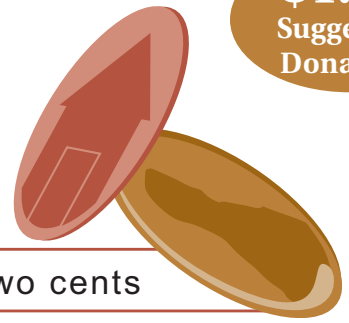


**\$1.00**  
Suggested  
Donation



# Street Sense



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

April 30, 2008 – May 13, 2008 • Volume 5, Issue 13

www.streetsense.org

## Path to Recovery For Drug Addicts Littered With Obstacles in District

Gaps in Treatment, Proximity to Dealers Make It Hard to Seek Help



DAN WILKINSON

27% of the homeless in the District are chronic substance abusers.

By Brittany Aubin

Weaknesses in the addiction treatment system in the District of Columbia are hindering recovery for hundreds of the city's homeless residents, according to a series of interviews conducted by Street Sense with shelter staff, city officials, service providers and homeless residents.

In interview after interview,

Street Sense has found that chronic substance abusers among the homeless face significant impediments to recovery beyond the physical and emotional stresses of addiction. These impediments include a "treatment gap" caused by limited capacity at residential rehabilitation programs, temptation in the form of drug dealers operating in close proximity to overnight shelters and an aggra-

vated desire to abuse drugs due to poor living conditions.

### The Treatment Gap

At a basic level, there are simply too many people seeking entry into rehabilitation programs, according to staff at private service providers So Others Might Eat (SOME) and Gospel Rescue Ministries.

Twenty-seven percent or 1,542 of the District's 5,757 homeless were identified as chronic substance abusers in 2007, according to a "snapshot" of the homeless on a given day in 2007 conducted by city government and released by a regional organization of Washington area governments.

These numbers are consistent with a 2006 United States Conference of Mayors survey that indicated that 26% of the homeless population in 23 cities surveyed was dealing with substance abuse.

Addicts among the homeless population looking to get clean can find themselves competing with the larger population for the limited capacity at residential treatment programs that provide both rehabilitation and housing.

About 60,000 D.C. residents were addicts in 2003, according to the most recent data available from the Department of Health's Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration. Dependency on illicit substances or alcohol in the District is almost twice the national average, according to the

See **Recovery**, page 6

## DC Mayor Pledges \$25M for 700 Units of Affordable Housing

By Brittany Aubin

The District of Columbia will provide \$25 million in local and federal funds to build up to 710 additional affordable housing units throughout the city, including about 100 units for permanent housing for the homeless, D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty announced on April 25.

Most of the units will remain in construction until 2009 or 2010, according to the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development.

The 710 units will not eliminate the problem of affordable housing in the city, said Fenty, but will create "a major dent."

The bulk of the housing will be rental units, with 48 condo and townhouse units available for ownership, according to the Department of Housing and Community Development, the lead agency on the project. The project will include senior housing units, "as well as about 100 units of permanent supportive housing for our homeless neighbors," Fenty said.

"We no longer think it is acceptable to have them living in shelters," he said.

The nonprofit homeless service provider So Others Might Eat (SOME) will create two long-term housing facilities for 99 housing units for the homeless on South Capitol Street and Texas Avenue. SOME already manages similar housing projects throughout the city.

The nonprofit anticipates opening the Texas Avenue facility by January and the South Capitol facility by the following

July, according to the city.

"We've seen good results from them," said Leila Edmonds, director of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The South Capitol property will have 17 units specifically for Department of Mental Health consumers, she noted.

The 100 units for the homeless will not be part of the 480 permanent supportive housing units allocated in the mayor's proposed housing plan released April 2, Edmonds said.

The Department of Housing and Community Development is underwriting the projects, which are split among 11 developers and located throughout Wards 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8. The total requested value is \$35 million.

The projects, however, have different timelines and varying stages of construction, said Edmonds.

Of the rentals, 177 will be open to all low-income households, and 386 units will be reserved for low-income seniors.

The new housing's affordability will vary, with the majority going to residents at the higher end of the poverty scale.

Area median income determines

See **Housing**, page 4

## Inside This Issue

### FROM THE EDITOR Open Doors

Editor Koki Smith explores reactions to our recent coverage on drugs and homelessness, page 14

### NATIONAL Second Chances

A new federal law makes it easier to integrate ex-offenders back into society, page 8

### VIDEO REVIEW Keeping the Promise

Eric Sheptock digs up a 1988 documentary on hellraiser Mitch Snyder and finds it relevant as ever, page 10

### EDITORIAL Entrepreneurs, Not Panhandlers

Jeffery McNeil explains why smart business strategy is key to selling Street Sense, page 13

### PHOTOS Full Court Press

The Washington Legal Clinic takes Congressional staffers to the courts – for a basketball game, page 3

**timulate  
treet  
ense's  
uccess**

*For more info,  
see page 3*

# StreetSense

1317 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: (202) 347-2006  
Fax: (202) 347-2166  
info@streetsense.org  
www.streetsense.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Davis  
Robert Egger  
Ted Henson  
Barbara Kagan  
Brad Scriber  
John Snellgrove  
Michael Stoops  
Francine Triplett  
David Walker  
Kathy Whelpley

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Laura Thompson Osuri

## EDITOR IN CHIEF

Kaukab Jhumra Smith

## VENDOR MANAGER

Rita Renee Brunson

## AD SALES MANAGER

Larie Edwards Jr.

