rooftops, street corners, and at 'open mic' shows in 11 states, spreading his word of caution. He wrote to members of the state and national legislatures beseeching them, with little success, to publicly address the dangers of DAT which plague the streets of America.

Leonard Cannady

Cannady's CD, The War on DAT

Life in shelters has provided Cannady with an understanding of homelessness. He identifies many potential causes of homelessness such as the loss of a job, a tragic experience, mental illness, and substance abuse. It can occur easily, but is "so hard to overcome once a man's hope has been lost and self-esteem broken down."

L.C. recalls that even though some people were on the streets for reasons other than an addiction to drugs or alcohol, many remained in this sordid situation because of it.

For Cannady himself, his drug counseling sessions are a crucial source of assistance, one that helps him deal with life's constant and unforeseen hardships. He admits that if it were not for support groups such as these, he would undoubtedly "pick up that drink and drugs to medicate feelings" of depression and frustration. Brother L.C., a critic of today's socioeconomic policies, purports to have turned to substances and a life on the street and in shelters because he, like too many Americans, is "a victim of society."

Leonard Cannady has succeeded in pulling himself from the unyielding grasp of substance addiction. He lives in an efficiency in the District, temporarily supporting himself by selling *Street Sense*. L.C. plans to start marketing CD's, posters, t-shirts and other merchandise that will bring awareness of the adverse effects of 'Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco.'

When asked about his future, Cannady replies, "I want to stay substance-free and out of homelessness, but my main goal will always be to help my people, the people that no one addresses and [about whom] the world forgets."

To read some of Leonard's raps and poetry, see p. 9.

In Memoriam: Andre Blair

Second hypothermia related death of the season in Washington's homeless community

Andre N. Blair, 43, died Dec. 12 at a bus stop in Northeast Washington. His death marks the second homeless person to die from hypothermia this winter.

Blair grew up in the District's Ivy City neighborhood and attended Springarn Senior High School. He would often return to the area to visit.

He stayed at several shelters through out the city including the Gales School shelter near Union Station, the community for Creative Non-Violence shelter at 2nd and D streets in Northwest, and the Crummel Shelter in Northeast.

His death is felt by most all homeless men and women and the advocates and providers that support them.

Please help prevent hypothermia. If you see someone sleeping outside in extreme weather, call the 24-hour hypothermia hotline: 1-800-535-7252

VOLUNTEER from p. 1

teers during the holidays with the dearth of helping hands the rest of the year?

Nicolette Fertakis, Bread for the City's volunteer coordinator, said that in order to strike this balance, you have to get creative. She said that rather than turning away groups that want to volunteer in its kitchen during the holidays, she offers them another option that will benefit Bread for the City during other times of the year. "If we are unable to accommodate a group of volunteers, we present them with alternative opportunities, such as hosting a food drive," she said.

During the off-season at Capital Area Food Bank, the staff of about 60 helps out a little more, and they increase their appeals for help, according to its volunteer coordinator Chris Leal. "We make do with what we have," he said.., who explained that, outside of the holidays, only about 50% of their volunteer needs are fulfilled.

By contrast, the SHARE-DC Metro program, an affiliate of Catholic Charities, has about 90% of its volunteer needs met throughout the year. At SHARE-DC, volunteers pay about half of the cost of a $35 food package and then volunteer two hours for each package they purchase. Ninochika Twitty, the head of SHARE in the Washington area, said that the group estimates that its volunteer numbers increase by 50% during the holiday season, but that the spirit of giving does quickly die off shortly after New Year's. Proof of the sharp decline is in the number of its food packages: in any given November, SHARE averages 36,000, while January warrants a mere 13,000.

Consequently, during the non-holiday time, SHARE, like many other groups, relies on a core group of volunteers, many of whom are from churches, area schools and senior citizen groups, according to Twitty. And SHARE and other groups are now counting on students more than ever during the volunteer off-season, thanks to the District's new 36 volunteer-hours graduation requirement.

Twitty said that she especially liked this requirement because people who volunteer when they are young are likely to continue to do so when they are older. "We believe that the earlier you start them, the better the community will be," she said.

Service providers also point out that there are other volunteer surges that– though they are not nearly as great as the holiday surges — they look forward to. Other peak times for volunteering are at the beginning of the school year and spring break, when many universities sponsor service programs for students. In contrast, during the summertime, when many District residents are on vacation, volunteer flow wanes slightly.

Though Kristin Lane, Central Union Mission's director of communications and outreach, said that rather than putting the responsibility on service providers to figure out creative ways to get through these volunteer droughts, she would like holiday-time volunteers to take the responsibility of choosing another month in which to give back and help the homeless.

"We are very thankful for each volunteer who gives of their time, but sometimes the numbers of people who volunteer during the holidays make it challenging to provide the best possible volunteer experience," she said. "It would be more beneficial to the Mission and, likely, more rewarding for the volunteer if they came at other times during the year."

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Street Sense

Where D.C.'s poor and homeless earn and give their two cents

Please support Street Sense by advertising with us.
Call 202-737-6444 ext. 17.

