

Inside Saddam's Iraq, p. 6

Zainab Salbi on her new book, a childhood in Iraq and women in war-torn countries.

CCNV Rejected, p. 4

CCNV's plan to case-manage DC's largest shelter is denied after decades in this role.

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Where the Washington area's poor and homeless earn and give their two cents

Volume 3, Issue 4

February 15, 2006 - March 14, 2006

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Shifting Downtown Network of Shelters Prompts Concerns

Better Planning Can Preserve Emergency Beds, Experts Say

By David S. Hammond

With shelter closings in the last few years and the trend to build new facilities on the east side of the city, homeless service providers are worried that there will soon be a shortfall of emergency shelter beds in the downtown area. But, with new initiatives from Mayor Williams and the City Council, they say there is a chance to improve the planning process and prevent gaps.

"You see people downtown because that's where the jobs are, and that's where the bus lines run," said homelessness activist Cheryl Barnes. Like Barnes, homeless people say that the downtown area is much

more accessible than other parts of the city with the presence of meal programs, Metro stops and other needs, all of which can be reached on foot. There is also a sense that it is safer than many other parts of the city.

But changes in shelter space around the District have raised fears that downtown shelter space may not be secure.

The Gales School shelter near Union Station in Northwest closed in 2003 and has not yet reopened. The Randall shelter, off South Capitol Street in Southwest, closed in 2004. Trailer-based shelters in Northeast and Southeast closed last year – moves widely praised as a step towards better quality shelter.

Emery shelter, near North Capitol Street in Northeast, may be moving from emergency to

See **SHELTER**, p. 7



Volunteers from the Lord's Lunch Ministry for Takoma Park Seventh Day Adventist Church Cecil Callisde (right) and Pauline Phipps-Foster give out soup, bananas and rolls to homeless men and women on the streets surrounding McPherson Square. (Photo Jill Merselis)

Nonprofits and Freelance Providers Clash, Work Towards Solution

By Jill Merselis

On a cold, sunny Saturday morning, two white vans pull up to the west side of McPherson Square Park in Northwest D.C. By the time the vehicle's doors open, eager homeless men and women have lined up down the sidewalk, awaiting the coffee, food and clothing that these vans customarily deliver.

Walter Newby, one of the van's drivers, is among many who come to Franklin and McPherson parks to give food and supplies to the homeless, independent of any professional service provider. Newby has

been delivering to these parks for three years as part of Union Bethel AME Church's outreach program. Today, in addition to the toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo and mouthwash that are in the standard hygiene packets, Newby gives out a few coats, some shoes and sandwiches.

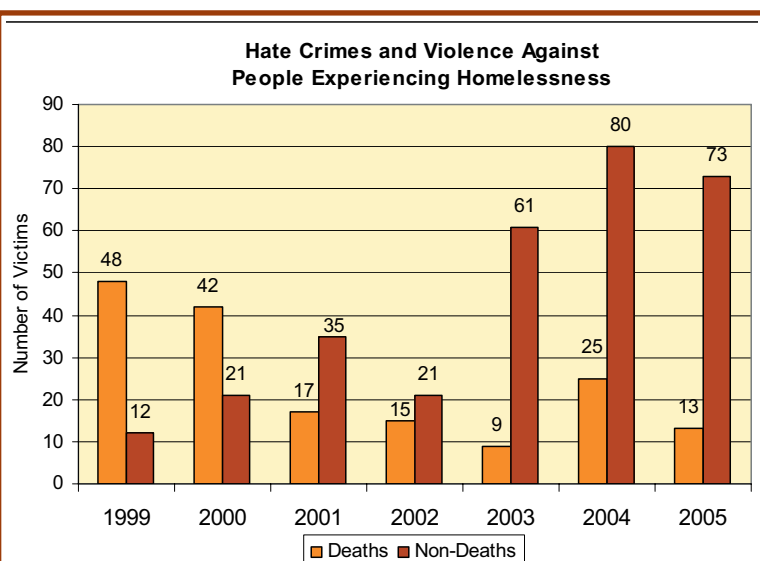
Stepping up to the van, one man gratefully says, "I'll take a sandwich. I haven't eaten in two days."

While the homeless men and women at the park are thankful for Newby's kindness, professional outreach workers are often wary of such efforts. Chet Grey, the

Director of Homeless Services at the Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District (BID) said that while such services sometimes meet an immediate need, they are not an effective use of resources because they are inconsistent and often overlap. He said that there are often "five groups (at the park) on Saturday and no groups on Monday."

According to Grey, independent volunteers began providing services at these parks more than two decades ago, when there was a greater need

See **PROVIDE**, p. 5



Hate crimes against homeless people dropped in 2005, but concern about such violent acts is heightened in the wake of recent beatings of homeless men in Florida. (See Story on page 9)

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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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Volunteer Undercover: Community of Hope

A volunteer's insider perspective on a local homeless service provider

By *Aliza Belman Inbal*

In 1995, Japan suffered a devastating earthquake that left between 300,000 and 400,000 residents of the city of Kobe without homes. Amidst the destruction and the chaos that prevailed in countless makeshift emergency shelters, a *Newsweek* reporter asked a newly homeless Japanese child how he was coping with the crisis. The child brightly answered that it was great living in a shelter because there were always kids to play with and he had made many new friends.

When I recently volunteered at Community of Hope (COH), a nonprofit that provides health care, housing, support services, and education to low-income and homeless D.C. residents, I found the same spirit of optimism and resilience among the dozen or so kids under the age of 12 who were trying pottery that day. The kids were no different from any others you might find at an arts and crafts class; they were cheerful, friendly, curious, and happy to receive attention from the volunteers and to sculpt their creations. They were excited about the drum and dance classes that COH offers, eager to boast about winning the shelter's monthly school attendance competition, and full of opinions on topics ranging from friendship to the best after school program snacks.

The kids are so outgoing that it's easy

to forget how difficult their lives actually are. The National Center on Family Homelessness reports that there are about 200,000 homeless children in America, and that number is growing. The number

preschoolers have emotional problems serious enough to require professional care. Only 77% of homeless kids attend school regularly, and those who do are twice as likely to repeat a grade. This is



A volunteer tutor and a young resident at the Community of Hope share a puzzle and a laugh.

of requests for emergency shelter by families has increased every year since 1985. Homeless children get sick and need hospitalization twice as often as other children, and also go hungry twice as often. More than 20% of homeless

the bleak reality that Community of Hope must confront when organizing activities for the children who live in the shelter.

Community of Hope was founded 20 years ago as a temporary, emergency shelter service. Families were expected to

move in and out in a matter of weeks, or months at most. Theoretically, there would be no need for such a short-term facility to offer longer-term children's programs. In reality, however, housing is so scarce in D.C. today that the average family stays 9-12 months in a COH apartment. Over the years, COH has responded to this reality by developing a children's program consistent with the shelter's mission.

Community of Hope provides its children residents with homework tutoring, health care offered by volunteer clinicians, computer labs, hiking trips, and one-on-one reading help. The shelter also plans to establish a mentoring program that will pair volunteers able to make at least a year-long commitment with kids ages 9-18 who sorely need positive role models.

Volunteering with kids at COH is amazingly fulfilling. It is also an enormous responsibility. So much is transient and unreliable in the life of a homeless child that COH insists that its volunteers make at least a six-month commitment to their work, allowing the children to benefit from a relatively constant, positive adult presence.

The volunteers and staff at Community of Hope are really making a difference. Their work ensures that, despite all the obstacles, these kids remain happy, positive, and motivated, rather than become part of one more scary statistic.

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Search Continues for Paid Case Management At DC's Largest Shelter; CCNV's Plan Rejected

By Alex Hiniker

Residents of the Federal City Shelter soon may have access to qualified, paid case managers to assist with their search for permanent housing and employment. But it is unclear when and how that will happen.

All that is known is that the case management will not come from the Community for Creative Nonviolence (CCNV), the shelter's largest provider that historically has supervised this service. CCNV's application to manage the new system was recently rejected by the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, which cited problems with CCNV's performance.

Until now, residents have relied on unpaid case managers to provide individual planning for housing assistance, medical treatment, and training and employment services, as well as follow-up services once residents have left the shelter.

A request for applications to develop a paid case-management system at the Federal City Shelter was released last December by the Community Partnership, which coordinates resources to eliminate homelessness in Washington, D.C.

Recognizing the importance of securing qualified, paid case managers signals a crucial shift in the Partnership's approach to eliminating homelessness in Washington, because CCNV never provided paid case managers. But the \$400,000 the Community Partnership proposes to fund the program is not sufficient to support its implementation, according to some service providers.

"This is another example of the nickel and dime approach that has defined the Partnership's efforts," said Robert Egger, executive director of D.C. Central Kitchen, one of the six service providers at the shelter.

The partnership apparently agrees that the funding it originally proposed falls short. In an addendum to the original application request, the submission of two proposed budgets is sought: one

based on the original \$400,000 and one termed a "realistic" budget.

The shelter currently has 1,350 beds and six service providers, with the majority of the shelter being run by CCNV, Unity Health Care Inc., D.C. Central Kitchen, Clean and Sober Streets and JHP Inc. The Open Door Shelter for Women also manages beds and provides services in the shelter.

Under the current case-management system overseen by CCNV, most case managers are former residents who trade their services for apartment-style housing.

But that no longer will be the case, because the Partnership rejected CCNV's application to manage the new system in a letter hand-delivered on Friday, Feb. 10. The letter said the decision was based on CCNV's poor working relationship with the shelter's other providers, as well as negative letters from previous CCNV board members.

Liz Presley of CCNV disputed the criticism and said her organization is exploring a legal response to the Partnership's letter.

If another organization is awarded the contract, CCNV would remain in charge of the hypothermia program, but the winner of the application process would take over the new case-management system.

The Federal City Service Providers, comprising all of the service providers at the Federal City Shelter except for CCNV, have collectively agreed to send a letter to the partnership outlining their plans for an effective case-management system and detailing a budget necessary to implement the plans.

"If you want to do this, and do it the right way, then we'll jump into it," said Egger. "But we're not interested in an experiment in mediocrity."

Although the application deadline was Jan. 27, it still is unknown how many applications were submitted. Numerous calls and e-mails to the Partnership seeking such information were not answered.

Call for 24/7 Downtown Shelters

At a January hearing on homeless services, a representative from one of the city's largest shelter providers called for 24-hour shelters.

Chapman Todd, director of Housing and Support Services for Catholic Community Services, said that he wants to extend the 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. hours of downtown shelters, like Franklin School, to a full 24-hour schedule. He said this would give more time to provide around-the-clock care for residents.

Franklin School, which shelters 240 men, is downtown where hypothermia is the biggest problem. This emergency shelter "takes anyone, and is the real safety net for homeless men," Todd said.

"Emergency shelters are now serving as long-term housing for more people who are suffering from mental illness, physical illness, substance abuse, limited job skills, and recent incarceration," he added. "We need to commit the resources to provide more than overnight services," Todd said. Emergency shelters fight hypothermia, but are "not set up to adequately address the myriad issues faced by people who are chronically homeless, especially issues like narcotics and alcohol addiction, and mental illness."

He noted that making all emergency shelters in the city around-the-clock operations would give social service professionals more time to assess and treat people who are chronically homeless.

Most people at the hearing agreed that there is a critical need for more downtown emergency space, but Todd called for recognition that these downtown shelters are functioning as residences. As such, the shelters need to stay open 24 hours and provide individual storage space to store clothing for job interviews, medicine and other materials to survive.

-- Trish Savage

Independent Monitors Investigate Family Shelter At DC Village

Councilman Adrian Fenty (D-Ward 4) recently introduced legislation requiring independent monitors at D.C. Village.

Recognizing that separate, autonomous monitors of current conditions at this D.C. shelter are urgently needed, Fenty introduced on Feb. 7 a plan to create monitors.

D.C. Village, unlike many other shelters, provides space for families. There are currently 68 families with 140 children living there, according to Mike Ferrell, head of the D.C. Coalition for the Homeless, which manages the shelter.

At a Jan. 31 hearing on the Homeless Services Reform Act, resident Tyranja Jackson repeated earlier complaints about faulty and unsafe bathrooms, inedible food, and other unacceptable living conditions. The focus of her presentation, however, was on the congregation of families together in open spaces.