## ASSOCIATE EDITOR

David S. Hammond (*volunteer*)

## INTERNS

Brittany Aubin and Jessica Elliott

## VOLUNTEERS

Matt Allee, Robert Basler, Robert Blair, Jane Cave, Jason Corum, Carolyn Cosmos, Rebecca Curry, Rick Dahnke, Colleen Dolan, Jessica Gaitan, Joshua Gardner, Genevieve Gill, Joanne Goodwin, Carol Hannaford, Justin Herman, Annie Hill, Dan Horner, Aimee Hyzy, Mary Lynn Jones, Maurice King, Geof Koss, Jessica LaGarde, Jeff Lambert, Karin Lee, Brenda K. Lee-Wilson, Claire Markgraf, Mandy McAnally, Sam McCormally, Kent Mitchell, Kim O'Connor, Robert Orifici, Swinitha Osuri, Mara Schechter, Jamie Schuman, Dan Seligson, Kat Shiffler, Jennifer Singleton, Katie Smith, Kathryn Taylor, Matthew Taylor, Robert Trautman, Eugene Versluysen, Linda Wang, Dan Weingarten, Marian Wiseman, Corrine Yu

## VENDORS

Willie Alexander, Michael Anderson, Katrina Angie, Jake Ashford, Lawrence Autry, Tommy Bennett, Emily Bowe, Corey Bridges, Bobby Buggs, Conrad Cheek Jr., Walter Crawley, Louise Davenport, James Davis, Bernard Dean, Muriel Dixon, Alvin Dixon El, Barron Hall, David Harris, John Harrison, Patricia Henry, Phillip Howard, Jo Ann Jackson, Michael Jefferson, Patricia Jefferson, Jewell Johnson, Allen Jones, Mark Jones, Brenda Karyl Lee-Wilson, L. Morrow, Charles Mayfield, Lee Mayse, Jennifer Mclaughlin, Jeffery McNeil, Charles Nelson, Moyo Onibuje, Therese Onyemenon, Thomas Queen, Kevin Robinson, Ed Ross, Dennis Rutledge, Gerald Smith, Patty Smith, James Stewart, Gary Stoddard, Archie Thomas, Ingrid Thomas, Francine Triplett, Carl Turner, Jerry W., Martin Walker, Mary Wanyama, Lawless Watson, Inell Wilson, Ivory Wilson, Tina Wright

## Our Mission

Street Sense aims to serve as a vehicle for elevating voices and public debate on issues relating to poverty while also creating economic opportunities for people who are experiencing homelessness in our community.

## Our Editorial Policy

Editorials and features in Street Sense reflect the perspectives of the authors. We invite the submission of news, opinion, fiction and poetry, hoping to create a means in which a multitude of perspectives on poverty and homelessness can find expression. Street Sense reserves the right to edit any material.

## The Story of Street Sense

Street Sense began in August 2003 after two volunteers, Laura Thompson Osuri and Ted Henson, approached the National Coalition for the Homeless on separate occasions about starting a street newspaper in Washington, D.C.

A street paper is defined as a newspaper about poverty, homelessness and other social issues that provides an income to the homeless individuals who sell it. About 25 street papers operate in the United States and Canada in places like Seattle, Chicago, Montreal and Boston, and dozens more exist throughout the world.

After bringing together a core of dedicated volunteers and vendors, Street Sense came out with its first issue in November 2003, printing 5,000 copies. For the next three years the paper published consistently on a monthly basis and greatly expanded its circulation and vendor network.

For the first year, Street Sense operated as a project of the National Coalition for the Homeless, but in October 2004, the organization incorporated and moved into its own office space. In March 2005, Street Sense received 501(c)3 status, becoming an independent nonprofit organization.

In October 2005, Street Sense formed a board of directors, and in November, the organization hired its first employee, a full-time executive director.

A year later, in November 2006, the organization hired its first vendor coordinator.

In February 2007, the paper started publishing twice a month as the network of vendors expanded to more than 50 homeless men and women. To support the increased production, Street Sense brought on its first full-time editor in chief in April 2007.

We are proud members of:



North American Street Newspaper Association



International Network of Street Papers

## Street Sense

### Vendor Code of Conduct

1. *Street Sense* will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations for *Street Sense* by any other means.
2. I will only purchase the paper from *Street Sense* staff and will not sell papers to other vendors (outside of the office volunteers).
3. I agree to treat all others – customers, staff, other vendors – respectfully, and I will not “hard sell,” threaten or pressure customers.
4. I agree to stay off private property when selling *Street Sense*.
5. I understand that I am not a legal employee of *Street Sense* but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
6. I agree to sell no additional goods or products when selling the paper.
7. I will not sell *Street Sense* under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8. There are no territories among vendors. I will respect the space of other vendors, particularly the space of vendors who have been at a spot longer.
9. I understand that my badge is the property of *Street Sense* and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers and display my badge when selling papers.
10. I understand that *Street Sense* strives to be a paper that covers homelessness and poverty issues while providing a source of income for the homeless. I will try to help in this effort and spread the word.

### WANNA HELP?

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, or have a great article or feature idea, please contact Koki Smith at 202-347-2006 or e-mail editor@streetsense.org

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, contact Rita Brunson at the same number or come to a vendor training session on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 p.m. at our office (1317 G Street, NW - near Metro Center).

### Where your dollar goes...



## WANTED

### Volunteer part-time bookkeeper for this summer

Responsibilities include working in the office for 2 - 5 hours per week for general bookkeeping tasks (entering donations, receipts, doing monthly reconciliations, for eg). Experience with accounting and/or QuickBooks software is strongly preferred but not necessary.

Contact editor@streetsense.org if interested.

EVENT PROFILE

# Washington Legal Clinic Fundraiser Takes to the Courts

The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless held its 21st annual Home Court fundraiser in April, a basketball game between Congressional members and staff and Georgetown Law School faculty and friends. Although the Capitol Hill Angels narrowly beat the Hoya Lawyas 43 - 41, the real winner was the Legal Clinic. It raised more than \$325,000 from the event, including proceeds from a silent auction. Photographer Dan Wilkinson captured the action.