Saturday, McPherson Square

Here's
another day of idleness;

I sit with my ragged siblings
on a bench in the sun-
we wait for kind Christians to come and feed us

James B. McPherson sits on his horse,
green with age;
a triumphant seagull
stands atop the general's hat,
surveying the scene

An army of schoolgirls
in crisp plaid skirts
sweeps by, oblivious
of the blank faces that watch them

Here's a recent memory:
a man on the 90 bus
says
"I've never been jobless
in sixty years"
my shame is mute, unnoticed

My blue-collar muse
works overtime,
even in my stillness,
watches
the group of men
beneath the statue
chatting over big strong beers

One spent yesterday
canvassing construction sites
looking to earn his keep if only for just one day;
another
made twelve dollars bumming change

I sit alone, speaking to no-one
feeling like an alien
even here

A tall bronze woman saunters by;
fifteen heads snap to attention,
eyes drawn by the roll of her hips;
she coolly endures a volley
of flirtatious remarks
& marches out of our lives forever-
that was it- the day's entertainment...

Finally,
eight Christians arrive in a battered white van
bearing
soup & sandwiches;
they disembark, & join hands
in a prayer for us
we accept it with blank indifference,
then line up to eat

General McPherson has witnessed
another day
of mute desolation;
a swollen orange sun
drops behind his left shoulder
as a whistling breeze
blows the day away.

-- David Harris

Beggar's Diary

Act I.

Saturday morning
finds me experimenting
with a muddy Starbucks cup
loaded with fifty-three cents
as a hint, as bait

traffic flows by
with blind and empty eyes;
they don't see me
or even the spray of purple blossoms behind
my perch.

April air
is thick with hints of rain;
-my mind slides into a cascade
of yesterdays-
"I'll remember April"
sung in the voice
of Miles Davis'
tube of brass
played again & again
for my grateful ears.

Will I remember April this year?
Directions to a nearby Starbucks
earn me two thin coins.

April finds me
as a speck of dust,
of urban grime,
of the grim blight
that soils this comely city.

Blossoms surround me
brazen in their
flamboyant pinks, yellows, violets;
music trickles from a flute
played softly in the distance;
does anyone hear?

No one here
hears the raging howling
voice of my thirst.
The minutes stretch
into forever
under the stone gray sky.

-- David Harris

David Harris is a native Washingtonian and has been a writer off and on for 20 years. He is active in Miriam's Poets, a local group of homeless poets..

The Beginning

Detoxing after years of drinking and drugging
I'm in my first program

I see a lot of people I got high with, tricked with,
Committed crimes, with and some who
I was enemies with

They greeted me with open arms
They told me about a new way of life,
A road of recovery that I would travel on
It's going to be bumpy

Just Hold On

And no matter how you feel or
What negativity you think
Focus, stay for the miracle
And don't pick up or drink

-- Leonard E. Cannady Jr.
The Brother L.C.

Smoking Is Cool

Yo let me put you down
If you smokin' cigarettes this is what the Sugeon General foun.d

Be aware of nicotine, tabocco contains
It will slow you down, take you out of the game.

Once adicted to tobacco, it gets out of control
You'll develop lung cancer and other health problems;
I think you should know.

Bleeding gums, shortness of breath, felling dizziness,
Weezing, coughing, catchin' colds in your chest,

U's a bad man to take on a slow death
Now what's left, other poisons mixed with nicotine
Causes dry skin, smelly heair and staings your teeth.

I don't know what's more funky
Your breath or your feet.

You put your friends and family at risk
More non-smokers die of lung cancer than the ones that can't quit.

And all you ladie that think smoking makes you sophisticated
that's dumb, look at your lungs, yellow teeth and your yuck-mouth gums

Now that you just been educated,
Be aware cause I gave you some facts

Think twice before you pull, light one up,
And puff one out of a pack

-- Leonard E. Cannady, Jr.
The Brother L.C.

Despite its inspirational title, historian Studs Terkel's new book, *Hope Dies Last*, is not an inspirational tract for the downtrodden. Terkel, who documents the oral histories of the "non-celebrated," does not shy away from protesting the harsh realities facing so many. The activists, teachers and humanitarians he interviews are often very specific about what they believe to be the failures of America to provide its citizens with justice and equality. In addition to his oft-asked question "What is America?" Terkel asks these men and women: How does hope work?

The book begins with Depression-era labor activists and moves through the history of the twentieth century, including the experiences of civil rights workers, teachers, community organizers, recent immigrants, economists, clergypeople, and 1960s idealists.

Terkel allows the interviewees to tell their own stories; he lets them speak without interjection or prodding. The pleasure a reader finds in his books is above all a narrative pleasure. Discovering that each person not only has a compelling story, but that she or he knows how to tell it, is enough to give hope to any reader. The interviewees' insights on their experiences are the ones that matter, and what stands out most is their idea of hope as action, as a politically propulsive and personal force.

In his introduction, Terkel pays tribute to the 1930s labor activists whose stories open *Hope Dies Last*: "They felt that what they did counted and that they themselves counted. Thus it was that out of the Depression, and during it, hope was springing forth." A sense of personal worth, then, is entwined with the ability to effect social change.