"You never know who is in the room with you," Jackson said. Noting that some residents have mental health problems, she said, "You don't know what causes them to explode."

"It is imperative," Jackson said, "for the well-being of children," that these families move to apartment-style facilities with privacy and separate kitchens. Elimination of what she called "communal style" living conditions will solve many of the D.C. Village problems of safety, food, violence and health.

Later in the hearing, while listening to testimony from the New Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, Fenty acknowledged the over-crowded conditions at D.C. Village and promised to visit the center soon.

-- Trish Savage

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Homeless Hater Crimes Drop But Violence Continues

By Valerie Wexler

From 1999 to 2005, the number of deadly violent attacks on homeless people has gone down, from 48 in 1999 and 42 in 2000 to 13 in 2005. However, the number of non-lethal attacks on homeless people has increased more than six times- from 12 in 1999 to 80 in 2004 and 73 in 2005, according to a report released in mid-February by the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH).

Since 1999, this nonprofit homeless advocacy group has been publishing annual reports documenting hate crimes against homeless people. The report is usually released in the late spring, but because of the brutal beating of three homeless men caught on video surveillance in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on January 12, 2006, NCH moved up the date of publication of this year's report, *Hate Violence and Death on Main Street USA*.

"What happened in both Ft. Lauderdale...can occur in any city. As

long as homeless individuals are forced to live outside, they are vulnerable to these attacks," said Michael Stoops, acting executive director of NCH.

Perhaps most disturbing is who the perpetrators of these violent acts are. In 2005, the majority of those accused or convicted of attacking a homeless person were between 12 and 19 years old. In Berkeley, Calif., Jarell Maurice Johnson and Derell Morgan were charged with kicking to death a 100-pound homeless woman, Maria Catherine King, who was lying in an alley. Johnson has been quoted as saying "I really kicked her ass."

In Holly Hill, Fla., five teenage boys were charged in the beating death of 53-year-old homeless man Michael Roberts. Two of the boys, Christopher Scamahorn, 14, and Jeffery Spurgeon, 15, were quoted as saying they killed Roberts "for fun [because they] needed something to do." The boys reportedly told a friend, "It doesn't matter, they're just bums."

Another large majority of attacks on

homeless people are perpetrated by the very people who are supposed to be there to protect them -- officers of the law. In Detroit, state trooper Jay Morningstar was charged with second-degree murder in the shooting death of homeless man Eric Williams. Two other Michigan state troopers have been charged with assaulting homeless man Roosevelt Dean, Jr. with chemical spray.

In addition, in Duluth, Miss., eight police officers have been placed on administrative leave following the beating death of homeless man David Croud.

The report also documents a link between violent acts against homeless people and the increased criminalization of homelessness. In it, advocates from around the country affirm a relationship between municipal actions restricting the visibility of homeless people and violence against homeless people.

"It seems that disturbed violent people take a cue from their cities' response to homelessness and become

emboldened...if the city has portrayed homeless people as the cause of unemployment, decreasing property values, or vacant storefronts," NCH's Stoops said.

In an earlier report by NCH, Florida and California were named as the two states in which it is most difficult to be homeless, with the most laws in their books that specifically target homeless people. (See last month's issue of Street Sense.) In fact Sarasota was named the "meanest city" as someone can be arrested there for "having no place to live."

Sixteen homeless people were attacked in California, and as a result, one person died. Thirty-two attacks occurred in Florida, and these also resulted in one death.

These attacks might be of greater number in Florida and California, but the violence is spread across the country, including the DC Metro area. In June of 2005, a homeless man was stabbed to death in Virginia.

PROVIDE, from p. 1

for them. Since that time, professional organizations such as McKenna's Wagon and the Salvation Army's Grate Patrol have developed and provide food daily in the large parks around the city. Thus, Grey said, the volunteers, many of whom are connected to church groups, "really don't do much good."

Similarly, Newby said that on weekends in the summer, there are so many volunteers in Franklin and McPherson Squares that they are almost fighting to give out food, while in the winter volunteers in the parks are scarce.

Pete Schenck, currently an outreach consultant for the D.C. BID, noticed comparable inconsistencies when he worked at the Grate Patrol, accompanying the food trucks on their daily routes. Schenck said that he encountered numerous food trucks that were either leaving as the Grate Patrol arrived, or arriving as he drove away.

In an attempt to provide more consistent service to homeless men and women, the D.C. BID has joined with freelance volunteers, homeless men and women and other professional care organizations to create a movement called the Meals Access Project. The main goal of this project is to coordinate volunteer and professional homeless care providers so that food, supplies and services are distributed throughout all parts of the city, reaching more homeless men and women on a more consistent schedule.

As part of the Meals Access Project, Schenck has coordinated efforts with the Urban Institute to collect and map the routes, dates and locations that volunteer and professional homeless care organizations provide supplies around the city. With a mapping system

that documents which areas each group of volunteers and professional providers service, it will be easier to spread resources across the city to meet the needs of the homeless population in all areas.

The participants in the Meals Access Program also strive to increase the quality of food provided on the streets. While indoor food providers have to obtain sanitation licenses from the Department of Health, there is no universal standard in quality or distribution for people volunteering in parks, who often bring food from their homes or churches. Craig Keller, a program director at First Helping, said that due to poor nutrition homeless men and women customarily have fragile immune systems, making quality standards in the food provided to them even more important.

Once organizations and volunteers are working in coordination, Keller said that he hopes that certain gaps in homeless services will be addressed, such as the city's lack of an indoor dinner venue for men. Though the outdoor dinner services of McKenna's Wagon and similar providers meet a great need, Keller said that it would be ideal if churches could coordinate with volunteers to find an indoor location to serve evening meals and centralize social and medical services.

Even though the Meals Access Project may increase regulations in homeless care, the goal is not to discourage volunteers from helping. Rather, Keller said that he hopes to bring all groups into the larger sphere of homeless care so that the city can make the best of use of its available resources.

"It's terrific that people want to help the homeless," Grey added, noting that if providers and volunteers can coordinate their efforts, more homeless men and women will be served.

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Zainab Salbi on living in fear under “Uncle” Saddam

In her new book, *Between Two Worlds—Escape from Tyranny: Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam* (Gotham Books, 2005), Iraqi native Zainab Salbi describes how she lived under Saddam Hussein and emerged as an advocate for women survivors of war. When she was 11 years old, her family became part of Saddam Hussein's inner circle when her father became Saddam's personal pilot. Salbi writes of the tense years living with the mercurial Saddam, of the brutality of his regime, and of the marriage her parents arranged for her in the United States.

Salbi soon fled this abusive marriage and set a new course, founding Women for Women International in 1993. This nonprofit organization helps female war victims recover and become self-sufficient, and has aided over 33,000 women in countries devastated by war and genocide, from Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan to Rwanda, Congo, Nigeria, and Sudan. Salbi has appeared on NPR's *All Things Considered*, PBS's *News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, *CBS News*, and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. She recently spoke with the Seattle street newspaper *Real Change* by telephone about life under Saddam, violence against women, and the trauma of war.

Real Change: Your father was Saddam Hussein's personal pilot, and you and your family were often with Saddam. What was your impression of Saddam?

Zainab Salbi: I saw him frequently as a teenager. He gave us a farmhouse in his compound and we had to go there all the weekends. We were all told to call Saddam “Uncle.” We were told to sing for him, to dance for him, to write poetry for him, to paint for him.

At the time I met him, I knew that my best friend's father was executed by Saddam; I knew that half of my mother's family was deported to Iran [when] 200,000 Shias were deported between 1980 and 1982. I almost lost my mom in that deportation. Saddam talked about how he killed his family members and friends and colleagues and lovers, so we were constantly vulnerable and worried.

RC: Saddam talked openly about killing relatives and friends?

Salbi: Definitely. Particularly friends and lovers. It's a public issue for him. It's not a big deal. He kept my family and everyone in Iraq captured in that fear. There were no rules, only Saddam's moods. It was suffocating.

RC: Was Saddam always a threatening figure for you?

Salbi: No. There were definitely nice moments; he's a charming person. Such dictators don't last for so many years without having their own charm.

He was really into fashion for a while; he wore cowboy hats and checkered shirts. He was in a psychiatrist phase when he wanted to analyze people and that's when he wore his doctor's jacket as he



consulted and solved people's problems. People would ask him to solve problems usually related to family matters. He was into cooking, and would experiment with different food. He was definitely into cars; he gave me and a friend a ride in his red sports car with his helmet and loud music. He likes dancing. He likes drinking. But with that came fear: you'd never know when he'd be mad. You'd never know when he'd kill you.

RC: Did you experience combat during the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988)?

Salbi: Yes. The Iranians did bomb Baghdad. It's so important for people here to understand what war is like. War is not an intellectual discussion; it's about the human impact. It's about the sound, the smell of it. It's about the color of it: for me, war is about the blue feet I saw hanging from a coffin in a car in front of us as my mother and I were driving. War is about ugliness, about how it impacts people, impacts our spirits.

One million people died in the Iran-Iraq war. As a survivor of war and witness to wars, the trauma of war stays with you. We've had three wars and 10 years of economic sanctions [since 1980], so in Iraq we've had a lot of post-traumatic stress. I definitely had it. Here [in the U.S.] people speak about war and forget about it, and go on to another war. With a survivor of war, war never leaves you.

RC: Can you describe a state-sponsored campaign of violence against women under Saddam.

Salbi: Absolutely. Between 1980 and 1982, [when] 200,000 Shia were deported, Iraqi soldiers raped thousands of [Shia] women: an organized, ordered rape. Women were kidnapped and raped by the Iraqi Secret Service. The rape was videotaped to blackmail them, and force them to join the Secret Service and spy on family members and colleagues. Rape was used as torture against the political opposition many times. Women would be raped in front of their brothers or fathers or husbands as they tortured the men in political opposition.

Definitely rape and violence against

women were used by the Saddam regime, and I feel very strongly that he has to be indicted for these crimes. Violence often starts with women [and] is an indicator of what will happen to the rest of the society. Women are a bellwether for the society.

RC: Did you know of this orchestrated campaign against women as it happened?

Salbi: I heard bits and pieces. I remember my mother's friends crying when they talked about what happened to women when they asked for [Saddam's] help, and how he would rape women. If he liked a woman, he would take her to a secret room and rape her. He told my family that he had a mobile clinic and he would go to villages, separate men from women, and take one woman at a time, and if he liked her, he raped her on the pretext that he was solving her problem.

There are horror stories of how his sons committed so many crimes against women, particularly Uday. He was known as the “Rapist of Baghdad.”

RC: To protect you from Saddam and Uday, your parents arranged a marriage for you in the U.S. and whisked you from Iraq.

Salbi: I was in my fourth year of college. I felt rushed out. And I was very confused by my mother, who was a very adamant that I have to be strong and independent. I said yes because I did not want my mother to cry; I wanted to be a good daughter.

The man she ended up marrying me to did all the things she told me not to tolerate. He abused me. He raped me. He was a really bad man, but Iraq had invaded Kuwait, so the borders were closed; I couldn't go back home.

After three months, all the things my mother had ingrained in me kicked in, and I left him. I had \$400 in my pocket. That was the day I decided to create a new identity for myself and a new path. It took me 10 years to realize that my mother was trying to save me from a worse experience with Saddam.

RC: How did you go from this abusive marriage to founding Women for Women International?

Salbi: Two years after I left [that marriage], I met the love of my life and my current husband. It was the first time I heard about another war. Growing up in Iraq, we were isolated from the rest of the world in terms of news.

There was the Bosnian war; I heard

about the concentration camps there and the 20,000 women who had been raped. I didn't even know where Bosnia was, but I felt obliged to do something as someone who has survived war. I started the organization to help women move from victims to survivors to active citizens.

RC: Have you been back to Iraq since 2003?

Salbi: Since the war ended, I was there every two months, but I haven't been there in the past year because so many educated women — working, outspoken women — have been assassinated or targeted for assassination. Women's hair salons have been bombed, female college students have been targeted for rape and kidnapping, and on a daily basis we see more and more women's bodies on the shores of the Tigris and the Euphrates, just being thrown out. [This] violence against women is very political: a message that women go home, no different than what the Taliban tried to do. They started their oppression with violence against women.