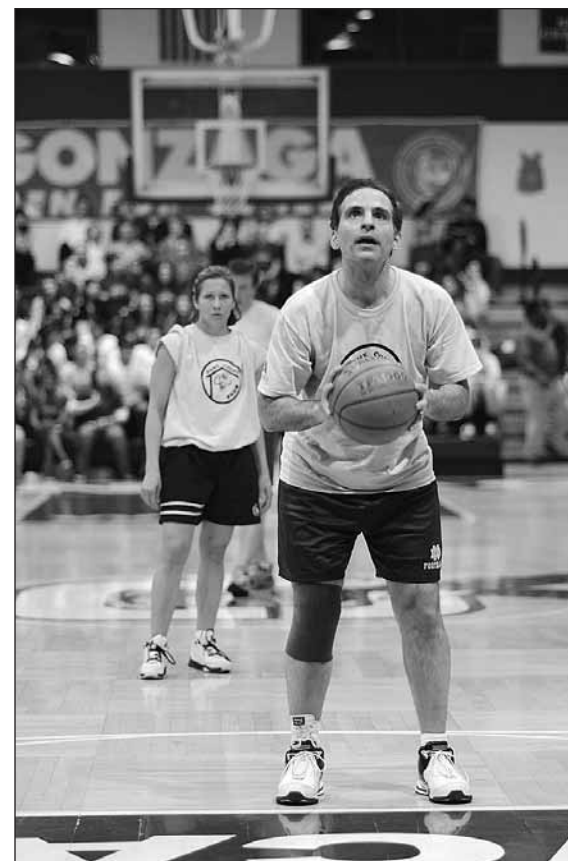
Above: The Capitol Hill Angels warm up prior to the game.



Above: The Hoya Lawyas mark their territory



Above: Matthew Calise from the Hoya Lawyas stretches before the start of the game



Far right: Rep. Mike Arcuri (D-N. Y.) from the Capitol Hill Angels shoots a free throw in the second half of the game, trying to put his team ahead.

## \$timulate \$treet \$ense

We are calling on all readers to donate to Street Sense all or part of the money they will soon be receiving from the **Economic Stimulus Package rebate.**

The President is hoping that you will stimulate the economy with the purchase of a digital camera, designer purse or some other short-lived consumer good. But wouldn't you rather **invest that money in a worthy nonprofit** that will continue to thrive through your donation long after the camera has turned into junk?

So we ask you to please help stimulate Street Sense's success today through a **donation of \$60 to \$600.** Any amount you can spare of this government bonus payment is greatly appreciated.

### My Economic Stimulus Donation

- \$600** All my rebate or the printing for half an issue
- \$300** Half my rebate or one new vendor computer
- \$200** One-third of my rebate or vests for 15 new vendors
- \$100** One-sixth of my rebate or monthly postage
- \$60** One-tenth of my rebate or food for one vendor meeting
- Another amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Another amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

### My Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to Street Sense.*

Street Sense is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization.  
 All donations are tax deductible.

Mail to: Street Sense, 1317 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.  
 You can also donate online at [www.streetsense.org](http://www.streetsense.org)

## Housing, from page 1



The District will turn this empty storefront at 3813 Georgia Ave., NW, over to private developers, the mayor announced April 25.

whether housing is affordable under the Department of Housing and Urban Development's standards.

The 99 units managed by SOME will be rented to extremely low-income residents, defined by HUD as those making 30% or less of the median area income. The District's area median income last year was \$94,500.

Sarah's Circle, an Adams Morgan service provider, will rent 34 senior housing units at 30% of the tenant's income.

Of the remaining units, 298 will be reserved for those making at or below 60% of the area median income, 127 for those making between 51% and 60%, and 152 for those making at or below 80%.

All of the homeownership units will be priced at 80% or below of the area median income.

*Area median income determines if housing is affordable under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's standards.*

*The District's median income last year was \$94,500.*

As of 2007, the Urban Institute reported about 35,000 units of affordable or subsidized housing in the city.

"We need affordable housing because a lot of people are leaving to go to Virginia and Maryland and we can't afford to lose these residents," said Joan Ellis-Tillman, a community activist who served on the task force on rent control from 1997 to 2004.

Timothy Jones, ANC commissioner for single member district 4C08, said he was not enthused about the announcement.

"Housing doesn't create jobs," he said. Jones is striving to bring more parking and retail to his Petworth district.

Fenty also announced that the District is soliciting buyers for two abandoned storefronts and an empty lot along the 3800 block of Georgia Avenue, NW. City officials hope to entice new retail and restaurants into the area, once under the mayor's jurisdiction during his years as Council member for Ward 4.

"I like to think of this as the mayor putting the people's money where his mouth is," said Ward 4 Council member Muriel Bowser. The project will revitalize the area and enhance the block for existing residents, Bowser said.

The city is committed to increasing private investment, Fenty said.

"We're not going to keep properties any longer owned by the District government. Get it out to the private sector, allow them to develop it," he said.

All the new affordable housing units will meet the city's green building standards, Fenty said.



## Put a "Face" to Homelessness

**Bring our "Faces of Homelessness" panel to your place of worship, school or community center.**

### National Coalition for the Homeless

Michael O'Neill  
 Director, Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau  
 National Coalition for the Homeless  
 phone: 202-462-4822 x20  
 fax: 202-462-4823  
 email: moneill@nationalhomeless.org  
 website: www.nationalhomeless.org

## FOUNDRY



### A Reconciling Congregation

Invites you to join us in worship on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

Homeless Outreach Hospitality:  
 Fridays 9:00 AM

### Foundry United Methodist Church

1500 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20036  
 (202) 332-4010

[www.foundryumc.org](http://www.foundryumc.org)



# School Remains a Challenge for Kids Without a Home

By Jennifer Singleton

For the 1 million children who are homeless in the United States, going to school each day is a team effort. It requires state and local agencies, case workers, educators, youth advocates and volunteers to ensure that children without a home can still receive an education.

It's an ongoing battle. Homeless children are more likely to get poor grades because of attendance issues, suffer from behavioral problems and receive inadequate health care and nutrition. Frequent moves between different temporary housing facilities and the resulting school transfers affect their ability to form bonds with teachers and schoolmates.