Street Sense's HOW TO...

This month: Living a Day on Nothing

Homelessness Through a Child's Eyes

What is homelessness? Homelessness is an outcome of life because it can happen to anyone. What do I mean when I say *anyone*? I mean it can happen to anyone, even someone with a beautiful home.

It can happen many different ways. One way is you can get sick and have to go to the hospital and you have to pay your bill and that could be your rent money. Also your house can catch on fire and you have no place to go. Another reason is that you can live with a family member. That's considered being homeless because you have no place of your own to live. See people don't always get put out on the street because of no rent.

The homeless can help themselves by trying to find a good job. Another way is that you can ask a friend or family member to loan you some money to start a business. Just because you are homeless doesn't mean you can act homeless. So try to help yourself, and just don't rely on the local shelter. Depend on yourself sometimes.

Some people make fun of homeless people because they look dirty and stinky, but think if you were homeless? Would you want someone to tease you? Or would you want someone to encourage you and help you along they way? We should stop teasing them and start helping them. Since I talked about helping, here are some ways you can help: donate food, donate clothes or help out at a shelter.

— Devin
Grade 6

Living on the streets isn't cool at all,
What are you suppose to do in the winter or fall.
Struggling trying to survive and get around,
Every night sleeping under a bridge or tree or sleeping on the ground.
On the streets is not joke to play,
What if a storm comes? You will be blown away.
Where is the water and food coming from?
You're going to walk around begging until your time is done.
An important thing is to stay in school,
On the streets, that's not cool.
You do what you want to do, be somebody,
Before you end up on the street like my friend Bobby.
Grow up to have a job, make money, get a house.
Or would you rather be poor with a roommate who's a mouse?
When I say room in roommate, I mean outside,
Bugs, birds, and nasty flies.
Now its time to wrap this up,
I'm running out of rhymes, this is enough.
Just look back at this poem and what I'm trying to say,
If you don't believe in being successful, believe in God and pray.

— Nikisha
Grade 9

Homelessness is when you do not have a home. When you are homeless, you can be homeless for days, months or years. The amount of people that are homeless is about three million.

People are homeless for a lot of reasons. One reason is that homes cost a lot of money to live in. The second reason is that sometimes people do not make enough money to pay for a home. The third reason is sometimes people cannot get help.

Children face many problems because of homelessness. One problem is that they don't have enough money to buy their lunches. If they go to elementary school they will not have a lot of stuff like the other children and other people will make fun of them. They will not always be able to bring their friend over because they don't have their own home.

I can help homeless people by being their friend and they could come over to my home. If I had two homes, I would let them rent one for $50 a month, and help them pay for the furniture and food. I will also give them clothing and blankets to sleep on.

Anyone can become homeless and the reason for that is sad to me. I care about them but it is some of their fault. Like I was saying, I care about these people and one day they will be rich like some of us.

— Ammoni
Grade 4

These children are all part of a tutoring program called Project Northstar. They were asked to write essays about "what is homelessness," and these are their answers.

Project Northstar matches homeless, formerly homeless, and at-risk children with adult tutors. There are currently more than 150 students in the program, and they meet once a week with tutors at five different sites throughout the city. For more information on Project Northstar call: (202) 223-0144, or visit: www.projectnorthstar.org

ASK FRED

Vendor Coordinator
Fred Anderson

Often I see homeless people asking for money on the streets who have jackets, shoes and other clothing that are nicer and newer than what I wear. I was wondering where these homeless people get their clothes and why they are such high quality and new items?
— D.C. Fashion Victim

Dear D.C. Fashion Victim,
When it comes to clothing and food in this city the homeless community is truly blessed. Many services providers for homeless people, including churches and shelters, receive clothing donations from private citizens and businesses, and many times the items have never been worn or worn only a few times. Depending where the clothing is donated, sometimes receipts are given so that these donations can be used as tax write-offs.

Where do the many homeless men and women who stay on the streets at night go to clean themselves and — more importantly – relieve themselves?
— In Search of Bathrooms

Dear In Search of Bathrooms,
Many people who sleep on the streets at night use alleys, parks, and basically whatever means they have at their disposal such as public restrooms, in bars or in fast-food places. However, many homeless individuals use different service providers throughout the city to take showers and do their laundry. For example, the Downtown BID (Business Improvement District) has a facility located at 10th and G streets, NW that offers these services to the homeless community.

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. - Hebrews 13:2

If you have a question for Fred, please send it via e-mail to: streetsense@nationalhomeless.org and put "ask Fred" in the subject line or via regular mail at 1012 14th St., NW, Suite 600, Washington DC 20005.

HOMELESS VOICE

We at the Homeless Voice
in Florida wish
STREET SENSE
all the luck in the world!

www.homelessvoice.org

www.searchandhelpus.org

Coming soon: Search via web at
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Help the homeless without it costing you one cent.