RC: Does the new Iraqi Constitution adequately protect women's rights?

Salbi: No; it has pros and cons. On the one hand, it guarantees women's equal citizenship. It also guarantees women 25 percent representation in the Parliament. On the other hand, family law

that protects women's access to resources and mobility as represented by marriage, divorce, custody, inheritance, is very vague and under religious codes with religious scholars interpreting it. It could take the country to a more fundamentalist stage. We are vulnerable to who interprets this law.

RC: What needs to happen now in Iraq?

Salbi: A few things. We need to use the Saddam trial as a historical opportunity to document our past, to thoroughly document his crimes, to get to the truth, and to seek our reconciliation.

In terms of American involvement, we have to focus on stabilizing people's daily lives. We cannot talk about Iraq unless we talk about the restoration of electricity, of water, of schools and health systems, of roads, and of jobs beyond the army and police. At the end of the day, people want stability and normalcy in their lives. That's how we can build sustainable peace in Iraq.

*He likes dancing.
He likes drinking. But
with that came fear:
you'd never know when
he'd be mad. You'd
never know when he'd
kill you.*

PROVIDE, from p. 1

transitional beds, and the future of the Franklin School shelter near Franklin Square in Northwest is still being debated.

Meanwhile, the city has opened two large new shelters – one on New York Avenue, NE in 2003, and one at “801 East” on the campus of St. Elizabeth’s in Anacostia in 2004.

Still, District government officials say keeping shelter beds downtown remains the city’s goal.

“We all agree we should have some emergency shelter beds downtown,” said Lynn French, a senior advisor on homelessness in the Williams administration. “I do believe it is the city’s duty to provide beds. To the extent that we’re providing shelter to save lives, and we know that many of the homeless people with the most severe issues are in the downtown area, we need beds downtown.”

But, she added, “On a larger scale, I do not believe that we owe specific locations to people.”

That is where the debate begins – with the questions of where, and when, beds will be provided. But given the condition of some stopgap shelter facilities, time is something the city has not always had. “Gales was in jeopardy of collapsing, and we had to close it,” French said.

Funding is also a big

issue. “The first consideration is money – so we’re limited to places we own” for emergency shelter. “There was a time the city owned more properties,” she said, “but now, we don’t have places.” And when the city shops for property, she said, it often loses out to commercial buyers.

French cited a very tight real estate market. In Columbia Heights, the La Casa shelter must relocate while a new shelter is built. “So the challenge now is, where do we go?” French said.


Meanwhile, the new shelters on New York Avenue and at 801 East offer improved living conditions, and more of the services like counseling that advocates and homeless people have long requested – but far from downtown.

A city shuttle bus circulates in and near downtown, including the old Randall shelter. It carries men to 801 East and will keep running after the winter season. Bus transport is also available to the women’s shelter at

D.C. General in Southeast.

However, these services are the subject of debate. “The most vulnerable people don’t normally go in” to any shelter, outreach worker Mary Ann Luby of the Washington Legal Clinic for the

“On a larger scale, I do not believe that we owe specific locations to people.”
-- Lynn French



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SAMPLE MENU

ROPA VIEJA	ROASTED PORK LOIN	VEGETABLE RISOTTO	TILAPIA
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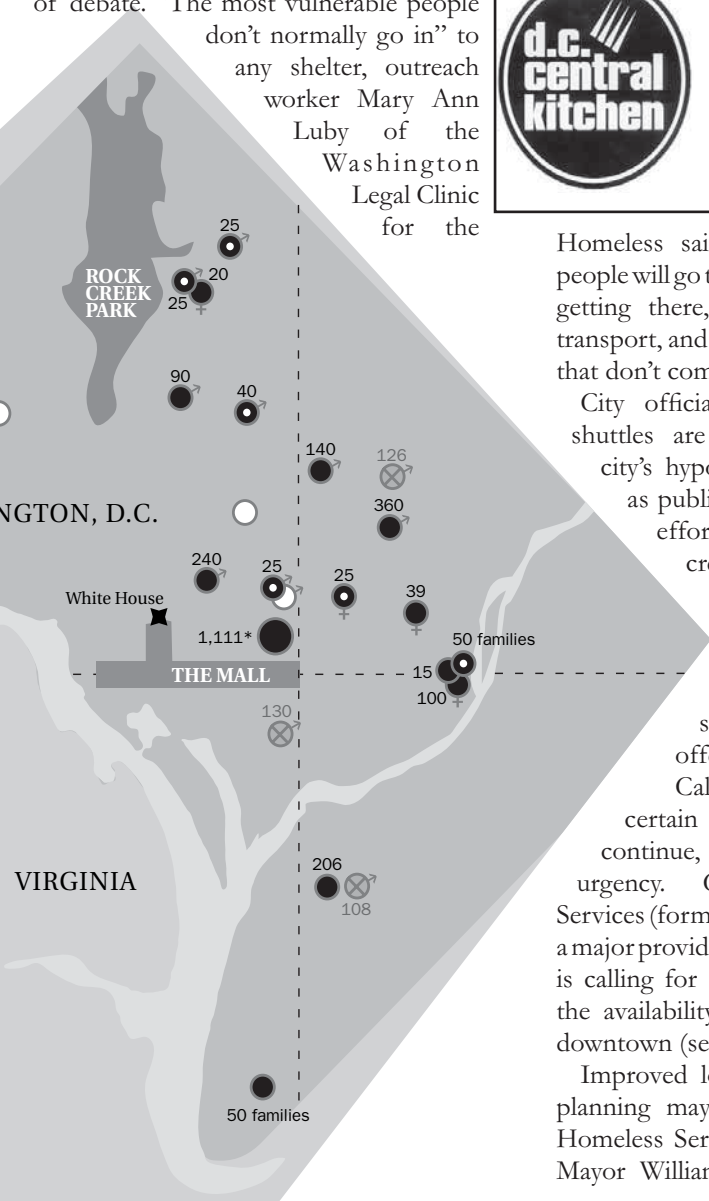
Where do shelters belong?

Although beds are available city-wide, a morphing emergency shelter network threatens to push homeless far from vital services and Metro stations downtown.

- Existing shelter
- Existing shelter (winter only)
- ⊗ Closed shelter
- Planned or unused shelter
- ♂ Men only
- ♀ Women only

0 mi 2

* The Federal City Shelter complex includes John Young, Open Door, and CCNV.
MAP BY OLIVER UBERTI



Homeless said. “So I don’t think people will go to 801 East. Negotiating getting there, even though there’s transport, and getting back, are things that don’t come easily for them.”

City officials maintain that the shuttles are a success. And the city’s hypothermia vans, as well as public and private outreach efforts, are also widely credited with connecting people who live on the street to shelter. High occupancy rates at the new shelters show that these efforts are finding takers.

Calls for better and more certain downtown shelter continue, and with increasing urgency. Catholic Community Services (formerly Catholic Charities), a major provider of homeless services, is calling for significant increases in the availability of shelter, including downtown (see story on p. 4).

Improved long-term, broad-focus planning may be on its way. The Homeless Services Reform Act that Mayor Williams approved last year

will establish an Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) including city officials, service providers, and advocates. This is a much more organized effort than past years when participants in planning for homeless services held scattered meetings, forums and working groups all with changing membership, agendas, and goals. The ICH might put an end to that, homeless advocates say.

“It could be a link in the chain to hold all the parties together,” said Barnes. “Hopefully it will be able to keep things on a level line where they’re not juggled too much.”

The fact that the ICH will be chaired by the city administrator, said Washington Legal Clinic head Patty Fugere, could give it the authority it needs, and shelter space and the city’s neediest people the priority they deserve.

“It has the potential to create a vehicle for far more humane planning,” Luby said. “The bottom line is that economic development always wins out, and economic development only benefits a portion of the city. I think you have to have a will at the very highest part of the government.”

Street Politics

The politics surrounding public policy

Assessing the War on Poverty was the challenge from the Congressional Black Associates (CBA), a nonpartisan group of congressional staffers that hosted a recent forum on Capitol Hill. A panel of experts, including Street Sense vendor and writer Donald Brooks, looked at poverty, especially among black Americans, and shared ideas on how lawmakers, blacks and society as a whole can respond.



Panelists examined a host of issues that they believed might contribute to poverty in the black community, including limited access to quality education or economic opportunities, the lack of a living wage, relations between blacks and the larger society, and competition with immigrants for lower-paying jobs. They also tackled tough issues like teen pregnancy, unwed parents and a lack of family cohesion.

There was general agreement that legislation cannot solve everything, but that it is an important part of the fight against poverty. "There is a common understanding that there's a gap in current legislative policy," said CBA President Nicole Barcliff. And after Hurricane Katrina, "all of a sudden, you have everyone's eyes on these issues that we've always known were there."

Spurring lawmakers to act on these concerns can be tough, according to political scientist Ronald Walters of the University of Maryland, and keeping them on the public agenda demands persistence and a determination on the part of advocates to present hard numbers along with "stories about real people."

But while government can respond to some challenges, speakers at the CBA forum pointed out that everyday people must also play a role. Individual choices and personal responsibility are important, said social policy expert and commentator Star Parker. Another challenge is "to figure out how a group can use its political power to create opportunity for individuals," Walters said, adding that a "collaborative ethic" could help create and share those opportunities. That's a key strategy, said Brooks, because people stuck in poverty are often those that "didn't get the reach-back, give-back opportunities from those that have got it made."

A Local Expert Weighs In: Training Young People for Good Jobs is a Good Starting Point for Preventing Homelessness. Homelessness is complicated, said La Casa Shelter resident Robert C. Farmer, but better vocational education is one way to help prevent it.

"I myself became homeless due to minimum-wage employment, and couldn't pay my rent," Farmer told the D.C. City Council's Human Services Committee in January.

"Not having affordable housing and above-minimum wage employment can lead to stress that can bring on alcoholism. The disease of addiction can lead to homelessness as a result of low self-esteem. Insecurity and poverty, or a criminal record at an early age can haunt someone for life.

"I'm trying to explain how a person can end up on that block, on that square," he said. "Better education for students, and job-training for students at middle and high school levels, would be a good method of prevention from unemployment, substance abuse, criminal behavior, and hopelessness." — David S. Hammond

Your feedback is welcome at StreetPoliticsDC@aol.com.

HILL SPOT: A LOOK AT NEW BILLS AND ISSUES

HEALTH AND WELFARE RELIEF ACT

By David Lohr

In late December, Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and 10 cosponsors introduced the Health and Welfare Relief Act of 2005 (S. 2164). The Act is intended to address critical changes and re-authorizations to be made in two of the nation's social services programs, including establishing a one-year extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

TANF is a block grant program intended to help recipients find and maintain jobs and ultimately turn welfare into a program of temporary assistance. TANF was created in 1996 as a byproduct of welfare reform. Rather than continuing the entitlement to federal assistance, TANF provides federal funds to states and Native American tribes each year.

According to the Office of Family Assistance at the Department of Health and Human Services, the four main purposes of TANF are: assisting needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes, reducing the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation and marriage, preventing out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

While promoting the Act in the Senate, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), stated that while there are large portions of the bill

that need revision, many of the proposals required urgent action. "Even though the vast majority of this bill hurts working families and the most vulnerable among them, there were a handful of important proposals that we support in this bill that need to be enacted immediately," Durbin said.

The Act also extends the Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program for one year. The TMA program was signed into law by President Bush in October and requires that state Medicaid programs provide medical coverage to individuals — often former TANF recipients — who would otherwise lose medical coverage as a result of increased earnings. Losing their medical coverage was a large hurdle in their quest to become self-sufficient and so the extension of the TMA program is likely to help many former TANF recipients stay former recipients.

Sponsor: Senator Debbie Stabenow

Co-sponsors: Senators Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), Mark Dayton (D-Minn.), Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), Blanche L. Lincoln (D-AR), Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD), Benjamin E. Nelson (D-NE), Harry Reid (D-Nev.), John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV).

Status: 12/21, referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Minimum Wage Hike Debated in Va.

In January a Virginia Senate committee defeated, by a vote of 10-5, a bill that would raise Virginia's minimum wage to from \$5.15 to \$8.15 over the course of three years, at a rate of a dollar a year. But advocates have not lost hope and are putting their faith in a new version of the bill currently in the House of Delegates.