If a student loses his or her home, a federal law on homeless services, the McKinney-Vento Act, gives homeless students the right to remain in their original school or transfer to the school closest to their temporary living situation.

The law also stipulates that students be enrolled immediately, receive free transportation to and from school and receive any other services comparable to those offered to other students in their school, such as participation in gifted and talent programs and school nutrition plans.

Homeless students often have difficulty getting into a routine and display decreased concentration levels, said Angel Moore, a youth advocate at Community of Hope D.C. (COH), a transitional housing program for families. Moore works with afterschool programs for grades K-12 and places children in daycare facilities.

Homeless children can also face problems with low self-esteem and shame about their living situation. They are embarrassed by their clothing and some do not like to play or hang out outside the facility, said Kobie Beal, the educational enrichment programs manager at COH.

Moore noted the need for core afterschool programs at transitional housing facilities, which would extend the educational activities offered at school.

Elementary and middle school students, particularly those between the ages of 8 and 15, have the most difficult time in dealing with their homelessness, Beal said.

"They do not know how to express themselves," Beal said.

Students also face financial barriers in procuring school supplies, and when necessary, school uniforms.

Schools themselves play a major role in a student's successful transition into a new school.

Beal said he did not initially have a good relationship working with the schools. They resisted accepting certain children with disabilities who did not have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that documented the type of disability they had, he said.

Not having an IEP can delay a child's admission because schools need to create a unique curriculum for them. Beal, who completes the majority of the transfer paperwork and administrative tasks involved in enrollment, stated that schools could provide more assistance.

Schools need to be better informed about federal provisions for homeless children, he said.

# Many Free Breakfasts at DC Schools Going Unclaimed

By Carolyn Cosmos

The free-breakfast program in the District's public schools reaches less than half of eligible low-income children, according to the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), a national organization.

Yet kids go hungry in District schools every day.

Studies show that children who have a good breakfast do better in school on math and reading tests. They are better behaved. They also are more likely to be healthy than children who eat junk food or don't have breakfast at all.

Every child in a District public school is eligible for a free breakfast regardless of income, said Srinidhi Vijaykumar, a child nutrition expert at DC Hunger Solutions.

So why don't more families take part in the program?

"Parent schedules, school bus schedules, peer pressure, and lack of awareness" all play a part, Vijaykumar said.

School breakfasts are served before school starts in almost all D.C. schools, and some adult work schedules or school bus schedules don't allow the kids to get there in time, she said. Participation in the lunch program is much higher.

And both the school and the parents must make an effort for a program to succeed.

With "anemic" participation at many

schools, low participation is a particularly critical problem for children who are homeless, Vijaykumar said.

Out of the 23 big-city school systems studied by the Food Research and Action Center last year, the District landed in the bottom half with a 47% participation rate for its free breakfast program.

Public schools in Newark, N.J., had 93.7% of their low-income and homeless students eating a healthy school breakfast. At the very bottom of the barrel was Chicago, with only 28.7% participation.

In D.C., parents must register for the free breakfast program. Although registering is important for school funding, there is a simplified form for homeless parents and homeless children can even eat without a form. Families that get food stamps or temporary assistance are also automatically eligible.

Mom LaTonya Campbell likes the school breakfast program. "I knew to ask about it," she said.

She and her family are formerly homeless and live with relatives. Son James, 7, is in kindergarten at J.O. Wilson in Northeast.

"They serve a good amount" at breakfast, Campbell said.

James, who likes school and has good handwriting, said the food was fine, but "they don't give you enough to eat at lunch."

"The school sent the information and

*Successful programs nationwide have come up with creative solutions, letting students eat breakfast in the classroom while teachers take attendance or offering "grab and go" breakfasts in paper bags.*

mer public schools employee said.

Successful programs nationwide have come up with creative solutions, letting students eat breakfast in the classroom while teachers take attendance or offering "grab and go" breakfasts in paper bags that students can eat later in the morning.

Students are more apt to think grab-and-go breakfasts are cool and there's less stigma to free food if everybody's eating it. Some schools even put breakfast carts in the hallways.

School breakfasts need to be part of the regular school routine to work, Vijaykumar emphasized.

Friendship Public Charter School, the only school in D.C. with in-classroom breakfasts, saw participation increase from 32% to 60% with the new program.

DC Hunger Solutions is working with new school Chancellor Michelle Rhee, the school system's Food and Nutrition Office, the program for homeless children at the Office of Education (OSSE), and individual schools to turn things around.

"We are taking a collaborative approach and getting good results," she said. She hopes some schools will start the flexible breakfast programs next fall.

If you would like to help hungry kids or give a boost to your local school, DC Hunger Solutions can help you get started. Call Srinidhi at (202) 986-2200 x3023.

Since 1994, INSP has brought opportunity and hope to over 250,000 homeless people around the world.



The International Network of Street Papers

**80 Street Papers**  
**35 Countries**  
**1 United Voice Against Poverty**

INSP is a registered charity in Scotland: SC036369

**Pledge your support for 250,000 more.**

go to [www.street-papers.org](http://www.street-papers.org) to donate

## Recovery, from page 1

2003 study.

The same report showed public treatment programs served only 14% of those addicts, admitting about 8,500 individuals in 2002. The numbers point to a treatment gap that “denies almost nine out of 10 individuals needing treatment,” the study concluded.

While the numbers are dated, they form the basis of the District’s substance abuse strategy and no equally comprehensive survey has been conducted since then, according to the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration.

Residential treatment programs are critical to homeless addicts’ recovery, said Margaret Simmons, a substance abuse counselor at SOME, a nonprofit that provides a wide array of services to the city’s homeless.

But in the District, “There aren’t enough residential beds or they aren’t (available) long enough,” Simmons said.

District-run residential programs last from 60 to 90 days depending on the addict’s ability to complete the treatment regime, said Stephen Wright, director of satellite services for the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration. A client’s history and severity of drug use determine assessments, and their housing status is not a consideration, Wright said.

“We are not a housing unit,” Wright said. “So we can’t guarantee the homeless anything but detoxification and treatment. Once they get sober, we then can refer them to transitional housing.”