Tami Townsend

Overcoming Despair

Of course everyone knows the meaning of despair; however, its raw truth can only be understood if one considers a few synonyms — hopelessness, dejection, anguish and the big one, misery. Most people whose condition is that of homelessness have at one time or other excelled in a life that is considered "normal" based on societal stereotypes. Drug usage and alcoholism are not the main reasons for homelessness. It is usually because of economic reasons such as the cost of an unexpected addition to the family or the escalating price of rent that one ends up in such a lifestyle.

My first reaction on entering a shelter was that of shock, gloom and an observance of chaos. The intake person was 60 seconds from a physical fight with a resident who entered the floor area and refused to empty her pockets. The first night was filled with loud chatter that went on way past midnight (even though "lights out" was at 11 p.m.)

Tears never failed. And I kept asking myself, how could I get out of a situation that, as time went by, became one of extreme misery? I had no job and just a small monthly government entitlement. In no foreseeable way could I afford even an efficiency or room.

Oh yeah, there were the undesirable hygienic and safety conditions that came with sharing a small space with strangers. I was always watching my back to make sure my personal valuables would not disappear, and I would regularly keep one eye open for attacks by unwelcome guests— roaches and rodents. All of this was quite exhausting.

To prevent drowning in misery, I had to develop an emotional support system that provided me with valuable information concerning resources that are necessary in the journey out of homelessness. One beneficial truth I experienced was how life is full of peaks and valleys.

Without a doubt, the desire for most homeless people is to be of "mainstream society", with a well-paying job and a home. I also hope that one day, humankind will see us eye to eye, and not with eyes looking down on us. And that we fit in, not under, this mainstream world.

But there is hope for getting out of these valleys. It may not happen exactly when or how we want it to, but it can happen. There are sources out there who are willing to help us get on our way to where we need to be. There are still times when I feel "between a rock and a hard place", but I don't give up.

Don't let the valley cause the peak to be unattainable. Together we can win at our individual paths, mounting the peaks.

Editorials are encouraged. Please send them to:
Street Sense
1012 14th Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005
streetsense@nationalhomeless.org

"Wake up America" by Tom Sommers

A man from the Caholic Worker holds a sign at National Homeless Memorial Day in McPherson Square.

Maurice King

Give Us Hope:

Being Homeless at the Holidays

The holidays come and go. For the homeless, the holidays can be a very demoralizing time. The holidays are designed for families who can spend time at home with their loved ones. The homeless frequently have few family members ready to spend holidays with them, and they certainly have no homes to share. For the homeless, the holidays are a reminder of the rejection that society has shown them.

In Washington, D.C., many of the services offered to the homeless are dispensed through core service agencies operating through the Department of Mental Health. The assumption made is that if the homeless are medicated, they will not regard their situation as so severe. This sort of thinking is a "don't raise the bridge, lower the river philosophy" for sure. A homeless person taking enough happy pills to make an elephant fly is not likely to feel cheery at a time of year when he or she sees others spending the holidays in comfort. The reality of homelessness is that it is a perilous, survival-of-the-fittest struggle that offers few comforts and many disappointments.

To "celebrate" the holiday season, the Department of Mental Health's project to solve homeless housing problems, Home First II, announced that it was freezing its funds until further notice. The holiday season is hardly easier to bear when the hope of finding housing vanishes indefinitely. Instead of looking forward to residing in a comfortable dwelling, the homeless must worry that they will be put out on the street. Vague promises that the freeze will not last forever provide the coldest comfort possible to persons facing hypothermia conditions.

A cooked meal is not a substitute for a home. Certainly no homeless person in Washington, D.C., needs to go hungry on holidays. So many places serve holiday meals, and so many organizations come to offer food, that a homeless person runs the risk of being compelled to join Weight Watchers. However, man does not live by bread alone. Abundant food does not take away the feeling of being abandoned, which is a common feeling among the homeless, for both those who have recently been left on the streets and those who have come to regard homelessness as a way of life. When a charitable organization distributes gifts to the homeless, the kindness is obvious, but it is also faceless; the gift of caring is not one that can be donated to strangers in attractively wrapped packages.

The homeless do not need handouts. They need hope. Hope is the one thing that nobody gives them. During the holidays, when the message of hope is so central to the season, hope is the one thing that is conspicuously absent. There is little comfort in knowing that the holidays may offer only a brief reprieve before a return to despair.

Many will say, "You are in our prayers." They mean well. They are not the ones, however, who have forgotten the homeless. The many government agencies that claim to help the homeless but leave them homeless indefinitely offer no such prayers or even holiday greetings.

The words "Peace on earth, good will to men" ring empty to persons on the street. On the day when homelessness ceases to exist, then hopes for redemption will have some meaning.

NEWS... FROM AROUND THE NATION

Chicago Panhandlers Win Law Suit

CHICAGO- Panhandlers in Chicago can receive as much as $400 thanks to a class action lawsuit filed on behalf of 5,000 panhandlers who claimed their civil rights had been violated when they were arrested or ticketed while politely asking for money, according to the Chicago Tribune. The case, filed in federal court in 2001 and settled five days before Christmas, focused on a local disorderly conduct law that let police arrest people on public streets for drunkenness, lewdness, and panhandling. If arrested, the person could be fined up to $500.