Virginia's minimum wage has not been raised since 1997, when it was bumped to its current level to meet federal standards. Virginia is the tenth-wealthiest state, and has the second-lowest unemployment level. Advocates of the bill say that the Commonwealth's failure to increase the wage severely and adversely affects the lowest-paid segments of society. According to state Senator Charles J. Corgan (D-Prince William), in 1997 a full-time minimum-wage worker earned \$3,000 below the poverty level for a family of three; today, because of inflation and the lack of wage increases, the same worker earns \$6,000 below the poverty level.

Supporters of the wage increase have not given up hope. Sue Capers, public policy coordinator for the Virginia Coalition for the Homeless, attended the Senate hearing in which they voted down the bill. "When I looked at those well-dressed, well-fed, well-housed 10 men and thought about what their vote will mean to thousands of poor working families in Virginia, it was very difficult to just turn and walk out," she said.

Delegate Vincent F. Callahan, Jr. (R-34th, McLean), speaking in support of the House's version of the bill which is still being discussed, said that he "think[s] there is something almost criminal about paying less than a substantial wage. Virginia is a very affluent state. If you're going to have a minimum wage, it should reflect the times. Raising the minimum wage is the moral thing to do," Callahan concluded.

The House of Delegates' Commerce and Labor subcommittee discussed the bill earlier this month, but no decision on its future has yet been made.

-- David Lohr

One Year Down in Portland's Plan to End Homelessness

By Joanne Zubl

In December, Portland's 10-year plan to end homelessness reached the tender age of 1 year old. And despite being a federal mandate, with an impossible title and untold challenges, it has racked up some pretty impressive stats, far and away exceeding most of its first-year goals.

Since January 2005, more than 500 chronically homeless people have been moved into permanent housing, and more than 300 homeless families with children moved into permanent housing, of which 159 were high-resource users. Since January, a total of 27 youths have moved into housing. And with the most recent count, a total of 244 rental units have opened and 223 units were added to the pipeline.

Those numbers earned the plan its formal adoption by the City Council on Dec. 21, following praise from City Commissioner Erik Sten.

"This plan is not a new set of thinking, saying all the things we've been doing have been wrong," Sten said at the meeting. "It's a recommitment to the issues and new partnerships."

Indeed, many of the programs and initiatives in Home Again, the city's title for its 10-year plan, were in operation before it was launched in December 2004. The lead players — JOIN, Central City Concern, Transition Projects Inc., Cascadia Behavioral Health Care and others — have been working on transitioning people off the streets for many years. What the plan created was a new focus on placing people directly into more permanent housing, providing short-term rent assistance and then tracking people's progress.

"The results are remarkable, and I think they underscore not that we've done something that seemed impossible, but I think the community had become a little resigned to homelessness, and once we changed that we started seeing things change," Sten said.

At the core of the plan is the housing first model, which directs people to permanent housing to stabilize their lives, rather than shuffling people through services and shelters before getting into a home. Once in housing, the plan promotes greater access to services and outreach efforts to not only help people maintain their housing but also receive assistance for any health care, addiction or legal issues they may need.

As prescribed by federal guidelines, the plan focuses on reaching the chronically homeless who represent a small portion of the total homeless population but who use about half of all the resources spent on homelessness and emergency care. Traditionally, people wanting to get off the streets faced a cycle of getting into an emergency shelter, getting services to qualify for transitional housing and waiting for a permanent housing opportunity to become available. The system suffered from a financial and capacity bottleneck when it came to getting people into permanent housing, at which point support services often were discontinued.

"We were putting a majority of our city-funded resources into transitional housing and into emergency shelter, and very few of our resources into permanent housing and long-term solutions," said Liora Berry, homeless program coordinator with the city's Bureau of Housing and Community Development. "What we want to do is make that switch and have more money in permanent housing and long-term solutions."

Reprinted from *Street Roots*, www.streetnewsservice.org



Make-shift tents of the homeless people in Japan.



The poor but permanent favelas of Brazil.

Alternative Housing On The Street: Part I

By Mark Youssef

Countries around the world, even those with vastly different levels of prosperity and poverty, share a common concern: homelessness. Globally, millions of people sleep without beds and face days without shelter. How do these people, despite their different landscapes and cultures, adapt to and survive homelessness?

This first article in a series focuses on the problem of homeless people internationally and the strategies other countries use to address homelessness. Future articles will compare those strategies to the approaches employed in the United States.

The wealth disparity between the rich and the poor in Brazil is one of the largest among countries with substantial populations. This income gap is most pronounced in Brazil's cities, the destinations for tens of thousands of Brazilians who leave their rural homes every year in search of jobs and better lives. This quest usually ends badly: most jobs in the city demand literacy and most of these intra-country immigrants have had little or no schooling. Some of these job seekers return to the countryside and their former lives. Most that stay in the cities, however, end up on the street or in a favela.

Brazil is well known for its favelas, large, unsanctioned and unregulated communities that usually lie at the outskirts of cities. They are home to those who would otherwise be homeless, slums where people with little money or job opportunities cobble together haphazard homes from scrap metal, wood and other trash. Despite their prevalence — up to one in four residents of Brazil's major cities goes home to a favela at night — such communities are generally considered illegitimate by authorities and so lack city services such as water, sewage removal, and electricity.

The University of Manitoba has conducted an extensive research on favelas, and details the problems their inhabitants face: "real and perceived powerlessness, conflicting interests, lack of resources and facilities, social malaise (hunger, poverty, discrimination, illicit drugs and substance abuse, and prostitution), illiteracy, lack of land tenure or security, and lack of political will." By most standards, life in a favela is grim. Yet favela inhabitants have something that the poor and destitute in other countries may not: roofs over their heads.

Favelas provide housing — albeit of poor quality — on a mass scale. And in time, as their populations swell and their self-regulated and self-constructed infrastructure becomes more sophisticated, they may gain legitimacy with authorities. Rochina, one of the largest favelas surrounding Rio de Janeiro, has a population over one million and even has a designated bus stop.

On the other side of the planet, Japan's homeless problem is quite different. Whereas Brazil has a huge,

ever-expanding homeless population that began establishing favelas roughly 100 years ago, Japan, a very wealthy nation, has a small and relatively new homeless population. And while Brazil's homeless people may find solidarity in their shared poverty, Japan's homeless population exists in a relative vacuum of social networks or community support.

At the end of January the BBC reported that the Osaka Municipal Government removed homeless people from two city parks in preparation for the World Rose Convention. More than 750 city employees and 350 police were told to remove 18 tents erected by the homeless. (The Osaka Bar Association ruled that the evictions will be considered illegal if the authorities do not adequately re-house people; so far, officials have only recommended that people find shelters.) This is not the first time the country has engaged in homeless sweeps, and the precarious position of homeless people in Japanese society has not allowed the growth of communities such as Brazil's favelas.

While some favelas such as Rochina have evolved into functioning communities able to demand government services, Japan's homeless lack power. "The government's slow response to the problem has been caused in part by the fact that the homeless in Japan are so unobtrusive," reported the *Washington Post* in 2000.

On the other hand, Japan's homeless population, unlike the typical favela population, seems less plagued by violence, disease, and other social ills. The BBC reported that homeless in Osaka are likely to live in "neat, well-kept" tents, and the *Post* noted that, in contrast to the uneducated peasants who often populate favelas, "a large proportion of the homeless in Japan had steady jobs and stable lives until their companies went bankrupt or they were put out of work."

The experiences of Japan and Brazil prompt questions. First, is it better for homeless people to establish permanent homes, no matter how squalid, and communities, no matter how violent, than to be totally homeless and without any support network that resembles a residential community? Second, should an effective national homelessness strategy fall at either of the poles of care represented by Brazil and Japan, or somewhere in the middle? The United States, like Japan, is a wealthy nation, but like Brazil possesses a large, growing homeless population. What model should the United States follow?

The next article in the series seeks to answer this last question by examining experimental communities for homeless people in the United States where approaches pioneered internationally are being used to help people leave the streets.

River

We are a rootless tribe
each day is a journey of the mind
to make Foggy Bottom far away
and drift to a cooler climate
now known only in memory.

We wander along Parisian alleys
and climb the ramparts of great
cathedrals
and swim up clear streams
like salmon searching for a home.
The stubborn mind insists
home is not the cracked pavement
which is our bed.
Home is a bubbling spring
on some distant mountain,
the source of a stream
rushing angrily over smooth stones,
then poured into a raging river,
then feeding the endless sea.

Foggy Bottom is just a way station,
a spot to stop and rest,
until we surge along our river
that builds canyons and cool green
valleys
on its way
to the restless sea.

-- David Harris

Feel As I Do

If you were to walk in my shoes,
would you continue to walk by with a judgmental sigh?
If you were to look through my eyes,
Would you still look with such contempt without a smile?
If you were to breath with my nose,
Would you take the time to talk to me and see what I know?
If you were to feel with my skin,
Would you see that my situation is not a sin?
All of these questions are not facts, nor written in stone.
They are just how I feel, and a lot of times I feel alone.
On the other side there are those who do stop in their busy day as
they go about.
These are the ones who give me faith.
So I know that what I do is not a waste.
They stop and listen with great concern, not only that they are
willing to learn.

-- Bryan Morris

Average

When confronted by the homeless
Do you think what can I do?
I'm only just one person
And an average person, too.
But you would be amazed
At what an average man can do --
In America, average means that
You've been very blessed;
You can be an answered prayer
To someone who has less.
You can be the light
In a dark and lonely place;
You can put a smile
On a sad and frightened face.
You can be a friend
To one who may have none;
See all that you can do
And we're not even done!
You can be an angel
To someone who's in pain --
And then for just one dollar
You can do it all again.
You don't have to be a president, an
athlete, or a star
You can be amazing just being
who you are.

-- Michelle McCullough

Gentrification

I want to save
Sparrows from falling
Out of the blue and morning sky
Want to deprave
Sprawling endeavors
From swallowing the heavens dry

Yet oft I see
Strays arrows piercing
The single nest left on this tree
See homeless birds
Hide in worn feathers
Godly garments soiled gracelessly

The hawk corrupts
Innocent cloud-scapes
Its claws sank in birds it has bled
It recalls not
Why wing nor wind song
Its eyes and ears
Blind, deaf and dead

And now I fear
That in the future
Only raptors will freely roam
Twitter shall pall
And only echoes
Will kiss the walls of our straw homes

-- George Rivera

Serving King

Over 1,000 D.C. residents celebrated Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday by helping the homeless at McKinley Tech High School.