SOME does provide two residential programs in West Virginia, but its capacity as a private organization is restricted. About 125 people went through the three-month program in 2007.

Gospel Rescue Ministries’ Transforming Lives Ministry, another rehabilitation program based in downtown D.C., currently has 28 men in its yearlong rehabilitation program, said David Barnes, the program director. About 40% of participants will complete the one-year treatment, Barnes said. Men who drop out of the program are not reaccepted, he said.

The residential program provides wrap-around services, including job development, alumni groups and a two-year after-care program.

Kenneth Baldwin, 40, attributes his recovery to similar wrap-around services. He was a resident of the rehabilitation program at the 801 East shelter, where holistic treatment dealt with the homelessness aspect first, then addressed his various motivations for drug use. The program reaffirmed his sense of self-worth and abilities, he said.

Forced into homelessness because of drug use, Baldwin found the program a way to get out of the cold and into treatment quickly, without a referral or a waiting list.

“The longer I stayed on the street, the more I was putting myself in harm’s way. I was grateful that the doors were open,” Baldwin said.

But with so many who need to be treated, private service providers cannot handle the scope of the need.

And although after-care programs help reinforce drug treatment strategies, “the call of the street” continues to be one of the biggest problems in recovery, said Barnes of Gospel Rescue Ministries.

*“The shelter compounds your life issues. It induces, at least for me, a constant sense of anxiety.”*  
— a resident at a women’s shelter

### Temptation Strikes

The call of the street, or the temptation to use, rings louder for those living in the shelter system, where the proximity of drug dealers combines with the stresses of the homeless condition to weaken individuals’ resolve.

Homeless people see drugs “everywhere in shelters,” said Simmons of SOME. “What a shame that they can’t seem to keep the shelters clean.”

A homeless woman, who requested that her name not be used, stays at John L. Young Center, a woman’s shelter adjacent to the CCNV complex on 2nd and D streets. Drug dealing does happen in the shelter vicinity, she said, despite a consistent police presence.

“I am aware of that activity going on,” the woman said. “But that’s life and that’s how things are in the city.”

Neither the Community for Creative Non-Violence or Clean and Sober Streets, an organization serving homeless addicts that adjoins the CCNV building, agreed to comment when contacted by Street Sense.

The Office of Shelter Monitoring at the D.C. Department of Human Services evaluates shelter facilities and service delivery. In response to a Street Sense inquiry, the department released the following statement:

“Shelter clients are prohibited from using or possessing alcohol or illegal drugs on shelter premises. ... Any illegal activities that occur outside the shelter premises are not in the jurisdiction of the Department of Human Services.”

However, service providers do have an interest in limiting the drug use in the areas around their shelters. Such proximity makes recovery more difficult for residents trying to stay clean, said George Jones, the site coordinator for Franklin shelter, a 300-bed facility for men at 13th and K streets, NW.

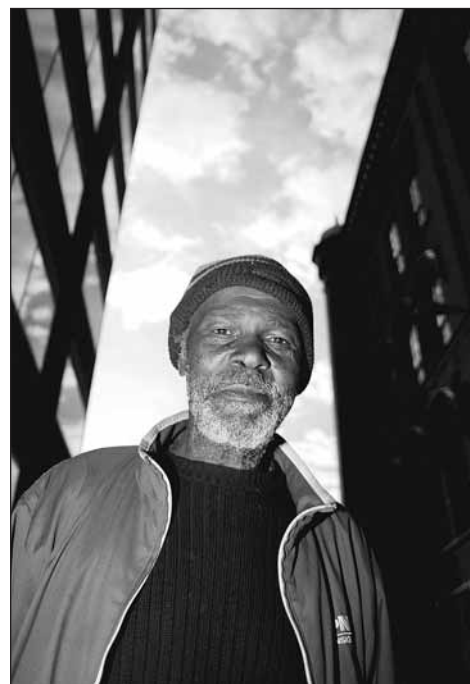
Franklin shelter staff, along with the Department of Human Services, the police and the community, has led a yearlong crackdown on dealing, Jones said.

The added effort drastically reduced dealing both on shelter grounds and in the neighboring Franklin Square Park, he said.

Kenneth Lovejoy, a 52-year-old construction worker who used to stay at the Franklin shelter, attributes the decline in drug dealing activity to an evening lock on the back courtyard gate, as it forced dealers to come in past staff and security through the front door.

The shelter “has cleaned up quite a bit from a year ago,” he said. Drugs, such as crack, “keeps a lot of them in there,” he said, gesturing to the red brick shelter.

When Franklin staff was alerted to the drug-related activities at the shelter, they immedi-



Ray Mitchell of Franklin shelter believes dealing in the neighboring park complicates recovery for fellow residents.

ately took actions to address it, said Chapman Todd, the division director of Catholic Charities, the service provider that runs Franklin.

“This is a situation where you want zero activity,” Todd said.

The shelter then relied on an increased police presence in the neighboring park to reduce the level of drugs to the frequency it is now, Jones said.

Since areas like parks remain out of shelters’ jurisdiction, community and police partnerships are needed to monitor and restrict activity.

For the most part, those supplying drugs are not part of the shelter population, Jones said. “Our clients are probably victims.”

Stephanie Gooden, a Street Sense vendor who uses the clinic at CCNV’s 2nd and D streets, NW, complex, noted that a person’s commitment to staying “clean” is threatened by easy access to drugs.

When a person thinks about their behavior, there is usually a process of thought that goes from compulsion to usage, Gooden said. Having drugs immediately available keeps these stages very close together and eliminates the time needed for a person to make a better decision, she said.

If a person needs to travel farther than a street corner to fulfill an initial desire to use, he might rethink that decision, she said.

Even a lack of money may not keep such a person from procuring drugs, she said. The same user who does not have the 50 cents to call a loved one or get on a bus to go somewhere that offers help may be able to get credit from a dealer, she said. In that case, using drugs becomes easier than staying clean.