"Having a blanket prohibition like that isn't legal," says Mark Weinberg, one of the attorneys representing the panhandlers. "You can ask for help across the street, you can ask for the time, but if you asked me for a dollar the city could throw you in jail."

Federal magistrate Jan Nolan approved a settlement that calls for Chicago to pay $99,000 in damages. The city, which admits no wrongdoing, will pay $375,000 to cover attorney fees and the cost of distributing the money. Not all panhandlers qualify; people who were cited or arrested only for panhandling — and not other violations — are eligible. In addition, Chicago officials revoked the panhandling ordinance last year; a spokesman was quoted as saying that "the lawsuit helped us realize that [the ordinance] was too broad and wasn't going to be accepted legally."

Police Charged With Firing at Homeless

APOPKA, Fla.- Six police officers in Apopka, Florida, face charges for firing pepper balls into a homeless camp, according to Local6.com. An internal investigation completed last week showed the officers had violated a number of department regulations in the September incident at the camp. Former Apopka Officer Brian Davis, who is now an Orange County deputy sheriff, reportedly revealed the incident while applying for his current job. No transients in the camp were injured. Punishment for the officers has not been announced.

Public Housing Apartments Vacant While Homeless Wait For Repairs to be Made

NEW YORK- There are more than 146,000 people on waiting lists for public housing in New York City, which has one of the largest homeless populations in the country. Therefore housing advocates are outraged at a new report from Assemblyman Scott Stringer (D-Manhattan) that shows there are more than 5,000 publicly owned apartments in New York standing vacant. According to the New York City Housing Authority, many of the vacant apartments are in buildings slated for repair. The city's Housing Authority says it's easier to renovate apartments when the buildings are vacant. A News 12 Report (http://tinyurl.com/2gzfd) says the average wait for public housing in the city is eight years.

Homeless Camp Forced to Move Again

PITTSBURGH- A makeshift homeless encampment with tents made of blankets has been targeted by the city of Pittsburgh, according to PittsburghChannel.com (http://thepittsburghchannel.com/news). City crews are posting warnings this week telling the six people living under the Roberto Clemente Bridge that they have a week to remove their belongings before the city does it for them, says Public Works Director Guy Costa. The encampment was removed in November but the occupants moved back.

Under terms of a settlement in a lawsuit brought on behalf of the homeless people, the city must give seven days' notice before clearing away an encampment, to give occupants time to move, and must store any personal belongings rather than discarding them.

The bridge is a main thoroughfare to the new baseball stadium and is named for Roberto Clemente, Hall of Fame outfielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Clemente died on Jan. 1, 1973, in the crash of a cargo plane carrying relief supplies to those left homeless by an earthquake in Managua, Nicaragua

Stories courtesy of Street News Service

http://www.alternet.org/sns/

National Homeless Memorial Day took place on December 19, 2003 in McPherson Square. Homeless people, advocates and activitists spoke on behalf of all the people who have died while being homeless over the past year.

HUD Ups Homeless Funding

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced a record $1.3 billion for Housing and Homelessness programs this year, with a total of $62 million going to Maryland, Virginia and the District. Though the national amount is up only slightly from last year's $1.1 billion allocation, it is part of a 9% increase in funds dedicated to homeless services across all agencies.

This overall increase, announced in late December, is part of a 10-year strategy to end chronic homelessness and its assistance programs that was proposed by the President George Bush early on in his term. Forty-one states, including Maryland and Virginia, and dozens of cities, including Washington, D.C., have in place or are developing their own 10-year plans.

Local Funds from HUD:

- D.C. $14.2 million
- Maryland $30 million
- Virginia $18.4 million

Research indicates that approximately 10% of all homeless people are chronically homeless and use 50% percent of service providers' resources. Consequently, the majority of the money is going toward transitional housing, with only a little more than 1% of the funding going toward emergency shelter and other emergency services.

"For moral, spiritual and life-saving reasons, we have to end chronic homelessness," said Phillip Mangano, the executive director of the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

All of the funding will be distributed to more than 3,700 projects across the country and is expected to reach 700,000 homeless men, women and children. About $170 million of the funding will also be available through faith-based organizations; this is a record amount for this group of service providers.

And organizations that support veterans, one of fastest growing segments of the homeless population, will receive $640 million in funding.

"With these and other resources, we offer a whole strategy of intervention and prevention of homelessness," Mangano said.

— *Laura Thompson*

M. Div. Harvard University
J.D. Univ. of Balto.

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SHELTERS

Calvary Women's Center
928 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 783-6651
Hours: 8:30am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: Housing, meals, storage, showers, laundry facilities, case management, psychiatric care, substance abuse services, life skills program, supported employment program.
Restrictions: Wait list begins at 7:00pm daily.

Central Union Mission
1350 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 745-7118
www.missiondc.org
Hours: 24/7, check in time 3:30pm
Services: Shelter, supper breakfast, clothing, social, legal, medical, pastoral counseling, GED tutoring, literacy training, computer learning center, family services, women's ministry and Hispanic ministry.

Christ House
17 Columbia Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-1100
www.christhouse.org
Hours: 24/7
Services: Nursing care for homeless in need of recovery, social services, clothing, housing placement, meals.