Photographs by Oliver Uberti
VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHER

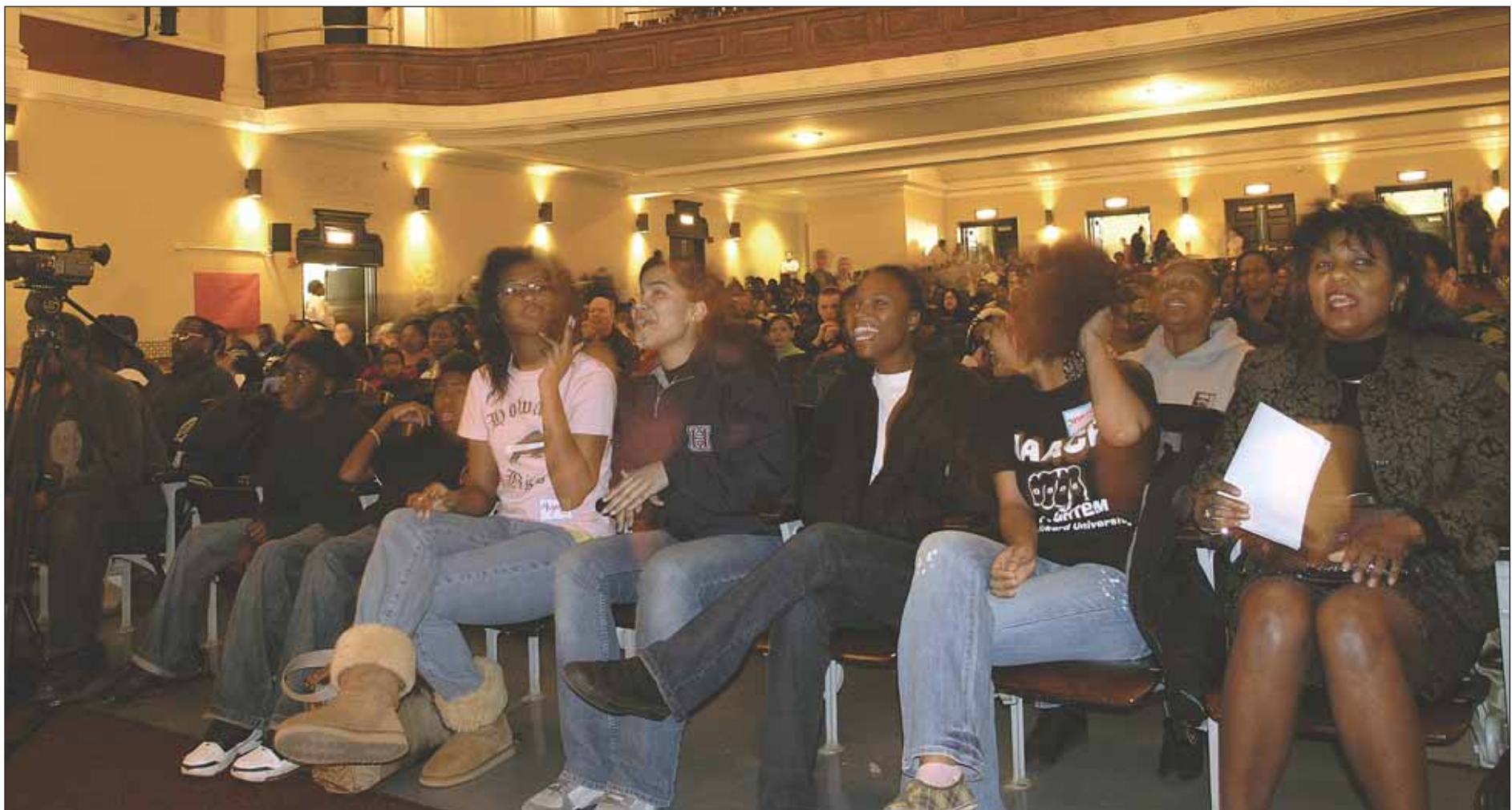


Did Steven Johnson (left) expect a free haircut at National Service Day? "No, I didn't. I just wanted to celebrate Dr. King's birthday. I appreciate it though." Over 70 free haircuts and 60 manicures were provided to the homeless, courtesy of Mary Kay Cosmetics and students like Steven Griffin (pictured) of Bennett Career Institute.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character," said Dr. King in 1963. His words live on as teenagers, black and white, teamed to paint them upon three murals in his honor. Jennifer Schooling, of California, refills paint cups for the painters (middle). She was one of hundreds of Americorps-NCCC volunteers that helped plan and facilitate the day.

Volunteers also made bag lunches for the homeless to take with them (bottom) along with toiletry kits donated by CVS, McDonald's and Best Buy, Inc.

Throughout the day, advice on continuing education, professional development, financial independence, and even fashion, were provided. "A lot of surprises here today," said clean-cut Mr. Johnson.



"M-L-K, All the Way! M-L-K, Service Day!" cheers the crowd at the day's opening ceremony. President Clinton made MLK's birthday a national day of service in 1994, 26 years after King's assassination. The day's speakers included: Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael O. Leavitt; WHUR 96.3 DJ Chrystal Holmes; motivational drummer Mark Tabron; David Eisner, CEO, Corporation for National and Community Service; and Charles L. Davenport, Jr. NCCC regional director.

Book Review

A New Look at "The Other America" -- Does the US Have to Be "Shamed" Again?

With poverty still sadly present in Washington and other major cities and with little or nothing being done about it, it seemed appropriate to the editors of Street Sense that a new look be given to *The Other America*, a landmark book about forgotten Americans.

In the 1960s, when this book about the poor was being widely read in the White House as well as by the general public, the thinking was "this could change everything."

It was erudite, to be sure, but also passionate and laced with enough case studies to come alive. It was read closely by President John F. Kennedy and his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, as well as Congress.

The book, *The Other America, Poverty in the United States*, by Michael Harrington, laid the groundwork for the presidents' "War on Poverty" and in the ensuing years was the genesis for programs such as Head Start, Medicare and Medicaid, and education progress, as well as new initiatives in housing and programs for the aged.

In the book, which went through several printings, Harrington wrote that the facts represented an "unconscionable amount of human suffering in this land." He added, "until these facts shame us, the other America will continue to exist, a monstrous example of needless suffering in the most advanced society in the world."

Well, many observers of American life will say the country has not yet been shamed, and maybe a new the "other America" is needed.

Harrington, a social activist with roots in Dorothy Day's Catholic Worker movement, opened by noting there was a familiar America of wealth and suburbs, where problems were not a matter of food, shelter and clothing, but rather, "a question of learning to live decently amid luxury."

He added, "while this discussion was carried on, there existed another America. In it dwelt somewhere between 40,000,000 and 50,000,000 citizens of this land. They were poor. They still are."

Harrington's book resonated because for the first time it put into focus a disturbing phenomenon in America -- an affluent country with millions of poor existing out-of-sight to most.

These hidden poor were isolated in shelters or in rural areas, they were children and families, they were the mentally and physically disabled, they were alcoholic, they were school dropouts, they were migrant workers, they were drug addicts.

Harrington explained that these were the people missed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and the big trade unions. The New Deal, through such programs as unemployment compensation, helped to forge a safety net. But, he said, the net caught the middle class and not the underclass.

This other America had no advocate and therefore, no lobby in Washington. They had no jobs and, so, they had no union to look after their interests.

Well, the picture today is improved, but not by much. Most of what Harrington described is still with us.

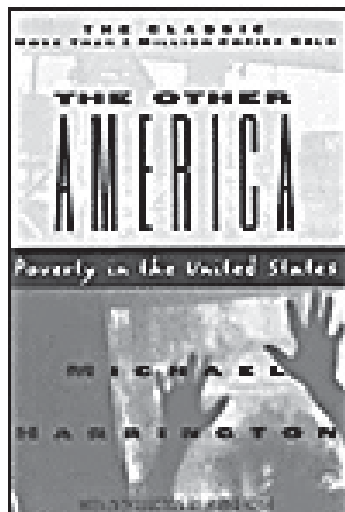
There a bit fewer poor today than in the 1960s, but any student of poverty will say that there are still nearly 40 million in poverty. They will also tell you that not much is being done to reduce this figure. There is the rise in outsourcing, layoffs all over the country, an increasing number of vulnerable aged people, and the inevitable lines of the unemployed in front of paint stores or fast-food outlets hoping for a contractor's truck and a job for a day.

Also, the lines continue for beds at homeless shelters. At the same time, social benefits for the needy are being reduced and gap between the rich and poor is widening.

After citing the dismal statistics of the American poor, Harrington wrote in his concluding chapter:

"After one reads the facts, either there are anger and shame, or there are not. And, as usual, the fate of the poor hangs upon the decision of the better-off. If this anger and shame are not forthcoming, someone can write a book about the other America a generation from now and it will be the same, or worse."

-- Robert Trautman



My Turn At the Table

Discriminating Restaurant Reviews From Street Sense Vendors

On a splendid, sunny January afternoon, I had the good fortune of being chosen to write this month's restaurant review. The venue: La Villa Restaurant at 1317 14th St., N.W.

Upon arrival, I was greeted by the manager. I introduced myself, explained my intentions, and began the business of eating and evaluating the cuisine. The restaurant had just opened for the day, and the manager was the only one there. But he was as friendly as can be and served us himself.

First things first -- the appetizers.

Along with the expected nachos and salsa, I ordered shrimp sautéed in garlic-butter sauce and a home-style vegetable beef soup. Within 15 minutes, the appetizers arrived, and I placed my main course order: Parrillada al carbon -- a combination of steak, chicken breast, shrimp, and vegetables, all grilled and served on a sizzling iron skillet. As the main course arrived, I was still working on the appetizers, which were delicious and definitely worth finishing. The shrimp was perfectly cooked and melted in my mouth.

I moved on to the main course, which was accompanied by a fresh salad, and

simply could not stop eating. All of the meat and even the vegetables were grilled just right. The manager offered me a vegetarian enchilada option, which was excellent as well. The whole experience was pleasant from start to finish.

For dessert, I had a chocolate cake with strawberries on the side, and it was good. It was so great it made me think of love.

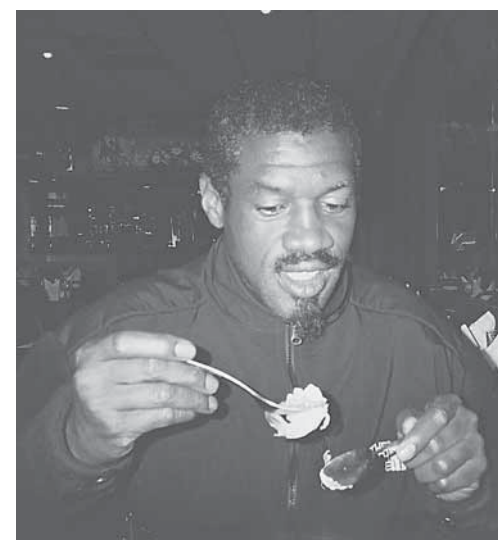
As far as pricing goes, the fare at this restaurant is very economical, considering how expensive it is to eat great food in a clean environment here in D.C.

An average encounter for two people with dessert included would probably run around \$50. So if you're hungry for some great food in a comfortable place with pleasant views, consider La Villa Restaurant.

Also, its owners run another Salvadoran and Mexican restaurant and catering service: Las Placitas Restaurant at 517 8th St., S.E.

-- Jake Ashford

Jake has been a vendor for Street Sense since July 2004. Since selling the paper he has moved off the streets into a place of his own and has given up panhandling forever.



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Cooks
Corner

Tuna Pasta Salad

Ingredients

- 2 c. penne pasta
- 3 c. canned tuna
- ½ c. chopped tomatoes
- ½ c. chopped celery
- ½ c. chopped onions
- ½ c. chopped or whole capers
- Cayenne pepper and salt to taste
- ½ c. shredded carrots
- Paprika

Preparation

- Cook pasta as instructed and let cool
- Toss tomatoes, celery, onions, and capers together in large bowl
- Add tuna and pasta to vegetables and mix well
- Add Cayenne pepper and salt to taste
- Top with carrots and paprika
- Refrigerate well until ready to serve



This recipe was created and prepared by Jeanette Tuck, a student of Community Family Life Services culinary arts training program and the winner of this month's recipe contest.

The theme secret ingredient this month was penne pasta and the runner-up was Miguel Smith with pasta in a pesto cream sauce.

Most of these students are low-income individuals, and many work for New Course Catering, an affiliate of CFLS.

New Course caters all events from corporate lunches to weddings to 500-person galas. For more info visit www.newcoursecatering.com or call (202) 347-7035.

Marvin Hammerman: Book 3, Part 2

As District Attorney Marvin Hammerman and Detective Mike Hoffman wrap up their case involving Louis Henley, Hoffman must now perform some dreaded paperwork that will no doubt go straight into the cold-case file. He will also have to contact the NYPD about Henley to give them the news.

Hammerman gets a call from Anna Jackson.

"Marvin, this is Anna."

"Yes, Anna?" he answers.

"Well, it looks like there's no rest for the weary," she says.

"I just got a call from Atlanta. It seems as though there is some connection between you and one of the clients at D. Morgan Slater LLC. It's a person by the name of William Joseph Biddle, and he goes by Billy Joe Biddle. Does that name ring a bell?"

"You know, Anna, I will have to go back into my database and look that person up," Hammerman replies. "I had a lot of cases before you joined the firm, and it seems that these cases are popping up again. I am pretty much done here with this matter on Henley. It's in the hands of the county coroner now. We have done all that we can do. How is Walter Lacey, by the way?"

"He's doing well now and should be up and around again in several days," Anna says.

"That's good to hear. Now then, about this Biddle person — what

exactly is the situation?"

"Can you meet me back at Mercy Hospital so I can give you all the details?"