But not everyone agrees that reducing drug activity around shelters would help homeless addicts.

“Whether they get it there or they get it somewhere else, they get it,” said the woman at the John L. Young shelter.

Chapman Todd of Catholic Charities said the transition to rehabilitation programs remains difficult regardless of the living situation of the individual.

Service providers should rely on case management to help those recovering from addiction to move on, he said.

“The leverage we have is to build personal

### Addiction Recovery Resources

Narcotics Anonymous D.C. area helpline  
202-399-5316  
1-800-543-4670  
www.cprna.org/dcasc

D.C. Metro Substance Abuse Hotline  
1-888-294-3572  
Hours: 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily

Central Intake Division (CID)\*  
1300 First St., NE  
202-727-0668  
Transportation: Union Station Metro; P6, 80, 96 bus lines  
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday

Detoxification Center\*  
Building 12, DC General  
1900 Massachusetts Ave., SE  
202-727-5163  
Transportation: DC General Metro; 96, B2 bus lines  
Hours: 24 hours a day

\* Requires proof of D.C. residency

relationships,” Todd said, noting that everyone has unique circumstances to deal with during recovery.

“Even if you’re not looking, there are temptations that will jump up in front of you,” he said.

### Burning Motivations

Shelter conditions and the stresses of being homeless can aggravate such temptations, according to one resident at the CCNV shelter who wished to remain anonymous.

One tool for recovery taught by Narcotics Anonymous, a substance abuse support group, is altering your environment to avoid temptations, said the resident.

“Being homeless and living in a shelter, you aren’t able to use it [the tool]. You can’t change your people, places or things,” she said.

Besides the lack of control, homelessness amplifies the psychological triggers for drug use, she said.

“The shelter compounds your life issues,” she said. “It induces, at least for me, a constant sense of anxiety.”

Things are constantly stolen, people are desperate and there is little sense of safety, she said. Such a situation, combined with the easy accessibility of illegal substances, makes staying clean harder.

“It’s just hell,” she said.

Baldwin, the resident from 801 East, said that in his case, substance use caused him to be homeless, but noted that for others, homelessness could lead to drug use.

The homeless face rejection, alienation and belittlement from the public and may turn to drugs as a coping skill.

So while programs like 801 East, Gospel Rescue Ministries and SOME provide successful treatment to homeless addicts, their work can sometimes seem like a Band-Aid over the District’s large treatment gap for those who need it. And while shelters like Franklin work to reduce dealing in their vicinity, their residents’ hurdles to recovery remain pervasive.

See **Recovery**, page 7

## ADDICTION RECOVERY

# Homeless Residents Advocate for Drug-Free Zones Around Shelters

By Brittany Aubin

Drug-free zones, once the exclusive domain of schools and playgrounds, have become an expanding no-man's land in the national drug war. In some states, they now encompass public housing projects, shopping malls and churches.

This gradual conquering of territory since 1970 has not been without a fight. Many groups and legislators link such zones to harsher, discriminatory sentencing for urban, low-income drug offenders.

Although each state's laws for the zones vary, drug-free zones in the District are areas designated by the Chief of Police because of disproportionately high rates of drug-related crime, according to the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Web site.

Any group of two or more people within the zone for the purchase, sale or use of illegal drugs and failing to leave following an officer's order, faces arrest, fines and imprisonment.

Some among the homeless think that the creation of drug-free zones around shelters would significantly lower the amount of drug dealing in their vicinity because dealers would fear stricter punishments.

"Shelters, like schools, should be a drug-free zone," said Ray Mitchell, a homeless man who says he has dealt drugs in the past but never used them. Mitchell stays at Franklin School shelter, the largest men's shelter in downtown D.C.

Dealers would avoid the area if they knew that they were risking higher penalties to be nearby, he said.

"It would certainly help," agreed George Jones, the site coordinator for Franklin shelter. "This problem does not have one solution."

Many Street Sense vendors also agreed, saying that a drug-free zone designation would deter dealers.

The majority of people who stay in shelters would probably benefit from drug-free zones, said Ann Marie Staudenmaier, a staff attorney for the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless. "[Creating such zones is] not criminalizing homelessness. It's criminalizing drug dealing," she said.

Shawn Mason, management analyst for the city's police department, said drug-free zones are normally created through community action, operating as a partnership between citizens and police.

"We are just trying to help a community get rid of these problems," said Mason, who didn't know any specific instances of a shelter becoming a drug-free zone. Regardless of the designation, city shelters automatically receive increased police presence, he said.

The drug-free zones originated as a way to reduce drug dealing at vacant schoolyards after hours, Mason said. Many times, such zones are designated following periods of increased drug-related arrests in certain areas.



Some shelter residents think creating drug-free zones around shelters would significantly lower drug dealing.

Mason said that designating an area as a drug-free zone can take anywhere from 48 hours to 10 days, and the police make efforts to notify all residents and clearly delineate the area.

Those engaging in a drug-related activity while in the zone face a fine up to \$300, 180 days imprisonment or both, according to the MPD's Web site.

The five drug-free zones designated this year were concentrated in the Third and Fourth Police Districts.

City parks, such as the Franklin Square Park across from Franklin shelter, are monitored by the U.S. Park Police independent of municipal forces. The Park Police also try to work closely with the local communities, said Sgt. Robert Lachance, a spokesman for the force.

Groups like the Drug Policy Alliance, however, feel that drug-free zones focus too extensively on the supply side of drug use in the city and charge inner-city offenders more harshly than their suburban counter-

parts.

Instead of a solution that sends more people to prison, the city should pursue public health initiatives that help people with their addictions and reduce the city's drug use, said Naomi Long, the D.C. metro area director of the Drug Policy Alliance.

"The best way to do that is to invest in drug treatment programs that work," as well as stable housing and other wraparound services, she said.

Despite the current policies of incarceration and crackdowns on the supply, drugs are still readily available, Long said, signaling a need to step back and reevaluate.