Coalition for the Homeless
1234 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 347-8870
www.dccfh.org
Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: Residential transitional housing, emergency shelter, substance abuse counseling, employment services, Spanish/English staff.

Community for Creative Nonviolence
425 Mitch Snyder Place, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 783-3254
www.erols.com/ccnv
Hours: Shelter 24/7; Office: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: Shelter, clothing, dinner for residents only, medical and dental care, psychiatrist, 32 bed infirmary, legal aid, veterans services, social services, counseling, job assistance, drug and alcohol program.

Dorothy Day Catholic Worker
503 Rock Creek Church Road, NW
Washington, DC 20010
(202) 882-9649
Hours: 24/7
Services: Shelter for families or moms and kids, bed capacity 5 families.
Restrictions: No TV, no violence.

Gospel Rescue Ministries
810 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 842-1731
www.grm.org
Hours: 24/7 Check in 3:00pm-9:30pm
Services: Food, shelters, clothing, showers, chapel services (if desired), Transforming Lives Recovery Ministries.
Restrictions: Shelter is reserved for Samaritan's overnight guests.

House of Imagene Shelters
214 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 518-8488
Hours: 24/7
Services: Bed capacity: 10
Restrictions: Call first no walk-ins.

House of Ruth: Madison Emergency Shelter
615 10th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 547-2600
www.houseofruth.org
Hours: 24/7; intake at 4:30pm
Services: Bed capacity: 64; Spanish/English staff; comprehensive social services.

N Street Village
1333 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 939-2060
Hours: 4:00pm-7:30am (Daily)
Services: Shelter, breakfast/evening meal, counseling, social service, eye exams, dental care, art classes, case management.
Restrictions: Intake is done weekdays only at Bethany Day Center.

Community of Hope
1417 Belmont Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 232-9091
www.communityofhopedc.org
Hours: Shelter 24/7; Office: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: 90-day shelter, medical services, counseling, supportive services, homework, tutoring, career planning clothing.
Restrictions: Community Partnership referrals required for housing.

New Endeavors by Women
611 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 682-5825
Hours: 24/7 Office: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: Bed capacity: 38, case management, education, job training, employment referrals, budgeting and savings requirement, support for recovery, housing assistance.
Restrictions: Only women over 21.

SOUP KITCHENS

Charlie's Place
1830 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 232-3066
www.saint-margarets.org/charlies
Hours: 6:30am-9:30am (Tu & F)
Services: Hot breakfast, social service, art and language classes (ESL & Spanish), speakers bureau and bread delivery service.

Church of the Pilgrims
2201 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 387-6612
www.churchofthepilgrims.org
Hours: Feeding Program 1:15pm-2:00pm; Outreach worker 11:30am-1:30pm (Tu); Shelter program during the winter 1 to 2 week stay for families.
Services: Social services, counseling.

Dinner Program for Homeless Women
945 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 736-9311
www.geocities.com/~dphomelessworn
Hours: 4:00pm-7:30pm
Services: Nutritional meals, clothing, support services, case management services, legal assistance, employment training, emergency referrals and computer workshop.

McKenna's Wagon
2114 14th Street
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-6608
Hours: 8:00am-8:00pm
Services: Mobile coup kitchen at various locations in NW Washington.

Miriam's Kitchen
2401 Virginia Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 452-8926
www.miriamskitchen.org
Hours: Breakfast 6:30am-8:00am (M-F and by appointment)
Services: Breakfast, counseling and legal assistance weekly, social worker available M-F, 6:30am-8:00am & by appointment.

So Others Might Eat
71 "O" Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: 202-797-8806
Hours: 7:30am -4pm (M-F)
www.some.org
Services: Meals, hot showers, clean clothing, and comprehensive medical and dental care, residential employment programs; a therapeutic day center for the mentally ill; counseling and case management for alcohol and drug addictions, affordable housing for homeless people.

Washington City Church of the Brethren
337 North Carolina Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 547-5924
www.brethren.org
Hours: 12:00pm- 1:30pm
Services: Hot meal, legal services; 12:15pm (W); African American 12:00pm (T), Medical Assistance, consultations & prescription help Thursdays 12:00pm (Thurs).

Zacchaeus Community Kitchen
10th and G Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 393-9144
Hours: 9:30am-11:30am, (M-Sat)

EMERGENCY FOOD

Bread for the City
4275 4th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20032
(202) 561-5941
www.breadforthecity.org
Hours: 9:00am-12:30 & 1:30pm-3:45pm (M ,W, Th, F); 9:00am-12:30 & 1:30pm-2:45pm (Tu)
Services: 3-day supplemental food bag, clothing, social services on request.
Restrictions: Must live in SE/SW DC.

Covenant House of Washington
3400 Martin Luther Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20032
(202) 610-9630
www.covenanthousedc.org
Hours: 8:30am-8:00pm (M-F)
Services: Food, clothing, education, assessment, life skills, recreation, health and fitness, legal services, pastoral care, residential resources, case management, job training, youth opportunity center.