"Sure, I will be there shortly," Hammerman answers.

Meanwhile, down in Atlanta, receptionist Patricia Ramsey and her boss, attorney Whitman Jordan, examine the belongings of Billy Joe Biddle. They find some interesting items. As they look through Biddle's things, Biddle himself is a drunken wreck. He tries to sleep under a tree but is awakened by the heavy vehicle traffic along Ponce de Leon Avenue.

Biddle looks around and feels very hungry. He remembers a soup kitchen down

the street called the Open Community. The group has just finished lunch when he arrives, but the staff members give him about six sandwiches and a cold soda to take with him.

As Biddle nibbles on the sandwiches, he begins to have flashbacks of his life. He remembers how he went through high school and graduated. Then, it was on to business school and later training as a truck driver handling the big rigs. He recalls marrying his high-school sweetheart and having two beautiful children. Soon afterward, he opened a large distribution business that thrived and prospered.

Business went well for 12 years

straight, until one day he disputed with clients over merchandise. His employees also began stealing from him, and then his suppliers sued him for failing to make payments on time. The Internal Revenue Service closed him down when it was discovered that his employees were dealing drugs and gambling.

As a result of all of this, Biddle got into many physical confrontations with his former employees. Things got so bad that he began to have fights with his wife, and she and their children left him. He lost his business license, too.

As Biddle remembers all of this, he chokes back tears. He is a broken-down man, a severe alcoholic and a chronic drug user now. He has served time in prison for the murder of one of his former employees.

Biddle walks toward the suburb of Decatur, Ga. He takes a shortcut through an alleyway and is never seen again.

The phone rings at D. Morgan Slater LLC, and Patricia Ramsey answers.

"This is Patricia Ramsey. May I help you?"

"Yes, this is Marvin Hammerman. I understand your firm has been trying to reach me. I would like to set a day and time for us to meet."

This is the second chapter of the third book about District Attorney Marvin Hammerman. As this new case moves forward, Hammerman will once again seek the services of private eye Russell Jamison.

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As previously seen in Street Sense -- a useful and unique new cell phone recharger from Street Sense vendor Conrad Cheek, Jr.

Leo's Fill-In Game

Created by Vendor Leo Gnawa

Fill in the blank spaces in the grid so that every vertical column, horizontal row and every 3X3 box contains the name of each of the nine planets in the solar system.

Leo, who has been a vendor for a year, put this puzzle together at the last minute but promises that it will be challenging and interesting, even though it was created in record time.

Last Month's Solutions

Ma	N	U	S	E	V	J	Me	P
Me	E	J	P	Ma	N	S	U	V
P	S	V	U	Me	J	N	M	E
N	Ma	Me	V	P	S	U	E	J
S	J	E	Ma	U	Me	V	P	N
U	V	P	J	N	E	Ma	S	Me
V	P	Ma	Me	J	U	E	N	S
J	Me	N	E	S	Ma	P	V	U
E	U	S	N	V	P	Me	J	MA

Street Sense CRYPTOGRAM

Solve the message below to discover a famous, meaningful quote on poverty and homelessness.

CDW TYG QXCD Y CNNCDYSW
 CDXGVB WFWLENGW DYJJE
 QDNBW CWWCD YLW BNOGA; CDW
 JNFWLCE-BCLXSVWG TYG TYVWB
 CDW BYTW TXBCYVW YHNOC CDW
 LXSD TYG.

-- IWNLIW HWLGYLA BDYQ

Hint: T=M

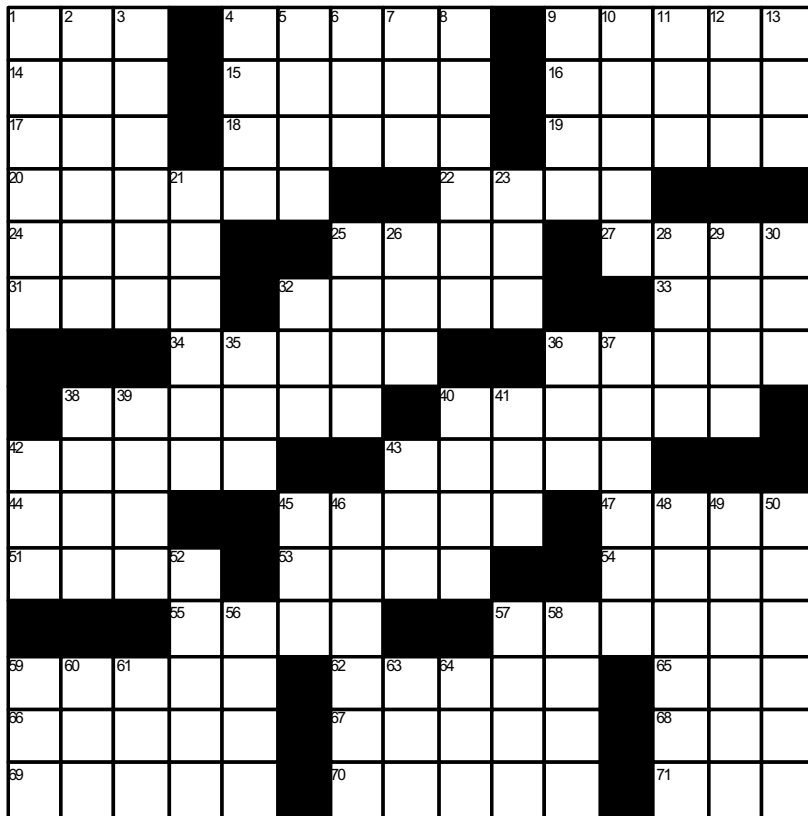
Last Month's Solution:

"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty." -- Mother Teresa

Neptune		Mars	Saturn		Mercury		Pluto	
Venus	Mercury				Neptune	Mars		Saturn
		Earth		Mars	Uranus	Jupiter		Neptune
						Saturn	Venus	
Jupiter	Mars		Jupiter	Mercury	Pluto		Uranus	Earth
Pluto	Uranus	Neptune	Earth		Venus		Mars	Jupiter
Uranu	Earth		Mars	Neptune		Venus		
Mercury		Venus		Pluto	Jupiter	Earth		
Mars	Neptune		Mercury		Earth			

CROSSWORD:

FEBRUARY ISSUE



ACROSS

- 1 Loose gown worn at mass
- 4 Dispatches
- 9 Bright
- 14 Director (abbr.)
- 15 Implied
- 16 Part of garlic
- 17 Single
- 18 "The ___ America"
- 19 Smelled
- 20 Begins again
- 22 Admire
- 24 Zilch
- 25 Prayer ending
- 27 Cafe
- 31 Louvre
- 32 Having wings
- 33 Kitten's cry
- 34 Devour (2 wds.)
- 36 Rhinoceros' nickname
- 38 New York borough
- 40 Spend
- 42 Most corrupt
- 43 Quench
- 44 Pace
- 45 Star Trek Dr.
- 47 Smear
- 51 Bird's home
- 53 Ardent
- 54 Volcano
- 55 Cook
- 57 Exact middle
- 59 College field of study
- 62 Restaurant in review

DOWN

- 65 Inquire
- 66 Tight at the top, flaring at the bottom (2 wds.)
- 67 Sign of the zodiac
- 68 Sorbet
- 69 Coins
- 70 Ridge
- 71 Neither's partner
- 1 Decorates
- 2 Opp. of cubic
- 3 "Day in the Life Vendor"
- 4 Pack
- 5 Dines
- 6 Sponsor of Hate Crimes report
- 7 Demise
- 8 ___ Sense
- 9 Shelter looking for new case management
- 10 Architect Frank ___ Wright
- 11 Goddess
- 12 Avenue
- 13 Crimson
- 21 Diners
- 23 Compass point
- 25 Astringent
- 26 Collaboration of street food services
- 28 Native ruler
- 29 Allow to borrow
- 30 The other half of Jima

- 32 Dined
- 35 Alternative (abbr.)
- 36 Request for Application (abbr)
- 37 Saucy Girl
- 38 Community of ____
- 39 Limbs
- 40 Healing plant
- 41 Aviate
- 42 West by north
- 43 Hovercraft
- 45 ___ Day of Service
- 46 Of the same age
- 48 Reach
- 49 UN cultural branch
- 50 Promoter
- 52 Cut of beef
- 56 Greek god of war
- 57 Horsefly
- 58 Comfort
- 59 Angry
- 60 Boxer Muhammad
- 61 Vendor who likes "roadhouse"
- 63 Anger
- 64 Topper

A	B	S		R	A	D	A	R		E	M	C	E	E										
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January Solutions

WIN A FREE STREET SENSE T-SHIRT!

Complete two of the three puzzles above and mail this page back to Street Sense by Feb. 14 and you will be entered into a drawing to win a free T-shirt. If you win, it will be mailed directly to your home.

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Federal Funding That Really Works

By Tony Porco

Want to hear a secret? Government dollars spent on reducing poverty actually do their job.

Why is this a secret? Because conservatives have spent the last three decades saying nothing the government does is a success.

The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities recently revealed this secret in a report, "What Does the Safety Net Accomplish?" The Center used census data and other statistics to make the case that wisely spent government money can make a difference. Some examples include federal health insurance programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which provide 80 million Americans with health insurance they wouldn't have otherwise.

Another example is the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program, which helps eight million new or soon-to-be mothers and their children get enough to eat. In total, more than three times that many are lifted above the poverty level by one or more of these government programs.

One thing the reports excluded was information about housing programs. Fortunately, this doesn't mean the Center has ignored them. On its website the Center says that just over two million low-income families and individuals currently have Section 8 vouchers, rental assistance for low-income families. Of these two million voucher users, nearly all are families with children, elderly or disabled people.

But are they effective? According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers are "one of the best, most cost-effective tools we have for ending homelessness." The Alliance's web site points to studies showing that once voucher-assisted housing is available to a family, it is unlikely to become homeless again. A family at risk for homelessness is less likely to lose its home as well, thanks to vouchers.

Can you imagine two million more people on the street? Thanks to this program, no one has to.

The program also has benefits above and beyond getting people into homes. The Alliance cites statistics showing that "in New York City, a day of supportive housing costs \$31, compared to a day in jail (\$165), or a psychiatric hospital (\$467)."

There are also fewer children in foster care and more children doing better in school, since frequent moves and homelessness can undermine school performance.

None of this means anyone should be satisfied that the federal government is doing enough to fight homelessness; indeed, the fact that anyone is still homeless should dispel that notion. Because it is not an entitlement, the Section 8 program is always subject to cuts, and the government has in fact cut the program in recent years. There are long waiting lists for this program in many cities; even the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which runs the program, admits that climbing up the waiting lists can take "between several months and several years."

While none of us should be satisfied, evidence that federal government money can help poor people find homes, and better their lot in life, can only bolster the case that government should do more.

Tony Porco is a volunteer with Street Sense and a freelance writer who lives in Laurel, Md.

Day In The Life... Brenda Wilson

In this feature a vendor gets a disposable camera for a day to let readers into the life of selling Street Sense and being homeless.



Me as I start my sales routine near Farragut North.



The room where I spend the night at the John Young Center.



Me with a group of students I spoke to.



A place I like to relax and think outside the John Young Center.



A friendly volunteer that I often visit.



This is a customer with a dog I adore.

We Are Family By Michelle McCullough Let's Bring America's Families Home

As a wife and mother who has struggled with housing issues for almost two years, I have long felt that the plight of homeless families does not receive the attention it deserves.

It is my prayer that this new column gives a voice and offers hope to people who often feel forgotten. This column will offer a variety of information, from policies and programs to individual stories and events.

In this first article, I would like to draw attention to a vulnerable segment of the homeless population—homeless families and children. I believe this group should be number one in our hearts and minds until a realistic and concrete plan is developed to assist them. This is not a problem that can simply be ignored, nor will it just go away. It's only by sharing thoughts and ideas that a solution can be found.

Please keep in mind that a homeless child is the same as any other child. He has the same promise, potential, the same dreams and desires, and the same value and worth as any other. How long can we afford to tell these children, through our inaction, that they are not worth saving?

When dealing with children, we must act with a sense of urgency. Childhood is short, but the scars from homelessness can last forever.