For Mason, though, the drug-free zones do work as a deterrent.

"But unfortunately," he said, "the police can't declare every block a drug-free zone. There is a possibility people will go elsewhere for their illegal activities."

*Drug-free zones originated as a way to reduce drug dealing at vacant schoolyards after-hours. Many times, such zones are designated following periods of increased drug-related arrests in certain areas.*

## Recovery, from page 6

On the Friday night intake line to enter the Franklin shelter, residents linger in the alley to smoke cigarettes and mingle with friends. As Lovejoy and Jones noted, the shelter has cleaned up significantly in the last year, although some men will talk of their own substance abuse or that of other shelter residents.

Ask where the dealing is going down, and invariably a nod, a smile or a blunt response still leads a reporter just a few yards away, to the diagonal paths and black benches of Franklin Square.

For Ray Mitchell, a 71-year-old Franklin resident, individual motivation is important in staying clean.

But, he says, standing in the alley across from the park, housing chronic substance abusers so close to the source of their addictions is dangerous.

"If they come out the door and it's right there for them, what are they going to do?" Mitchell asks.

"If you go to the hot dog stand, sooner or later, you're going to buy one."

## Drug Use Has Repercussions

For someone who has been on the streets for a long time or who is struggling with a mental disorder, drugs can seem the only accessible way to ease the pain.

"A lot of us, we got nothing to lose so why not," says Christian, an addict who has been homeless for 18 years in the District. "Crack, weed, drinking...(it) distracts you from anything. Cold. Sick. Aching. The drugs, the drugs take it away."

Twenty-five percent of those currently homeless have been treated for drug abuse, according to the 2000 National Drug Control Strategy issued by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

However, treatment is far less effective when the recipient does not have a stable form of housing and must stay in shelters during recovery, the report concluded.

Though drug use can become a form of escape from painful living situations, it has serious physical and emotional consequences.

Using heroin, or any other drug injected using a needle, greatly increases the chance of transmitting HIV, hepatitis B and C and other blood-borne viruses.

Marijuana can quadruple the user's risk of a heart attack and commonly results in paranoia, memory impairments and difficulty in speech.

Cocaine, because of the feeling of euphoria it brings to the user, commonly increases heart rate, paranoia and irrationality, leading to auditory hallucinations, mood disturbances and increased blood pressure.

Drug use also raises the crime rate and makes users less likely to take advantage of job opportunities. It's been shown to increase the amount of time one spends homeless.

"Addiction precipitates and sustains homelessness. Addiction to drugs inhibits one's ability to work, destroys families, and endlessly feeds the cycle of homelessness," says the mission statement of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, an association of more than 300 rescue missions and other faith-based service providers to the homeless.

Drug use can have "endless" repercussions for the homeless, said John Jackson, president of Gospel Rescue Ministries of Washington, D.C.

Though drugs can take people out of their reality for a while, "the issues come back, and much worse," he said.

— Colleen Dolan

Your thoughts and editorials are welcome.

Please e-mail [editor@streetsense.org](mailto:editor@streetsense.org) or mail to 1317 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

## STREET NEWS SERVICE

# Federal Law Offers Second Chance to Ex-Offenders

By Suzanne Hanney

Robert Williams has been living in a suburban shelter since his Feb. 1 release from prison for theft. Nearly 20 years ago, he'd also served time for residential burglary.

What caused his return to prison? What was lacking?

"A job. God. Family. And plenty more," says Williams, 46, a StreetWise vendor off and on since 1992 as well as a bicycle messenger for 15 years. He was living in his car with no food and no money when he stole the bike that he hoped to sell for \$100 at a flea market – but which netted him a two-year prison term instead.

Williams is among 650,000 Americans released from prison each year. Two out of three will return within three years.

But a new federal law called the "Second Chance Act" could provide supportive programs to help others avoid the same fate.

The bill's originator, U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-Ill.), spent more than five years building the coalition that passed the legislation, which President Bush signed April 9. The president said the bill will help prisoners reclaim their lives.

"It basically says: We're standing with you, not against you," Bush said during the White House ceremony attended by Davis and powerful Democratic and Republican members of Congress.

Supporters of the bill included Rep. John Conyers, (D-Mich.) chair of the House Judiciary Committee; Rep. Chris Cannon (R-Utah); Sen. Joe Biden (D-Del.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Crime and Drugs; Sen. Arlen Specter, (R-Pa.) ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kansas).

Passed with the help of a 200-member coalition of liberal and conservative interest groups, "the bill represents a sea change in the way we view the criminal justice system," said a Democratic source on Capitol Hill. "For so long we've looked at it as punitive, not something that could be rehabilitative."

The law makes grants available to nonprofits and faith-based groups that specialize in addiction or homelessness.

In late February, the Pew Center on the States released a study that said 1 in 100 Americans (and 1 in 9 young African-American males) is in prison; many are low-level offenders whose incarceration has little effect on public safety.

Advocates note that much of this population increase was due to mandatory minimum sentencing for nonviolent drug offenses.

On their Web sites, legislators touted the law to constituents on the basis of cost-effectiveness.

Annual costs to house an inmate are between \$21,000 and \$25,000 at the state and federal levels, Cannon said.

And rising prison expenditures have not stemmed recidivism, Brownback wrote. "Currently, nearly two-thirds of the 600,000 individuals released from prison will be re-arrested.

In 1982, American taxpayers spent approximately \$9 billion on corrections. In 2002, that number increased to \$60 billion."

Biden, who sponsored the Senate version of the bill, also promoted the bill's possible \$330 million price tag in light of the money it could save taxpayers: "A relatively modest investment in offender reentry efforts compares very well with the alternative – building more prisons for these ex-offenders to return to if they are unable to successfully reenter their communities. An ounce of prevention, as they say, is worth a pound of cure."

The legislative fervor came from his own promotion of the bill across the nation for over five years, Davis said.

"It always takes a critical mass, unless you have enough people in agreement that something ought to change and become codified by law, nothing's going to change," Davis said.