Father McKenna Center
19 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 842-1112
Hours: 8:00am-2:00pm (M-F);
Services: Emergency food baskets, clothing for men, night shelter (8 beds Nov. 1-April 1).
Restrictions: Proof of residency required for food assistance.

Food and Friends
58 L Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 488-8278
www.foodandfriends.org
Hours: 8:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: Home delivered meals for people with AIDS and cancer, affected families and nutritional counseling for HIV/ PLWA's.
Restrictions: Referrals Preferred.

MEDICAL RESOURCES

Unity Health Care, Inc.
3020 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202)745-4300
Hours: Project Office 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F); On site clinic hours: 8:00am-5:00pm (M, Tues, Thurs, F); 10:30 am- 7:30pm (w)
Services: Medical Clinics at Federal City Shelter, Christ House, House of Ruth, Emry Shelter, Upper Cardozo Clinic, Bethlehem Clinic, Woodland

Terrace Clinic, HIV Day Center, Central Union Mission, Blair Shelter, East of the River Clinic, Fri.

Whitman-Walker Clinic
1407 S Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202)797-3500
www.wwc.org
Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F) HIV/ STD Testing after hours by appointment,
Special Services: Sliding fee scale Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid accepted, uninsured or underinsured individuals may still access services. No one is turned away because of an inability to pay for services.
Restrictions: Referrals from social workers of medical professionals necessary.

OUTREACH CENTERS

Bethany Women's Center
1333 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 939-2060
Hours: 7:30am-4:00pm (M-F); 9:00am- 4:00pm (Sat-Sun)
Services: Day shelter, breakfast, lunch, snack, activity programs, crafts, laundry, showers, clothing, counseling, referrals for other services, mental health, and substance abuse referrals.

Georgetown Ministry Center
1041 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 338-8301
www.georgetownministrycenter.org
Hours: 10:00am-1:00pm (M-F) walk-ins accepted
Services: Information and referrals for a variety of services; Winter shelter from Nov. 1-April 1
Restrictions: Shelter requires screening.

Martha's Table
2114 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-6608
www.marthastable.org
Hours: 8:00am-8:00pm (M-F)
Children's Program 9:00am-2:00pm (M-F)
Services: Mobile soup kitchen and children's program.

Rachel's Women's Center
1222 11th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 328-4073
Hours: 7:00am-4:00pm (M, W, Th, F) 7:00am-3:00pm (Tu); 9:00am-3:00pm (Sat); NA meetings 10:00am (M-Sat)
Services: Day shelter, breakfast, lunch, crisis counseling, case management, street outreach, referrals, support and education group, legal clinic, 12-step program, showers and laundry facilities.

Sasha Bruce Youth Work
741 8th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 675-9340
Hours: 9:00am-5:30pm (M-F)
Population: Troubled, runaway, and homeless teenagers (ages 11-24)
Services: Shelter, social services, individuals and family counseling, job assistance, tutoring, transitional living program for older homeless adolescents and clothing. Reunites families whenever possible, or works to find a stable living situation.

Friendship House
619 D Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 675-9050
www.friendshiphouse.net
Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm
Services: Emergency food, clothing bank, employment services, crisis intervention, ABE/GED services available
Restrictions: ID and proof of residency required; referrals from social service agencies preferred.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness
801 Pennsylvania Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 543-5298
www.community-partnership.org
Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: Coordinating agency or the District's public funded homeless services.

Capital Area Food Bank
645 Taylor Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
(202) 526-5344 x223
www.capitalareafoodbank.org
Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: Face hunger, hunger awareness class, Brown Bag Program, monthly supplemental food distribution to low income senior citizens, Kids Café: after-school meal program.
Restrictions: Must be a 501c3 agency providing meals or food.

Catholic Charities Homeless Services of Washington, DC
924 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 772-4300
www.catholiccharititesdc.org
Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: Providing permanent, transitional and emergency housing, work and educational opportunities for men, women and families.
Restrictions: Referrals appreciated. Proof of residency and photo ID required.

JHP, Inc.
1526 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 544-5300
www.jfarberjhp@netzero.net
Hours: 8:30am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: Help the homeless and those who are at risk of becoming homeless seek, obtain and retain employment and to secure permanent housing.

Catholic Charities Northeast Community Services
1438 Rhode Island Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20018
(202) 526-4100
www.catholiccharities.org
Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: Case management, intake and assessment, referrals and information.

This is by no means a complete list of service providers. If you want your organization to be included, please send all applicable information to streetsense@nationalhomeless.org.

Provider Profile: So Others May Eat (SOME)

By Zeke Phillips

It's around 2:30 on a Tuesday afternoon, and the dining hall at So Others Might Eat (SOME) is almost empty. In the adjoining kitchen, some volunteers are cleaning up from the meal that was served just over an hour earlier. In the dining hall itself, the tables are bare, except for the plates, cups, and utensils that have been placed on the table for Wednesday's breakfast.

It's quiet here now, but this is unusual. Mary Cobbs, the dining room coordinator, said that the dining hall is full at breakfast and lunch, and that, typically, more than 800 meals are served here every day to Washington's homeless population.