For this reason, families should be our first housing priority. Finding a home is the starting point for solving many of the numerous problems facing these families.

This being said, please allow me to bring to your attention to the "Bringing America Home Act." This bill,

introduced to Congress last November, is meant to help end homelessness with education, money, and services.

This bill covers many issues, but its most important effect would be to create 3.5 million units of affordable housing across the United States in the next 10 years.

This is a huge step towards effectively ending homelessness. The number one cause of homelessness is a lack of affordable housing. Almost half of homeless people work at least one job and still can not afford to pay for housing.

And here's the kicker— not only does the "Bringing America Home Act" contain a plan to create homes for these hard-working Americans, it

also includes a plan to create the National Housing Trust Fund. This will fund the preservation of these newly created units.

I can't begin to understand why we wouldn't want to pass this bill. Please contact your senators and representative, and insist that they support the "Bringing America Home Act."

And please feel free to contact me with questions, comments, or ideas for topics you'd like to see discussed in this new column on homeless families.

To learn more about the "Bringing America Home Act," bill number H.R. 4347, go to www.bringingamericahome.org.

Michelle and her husband David have a son named Matthew and they have been selling Street Sense since September 2005. Contact the McCulloughs at mdmbome@aol.com.



August on the Road Superbowl Edition DETROIT

By August Mallory



As this story began in the city of Detroit, Mich., it was a very cold and miserable Super Bowl weekend in the Motor City. I checked into the King Arms Hotel in downtown Detroit, a not-too-popular place among the public but a very popular place with homeless people.

At \$20 a night, it wasn't bad. At this point I couldn't afford a fancy room at the Detroit Marriott Hotel, so I had to settle for what I could afford.

After I caught some sleep, I ventured out to interview the Motor City's homeless population. Bus transportation is a 24-hour thing in Detroit, but trying to catch a bus on Super Bowl weekend can be nerve-racking.

I was en route to the Detroit Rescue Mission. I don't know how long it took to catch a bus, but it seemed as though every bus was filled to capacity, and it was snowing harder and harder. And then when I finally did catch a bus, it broke down.

So I ended up still facing a walk of several blocks to the mission. But several blocks along Woodward Avenue seemed like several miles. The snow got heavier and the temperature dropped even lower.

I found a bus shelter to stand inside of, hoping another bus would come along. Several did, but again they were all filled. As the night came on and I was still waiting, a homeless woman came along and invited me inside her place to get warm.

At first I wasn't aware that she was homeless. She escorted me to this big house. From the outside the house appeared occupied, but when she opened the door I could see the house was vacant. She was living in the basement of an abandoned house.

To my amazement there was electricity, and there was heat. I guess there was running water as well. But I was too cold to question her on her living situation. I was just grateful to get out of the cold for a while. She made me a cup of hot chocolate and gave me some pajamas and a house robe to put on while my clothes got dry.

She told me the pajamas and the robe had belonged to her late husband, and that they were married several years before he died of cancer. So I was thinking that maybe this house wasn't abandoned and that this was her home, but that for some reason she could afford to keep only a few things going.

We talked for several hours, and I told her about what I do. I am a formerly homeless person myself, and I told her that I was in Detroit to do a story about the homeless population there. After my clothes had dried and I had changed, this lady wrote down a lot of services for me to check out if I ever needed them. I bid her goodbye and said that I would keep her in my thoughts and prayers.

The next day was Super Bowl Sunday. I finally make it to the rescue mission, and what a party they had there. The mission was feeding homeless people from noon until game time. I left at 4 p.m. and headed to Ford Stadium.

As I was talking with a group of homeless men we were approached by two people who actually gave us free tickets to the Super Bowl. I got an up-close view of Pittsburgh taking the championship and watched British rocker Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones perform at halftime.

Detroit is an interesting city. The homeless population is large, although not quite as large as in Washington, D.C.

That's my story from Detroit. Talk to you next month.

August Mallory has been selling Street Sense since its first issue in Nov. 2003, and used to write a column about Baltimore. This is his second column on the road. If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail him at carriergroup2009@yahoo.com. You can also listen to him on "The More Betterman Show" on WOL-AM 1450 the third Friday of each month.

Through A Vendor's Eyes



Be My Valentine

By Donald Brooks

Since this is the first issue after Valentine's Day, I think I should give out some belated Valentine cards. My Valentine cards will be grouped into categories. See which category of card fits your hand. Tina Turner's famous quote (What's love got to do with it?) will fit some better than others.

My first card category is called "Give Love." These cards go out to all my faithful readers, supporters, donors, organizations and people who support *Street Sense*, the homeless, disadvantaged, and other have-nots of our great society. Also to the law enforcement organizations and Metro employees. And lastly to the regular group of individuals who I call the GW's and the MW's, you know who you are (smile).

My second category of cards is called "Shared Love," which consists of individuals who sacrifice their own wealth, health, personal gain, even sometimes their mental health to reach out to improve someone else's well being. They are the dark foot soldiers in the war against homelessness, poverty and any unfair treatment of another human being. These are programs and services such as Deacon Sandra Lesesne (19th Street Baptist Church) and Downtown Services (and their outreach workers). This also includes many church organizations and named and unnamed people who without fame, recognition, perform tasks for those individuals who cannot fully help themselves.

My third and final group of Valentine cards is called "Questionable Love." These cards go out to the individuals, organizations, and the like who have received our love in society and either didn't deserve it or have abused it.

Several of these cards I would like to deliver personally. First, to those who sent our men and women to war without volunteering their own sons or daughters. President Bush, members of Congress, our representatives, pick up your cards

personally.

And I am sorry but Marion Barry, you deserve one also for other apparent reasons.

This group also includes large church organizations such as the United House of Prayer, Shiloh Baptist, Bible Way. All of them are within an eye and an ear shot of the largest shelter in the county, CCNV, but provide no shelter or assistance to the community, and I know personally.

Pastor Betty Peebles, since football season is over perhaps you can be in the papers for something else, like helping feed and clothe the homeless or providing housing assistance. Sounds like a good idea, Huh? Also, perhaps next time you're in DC, Bishop D. Jahesi,

stop by a homeless shelter.

Here is a question to ponder. Have you ever noticed the larger an organization becomes the smaller their commitment to the less fortunate and disadvantaged? Small churches and organizations provide a large bulk of services. Why? Is there more dedication or love in smaller organizations? You decide. Maybe organizations should stay small.

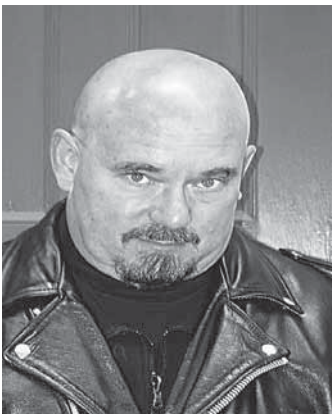
My largest and greatest Valentine goes out to Mrs. Coretta King and family for the sacrifice, love, commitment, dedication she and her family have provided for decades. God bless her lovely soul and may she find peace and rest, now and forever more.

Also I would like to say I am saddened that I will not hear Wilson Pickett sing "Mustang Sally" any more.

Well until my next insight into our ever changing society -- lower the cell phones, the blackberries, the newspapers and books, and raise your consciousness to the people and the world you try to hide from.

Donald Brooks is a longtime vendor for Street Sense, and a member of the steering committee. If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail him at DLBrooks54@hotmail.com.

Have you ever noticed the larger an organization becomes the smaller their commitment to the less fortunate and disadvantaged?



Maurice Speaks: Request for Applications

providers learned the proposed budget for the operation of a case management structure within the Federal City Shelter, their reaction was anything but positive, as the amount – about \$500,000 – was insufficient to operate realistically a case management system for more than 700 residents.

Soon after the release of the RFA, dawn began to break. The criticism that had been leveled against CCNV for not offering case management began to seem unjustified since CCNV had been asked to operate without even the shoestring budget offered to the providers responding to the RFA.

The comment that CCNV does not offer case management to its residents is not totally justified, as CCNV does offer a skeletal case management program to its residents with the minimal resources that it has. However, as the saying goes, it's impossible to get blood from a turnip. A real case management system requires a budget, and CCNV has not been given that budget for years. The criticism that is leveled might be justified if the money was streaming in and not being used for the intended purpose, but that is not the case.

In regards to having an outside agency working to provide the necessary case management within CCNV, that idea is not new but would be welcomed by CCNV, provided that the budget is there to support it. Again, the argument reverts back to the question of whether

the budget will be available to sustain the effort. If the budget is available, then CCNV will have its case management system as required and the problem will be resolved.

What is more of a problem is the basic assumption made by the Community Partnership that the management of CCNV is incapable of managing its own affairs on any level, which I understand was the reason for the RFA. Nobody can dispute this implication. The fact that all of the other providers residing in the Federal City Shelter building, with the sole exception of CCNV, were issued the RFA was a clear statement to that effect.

CCNV is tendering its own application for a good reason: no matter what size the “pot of gold” that sits at the end of the rainbow, CCNV cares enough about the future to assume responsibility for its own management and services. That clearly cannot be said about the other providers who have already indicated their disdain because the money was not to their liking.

In the end, it boils down to caring. For the other providers, it's an enterprise. For CCNV, it's a home for the homeless. There seems to be little room for further discussion.

Maurice King lives at the CCNV shelter. He has been writing editorials for two years and is in the process of publishing a book. You can e-mail him at benadam@cyberdude.com.

In December the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness issued a Request for Applications (RFA) to the providers of homeless services to essentially assume control of the Federal City Shelter. Noticeably, the Community Partnership omitted the Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV) from the list of providers to whom the RFA was issued. The omission could hardly have been unintentional, as CCNV is the largest entity residing in the Federal City Shelter building.

So I ask, what message was the Community Partnership trying to convey in such an act?

A closer look at the Request for Applications reveals that it is based heavily on the Mayor's Homeless No More plan, which discusses the long term possibility of closing the dilapidated Federal City Shelter. But until that day comes, the Community Partnership wants better management in the interim.

Apparently somewhere along the line, ideas about the RFA mutated. When the

Wake Up America

By Al Szekeley

Forty-five homeless people died last year--15 of them women.

And if you don't wake up, more will be added to the memorial list of homeless people dead.

In the last issue of Street Sense, I was appalled at the numbers within the ranks of homeless who will never wake up again, many due to weather conditions we cannot control. But we CAN control our hearts and not be so cold-hearted and complacent. In his land of plenty, so many have so little or nothing at all.

All of us want a warm place in winter and a cool place in summer, and there should be no hypothermia guidelines or limits. At 45 degrees, a 15 mph wind can chill one to the bone, and at 50 degrees, a 10 mph wind on a wet day can cause the same damage to our health. These facts not only chill my heart (because these limits exist), it can and sometimes does chill susceptible people permanently, even to death or serious illnesses like pneumonia, etc.

So come on, America. Wake up to the facts of life--and death. Please don't ask or tell a homeless person to “Move On” if they are just sitting quietly and not bothering anyone. Let them be, or, better yet, offer them something warm to drink or something warm to wear. You could save a life.

Lastly, I would like to address the Metro police: Have a heart--let us get warm or dry under subway or bus shelters for a while. We mean no harm. We just need warmth from shelter we find there and from Metro employees' hearts as well. Don't let it be known that Metro opens doors to illness and death when it shuts the door and puts us out in the cold.

Al has been with Street Sense since September. He frequently writes editorials and poetry.

What Our Readers Are Saying...

Below is a letter about our longtime vendor Phillip Howard

Last night, I bought one of your papers from a very nice gentleman I have seen a couple times at the corner of Connecticut and Dupont Circle in front of Sun Trust Bank. I am afraid I did not get his name, but I hope he continues his efforts.

I want to applaud you for your work and for raising awareness; thank you for helping people from all walks of life stop a moment to look at the issue--and people facing the challenge--a little differently.

Thank you, Timothy Bagley

Below is a letter about vendors Alvin Dixon and Bryan Morris

I was returning from my hockey game last night around 11:15pm, and two girls were parked by my house and having engine troubles. I thought their battery was dead, but as it turned out, it was a loose cable. To make a long story short, Bryan and Alvin stopped by and offered their help, and since the battery was impossible to get to because it was under a metal bar that was held down by rusted bolts, it took probably 90 minutes to 2 hours to get to. Well, Bryan took the lead, and Alvin helped to work on getting the cable reconnected and got the girls' car started.