But SOME does much more for the homeless than serve food. What began as a soup kitchen in 1970 has become a "comprehensive social service agency" whose mission is "first to meet people's immediate needs and then to help them overcome what keeps them homeless and destitute," according to the organization's website.

To accomplish this mission, SOME provides what they call immediate services, which include food programs, clothing and shower rooms, and health services. It also provides rehabilitative services that include addictions recovery, job training, transitional housing, long-term housing, and services to the elderly and mentally ill.

The extensive services that SOME provides is reflected in the organization's physical space: in addition to the building at 71 O Street, NW, that houses that dining hall, they have over 600,000 square feet of building space in the District, according to Jim Palmer, the administrative director.

"This [place] has worked miracles in quite a few people's lives," Cobbs said, "and it continues to."

In 2003 alone, SOME, aided by 211 paid employees (around 25% of whom are formerly homeless) and around 1,500-2,000 volunteers per month, according to Palmer, served over 293,000 meals. The organization also provided more than 13,000 people with free clothing and shelter, 8,000 people with medical or dental care, and 12,000 individuals with group counseling sessions. SOME also provided permanent housing for more than 230 homeless men, women, and children and intensive job training for 247 homeless and extremely low-income women and men, according to their website.

And those are only a portion of the services SOME provided.

"There's a whole continuum of care that really allows people to be lifted up above homelessness," Palmer said. "The care is offered in a respectful way, and I think people feel dignified when they receive service here."

But they don't force their clients to use their services. "It doesn't work if it's forced," Cobbs said. "They have to want it more than you want it for them. If the person is reaching out for something, we'll be there to reach down and pull them up."

And the clients seem to appreciate this approach. "The staff is pretty courteous; they're pretty polite. I'd say [the organization] is fairly well run," said August Mallory, a client of SOME's and formerly homeless.

Though Palmer says the organization's biggest challenge is the lack of affordable housing in the D.C. area, he believes that SOME has effected change. At the end of January, in fact, they will begin construction on apartment facilities that will be able to house 21 families.

"I really think [our] greatest accomplishment," Palmer said, "is the role we play in changing the lives of those who seek change."

Street Sense Vendor Code of Conduct

1) Street Sense will be distributed for a voluntary donation of $1. I agree to not ask for more than $1. I understand that I keep 70 cents of each dollar collected.
2) Street Sense can only be purchased from Street Sense staff (at the National Coalition for the Homeless).
3) I agree to treat all others—customers, staff, other vendors—respectfully.
4) I will not give a "hard sell" or make someone feel threatened or pressured.
5) I agree that I will not ask for additional donations and will not vend after midnight.
6) I agree to only sell Street Sense and no additional goods or products as a vendor.
7) I will not sell Street Sense under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8) There are no territories among vendors. I will respect the space of other vendors, particularly the space of vendors who have been in a spot for a longer period of time. I will stay off of private property.
9) I will always present my badge when purchasing papers and display my badge while selling papers to the public.
10) I understand that Street Sense strives to be a self-sustaining paper that covers homelessness and poverty issues while providing a source of money for the homeless. As a result, I will try to help in this effort and spread the word.

Be a vendor for Street Sense!

Are you homeless or formerly homeless and do you want to work for D.C.'s newspaper for the homeless?

Then write, call or stop by Street Sense!

Phone: 202-737-6444 ext. 17

E-mail: streetsense@nationalhomeless.org

Address: National Coalition for the Homeless
1012 14th St., NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005

Vendor Profile:

Bobby Buggs

Bobby Buggs was born in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1971. He came to Washington in the late 1980s to live with his brother. He is currently homeless, but he hopes to be a success in the fashion industry. *Street Sense* wishes him good luck.

How long have you been homeless?
I ran away from home in 1986 and have been homeless off and on since then. I tried all the tricks of the trade to keep a roof over my head. I was always living in someone else's place.

Why do you sell Street Sense?
I really enjoy meeting people. I've met so many people who have taken the time out, who may or may not have had the time, to just talk with me and ask me about myself and if I have any needs or if I need any prayer about certain issues. Right now, a job opportunity is not an option for me. Street Sense has been the backbone of support for me as far as financial stability and also support in general.

Where would you like to see yourself five years from now?
Five years from now I would like to be in college with residency. I would like to be completing an associate's degree in business administration and pursuing a career in the fashion industry. That would be a blessing if I could complete that goal.

What sparked your interest in going into the fashion industry?
I was introduced to a gentleman who was a storeowner, and he showed me the ins and the outs of the fashion industry from retail sale all the way to the three major fashion expo shows that occur once every year. He always showed me the possibilities that come with the fashion industry. With that I came to the conclusion, with the fact of my middle name being Gene, I should specialize in blue jean denim.

What advice would you give to anybody who is currently homeless?
Use resources wisely, and with patience, perseverance and prayer, just about anything is possible.

Favorite movie?
The Missing

Favorite food?
Italian cuisine

Bobby reminds you to only buy STREET SENSE from vendors with a proper badge and ID.

Where your dollar donation goes:

$0.70 TO THE VENDOR	$0.30 For printer/ production costs