I was very impressed with how nice they were to help a total stranger, especially when the situation looked pretty bad throughout. I hope the girls rewarded them financially somehow for their help, but I also wanted them to get recognized for their efforts.

Regards, Paul



The beauty of concrete and glass as seen through the eyes of vendor and amateur photographer Cliff Carle.

Events and Announcements

Homeless Empowerment Project

Who: National Coalition for the Homeless

When: Saturdays at 11 am

Where: Church of the Pilgrims, 2201 P Street, NW Washington, DC

What: The Homeless Empowerment Project uses the voices and faces of those who have experienced homelessness to dispel stereotypes, personalize homelessness and inspire involvement through volunteerism and advocacy. It also serves as a training, skill-building and empowerment tool for those who have experienced homelessness.

Issues Forum: Homelessness

Saturday, February 18th, 2006 at 11:00am

Discuss the issues concerning the homeless in D.C., moderated by Michael O'Neill, Director, Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau.

"Stop Hate" Discussion on Hate Crimes

Saturday, March 11th, 2006 at 11:00am.

Come learn about the recently released Hate Crimes report along with presenter Michael Stoops, Acting Executive Director, National Coalition for the Homeless.

"Lobbying 101" H.R. 4347 Bringing America Home Act

Saturday, March 25th, 2006 at 11:00am

Learn about how you can advocate on your behalf and for HR 4347 Bringing America Home Act, the most comprehensive bill to end homelessness. Sponsored by Julia Carson (D-IN). Presenters include Kirsten Peterson and Ann Marissa Ambacher, Policy Analysts, National Coalition for the Homeless.

For more info contact Michael O'Neill, Director, Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau at 202-462-4822 x20 or moneill@nationalhomeless.org.

Project Northstar Needs Tutors

Project Northstar is in search of adults who can volunteer one night a week to help tutor school-age children. The organization is now accepting applications. Project Northstar also needs help with the committees that plan special events and assess the progress of our students.

Project Northstar provides a one-on-one tutoring program that matches children with their own adult tutor. It serves more than 200 children who are homeless, living in foster care, public housing or underserved communities. The organization has six tutoring sites throughout the D.C. area, but it needs the most help at the following sites:

Thursdays, 6:15 – 8:00 p.m., Independence Place, 2800 N Street, SE

Tuesdays, 6:15 – 8:00 p.m., Salvation Army Center, 3335 Sherman Avenue, NW

THURSDAYS, 6:45 – 8:30 P.M., AMERICORPS HEADQUARTERS @ DC VILLAGE, 2 DC Village Lane, SW

Please visit www.projectnorthstar.org for more information and to download a tutor application.

Street Sense Wish List

As our organization grows and expands so do our needs. Below is a list of office supplies and items for vendors that we are looking to acquire in the next month. If you have anything to donate, please call 202-347-2006 or e-mail info@streetsense.org or simply bring the item(s) by our office, 1317 G Street, NW (located in the Church of the Epiphany near Metro Center.)

- Digital Camera (3.2 megapixels or more)
- Basic PC Laptop (with at least Windows 2000, CD drive, Ethernet port.)
- Two or three drawer locking metal filing cabinet that locks
- Tall basic bookcase
- Small table
- Canvas or nylon bags (messenger, over the shoulder or backpacks)
- Warm socks

Vendor Notes

Cliff Carle, a vendor for six months, has become the unofficial house photographer for Street Sense. After purchasing a digital camera last month, he has been busy taking photos all through the city, particularly of buildings. "This city of concrete has so many wonderful landscapes," he said. Cliff is also taking pictures of street scenes and of customers, and will soon have a regular photo essay feature in the paper, based on different themes and neighborhoods. If you have any suggestions for themes, please e-mail info@streetsense.org.



Self portrait of vendor photographer Cliff Carle.

Metro Center fixture **Donald Brooks** took part in a poverty forum Saturday Feb. 11 sponsored by the Congressional Black Associates. We are pleased to report that he did a wonderful job representing the organization and participating in a thoughtful dialogue about poverty and homelessness.

Two-year Street Sense veteran **Jake Ashford** would like to thank **La Villa** restaurant and its manager **Hilberto** for their wonderful hospitality during his restaurant review, and more importantly the free meal. Jake said that he talked to Hilberto and explained Street Sense and what he was doing and the manager was so thrilled that he gave Jake and his guest, board member and senior editor **Ted Henson** a free meal.

If you are restaurant owner or manager and want to donate a free meal and be reviewed in Street Sense, please contact Laura Thompson Osuri at 202-347-2006 or laura@streetsense.org.



Jake and the manager of La Villa Restaurant on 14th Street smile after a fine meal.

And vendors **David and Michelle McCollough** really do have proof of their encounter with famous weathermen that was documented in last month's issues. Below are their pictures taken in January with **Al Roker** and **Willard Scott**.



David and Michelle McCollough pose for a picture on the National Mall with Al Roker and Willard Scott.

Lastly, many of our vendors are in need of a place of their own to stay. If you have a **room or a small apartment** that you could rent for a reasonable rate, please call or e-mail Laura Thompson Osuri at the contact information above.

**Shelter/Hypothermia Hotline
1-800-535-7252**

SHELTERS

Calvary Women's Services
928 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 783-6651

Central Union Mission (Men)
1350 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 745-7118

CCNV
425 Mitch Snyder Place, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 393-1909

Community of Hope (Family)
1413 Girard Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 232-7356

Dorothy Day Catholic Worker (Family)
503 Rock Creek Church Road, NW
Washington, DC 20010
(202) 882-9649

Franklin School (Men)
13th and K streets, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 638-7424

Gospel Rescue Ministries (Men)
810 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 842-1731

House of Imogene Shelter
214 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 518-8488

House of Ruth: Madison Emergency
Shelter (Women)
651 10th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 547-2600

John Young Center (Women)
117 D Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-8469

La Casa Bilingual Shelter (Men)
1436 Irving Street
Washington, DC 20010
(202) 673-3592

N Street Village (Women)
1333 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 939-2060

New Endeavors by Women
611 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 682-5825

New York Ave Shelter (Men)
1355-57 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 832-2359

Open Door Shelter (Women)
425 Mitch Snyder Place, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-8093

SOUP KITCHENS

The Welcome Table
Church of the Epiphany
1317 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 347-2635

10th Street Baptist Church
1000 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-232-1685

Charlie's Place
1830 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 232-3066

Church of the Pilgrims
2201 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 387-6612

Dinner Program for Homeless Women
945 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 737-9311

Eofula-Spanish Senior Center
1842 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 483-5800

McKenna's Wagon
2114 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-6608

Miriam's Kitchen
2401 Virginia Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 452-8926

So Others Might Eat (SOME)
71 "O" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 797-8806

Washington City Church of the Brethren
337 North Carolina Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 547-5924

Zacchaeus Community Kitchen
("9:30 Club")
10th and G Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 393-9144

EMERGENCY FOOD

Bread for the City
1525 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 265-2400
AND
1640 Good Hope Road, SE
Washington, DC 20020
(202) 561-8587

Covenant House of Washington
3400 Martin Luther Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20032
(202) 610-9630

Father McKenna Center
19 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 842-1112

Food and Friends
219 Riggs Road, NE
Washington, DC 20011
(202) 269-2277

MEDICAL RESOURCES

Christ House
1717 Columbia Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-1100

Community of Hope (Health Services)
2250 Champlain Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 232-9022

Unity Health Care, Inc.
3020 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 745-4300

Whitman-Walker Clinic
1407 S Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 797-3500

OUTREACH CENTERS

Bethany Women's Center
1333 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 939-2060

Georgetown Ministry Center
1041 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 338-8301

Martha's Table
2114 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-6608

Rachel's Women's Center
1222 11th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 682-1005

Sasha Bruce Youth Work
741 8th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 675-9340

Friendship House
619 D Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 675-9050

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Byte Back
815 Monroe Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
(202) 529-3395

Capital Area Food Bank
645 Taylor Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
(202) 526-5344 x223

Catholic Charities Homeless Services of
Washington, DC
924 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 772-4300

Catholic Charities Emergency Center
1438 Rhode Island Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20018
(202) 526-4100

Coalition for the Homeless
1234 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 347-8870

Community Partnership for the
Prevention of Homelessness
801 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 543-5298

Downtown Services Center
945 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 393-5400

Catholic Charities NE Community
Services
1438 Rhode Island Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20018
(202) 526-4100

Community Family Life Services
305 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 347-0511

Hermano Pedro Center
1501 Park Road, NW
Washington, DC 20010
(202) 332-2874

JHP, Inc. (Jobs and Housing)
1526 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 544-5300

Jubilee Jobs
1640 Columbia Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 667-8970

Travellers Aid
Union Station (train level)
50 Mass. Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 724-3932

Virginia Williams Family Resource Center
25 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 724-3932

Washington Legal Clinic for the
Homeless
1200 U Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-5500

****Bumper Stickers****

Now On Sale: \$1

Pick up a bumper sticker from any vendor today to support Street Sense.

Not only do they look great on bumpers but also on books, bulletin boards, bags, bikes and much, much more.



FAST FACT :

Approximately 15% of the homeless people in the District are severely mentally ill, according to a point-in-time survey taken in 2005.

*Source: The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness.
www.community-partnership.com*

Fill out the form on page 2 to become a subscriber

Street Sense
1317 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005



Mail To:

Vendor Profile

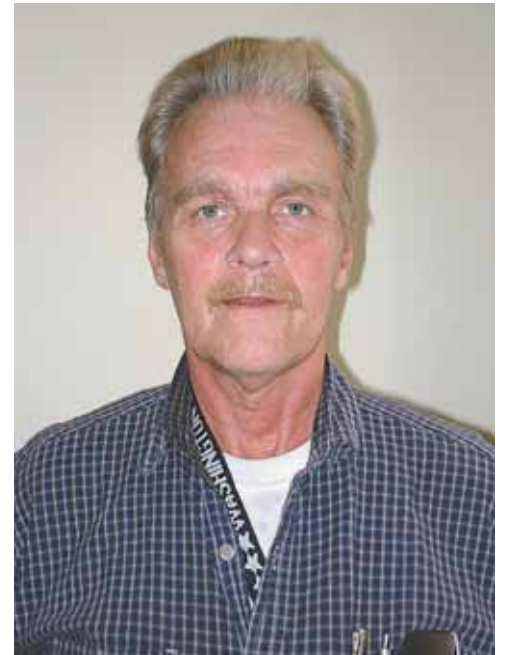
Jim Chisholm

Jim, 55, was born in Richmond, Va., and grew up there as the youngest of seven kids.

After getting his G.E.D. in Richmond, Jim lived all over the country, from Sarasota, Fl., to Chicago, Il., from Denton, Tx., to Lynchburg, Va. During his travels, he worked several different laborer jobs and had his own remodeling and subcontracting business.

Jim came to the Washington D.C. area three years ago to visit his sister. He ended up staying after a friend got him a job as the night security watchman at a used car lot in exchange for housing in a building on the lot.

He now lives at the CCNV shelter and has been selling Street Sense for seven months. Jim said that he is now focusing on expanding his spirituality and relationship with God.



How did you become homeless?

After my friend sold the car lot, the new owner wanted me to stay in the building to watch the building. So I did that for about a year. But then the property sold again and the new owner wanted me out. So that's how I ended up at 2nd and D streets.

Why do you sell Street Sense?

I like the freedom to move around and work when I want to. And this work fits in with my health problems. I am also glad to be affiliated with a paper that no one has anything bad to say about.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

With my health problems taken care of and living a normal life. I would also like to have my own place and earn a good salary, though I would still like to be involved with the paper at a different level.

What advice would you give someone who is homeless?

Never give up. And whatever problems you have, work them out. Then start rebuilding your life and find something real and stick with it.

Favorite Book?

I used to read a bunch of them. I guess I would say anything by Dean Koontz.

Favorite food?

Steak. Medium rare.

Favorite Movie?

"Roadhouse."

Jim
reminds customers to only buy from badged vendors and not to give to those panhandling with one paper.

Where your dollar goes...



25 cents
For Production

75 cents
To the Vendor