The bill attracted not only Prison Fellowship Ministries, established by former Nixon aide Charles Colson (who was implicated in Watergate) but also the NAACP, Urban League, Souris Institute, Blacks in Law Enforcement, Blacks in Criminal Justice and Illinois groups such as the Safer Foundation and TARGET Area DevCorp.

"This is a grassroots piece of legislation, a 'bottom up' piece rather than a 'top down,'" Davis said. "It did not originate with elected officials. It originated with people in the community, in the 'hood.'"

Still, he said the bill is "just scratching the surface." Much work is yet to be done to change attitudes. Especially in the current economy, a formerly incarcerated person faces additional barriers to employment.

"I wouldn't be surprised if many people who voted for the bill would not hire an ex-offender, so we have to change the way people think. Many people feel crime begets punishment. But in the process of punishing them, they punish the rest of us," Davis said.

Incarceration diverts taxpayer money and simultaneously prevents people from supporting themselves and paying taxes, he said.

When Davis first introduced the Ex-Offender Self Sufficiency Act five years ago, it included 100,000 units of tax credit-financed Single Room Occupancy housing.

Although housing is a major concern for recently released prisoners – 15% to 27% wind up in homeless shelters – Davis said that the bad economy and Iraq war expenditures made him realize such a bill would not get passed.

Housing could also cost two or three times as much as other supportive services, added Tumia Romero, director of policy and programs in Davis's office.

The revised bill became the Second Chance Act.

Money for the bill's programs will depend on the appropriations process in late summer and fall.

## The Second Chance Act

Signed by President Bush on April 9, the law provides:

- educational, literacy, vocational and job placement services to facilitate reentry into the community. Less than one in three state prison inmates have a high school diploma, compared to 82% of the general population, according to the legislation. Meanwhile, 70% of all inmates are at the lowest literacy levels.

- substance abuse treatment and a continuum of outpatient and residential recovery services.

- supervision upon release, including mental and physical health care.

- programs that encourage healthy family and parent-child relationships. Between 1991 and 1999, the number of children with a parent in state or federal corrections facilities more than doubled – from 900,000 to two million, according to the legislation. Simultaneously, Bureau of Prisons evidence suggests that inmates who are connected to their children avoid trouble and gain reduced sentences. Released prisoners also say family support helps them stay out of prison.

- victim services, including restitution and fines by offenders and counseling for victims.

- development of tools to assess risks of returning inmates and to ensure they are not released prematurely.

While Biden has suggested \$330 million, Davis is open-minded, yet optimistic.

"What we do know is that people right now appear to be very enthusiastic about the resources being available to do the program," he said.

Meanwhile, Robert Williams, the StreetWise vendor who just got out of prison, is back selling papers and at his bike messenger job.

After his yearlong parole, he says he wants to relocate South, perhaps to Miami, because he did better out-of-state, where he had no ties – and no broken expectations.

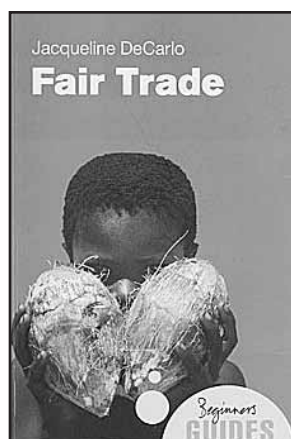
Reprinted from StreetWise © Street News Service: [www.streetpapers.org](http://www.streetpapers.org)

**Looking for a past story  
or poem?**

**Visit the Street Sense archives  
online!**

**Click on [www.streetsense.org/archives.jsp](http://www.streetsense.org/archives.jsp)  
to read past issues**

**or use our internal search engine at  
[www.streetsense.org](http://www.streetsense.org)**



**World Fair Trade Day is May 10**

**Learn about international economic justice with**

**\* Fair Trade: A Beginner's Guide \***

**by Jacqueline DeCarlo**

**Available at your local bookstore or via [www.ftrn.org](http://www.ftrn.org)**



When in Washington, DC, visit the Prison Art Gallery, 1600 K Street NW, Suite 501, Wash. DC. Open 7 days until 5pm. 202-393-1511

## PRISON ART PRINTS AND POSTCARDS

Huge selection, Low prices  
See pages 2 and 3

# Art For Justice

Art for Justice is published monthly in conjunction with Street Sense

Sponsored by Prison Art Gallery

Funded in part by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Arts

May 2008

## SPECIAL GIFTS FOR JUSTICE-MINDED PEOPLE

This special edition of *Art for Justice* presents some of the beautiful prison-art related gifts featured in the Prison Art Gallery gift store. They can be purchased by mail, email or telephone. Use the convenient order form on the back page. They are also available wholesale for up to 75% off for fundraising resale by non-profit organizations and socially-minded entrepreneurs. Please call 202-393-1511 or email [Staff@PrisonsFoundation.org](mailto:Staff@PrisonsFoundation.org) for further information.

### Jailer Whistle Key Ring



Get your very own authentic Jailer Whistle Key Ring. All metal, including the 1 1/2" whistle on a 3" diameter ring. Convenient and practical, with

a strong message. You won't lose your keys easily. And if you do, the person who finds them will know the consequences of not returning them promptly. Only \$3 each

## Mug-Shots-of-the-Famous Playing Cards

You won't think about cheating at poker again when you use these Mug-Shots-of-the-Famous Playing Cards. Quality deck contains official police booking photos



of your favorite celebrities who have been arrested. Includes Al Pacino, Daryl Strawberry, Frank Sinatra, Carmen Electra, Bobby Brown, Hugh Grant, James Brown, Jesse Jackson, Kobe Bryant, Lil' Kim, Nick Nolte, O.J. Simpson, Snoop Dog, and Tupac Shakur. In all, 52 mug shots, plus the joker (featuring the booking photo of Michael Jackson). Only \$5 per deck.

## Sterling Silver Justice Jewelry

You'll make both a fashion and a justice statement when you give or wear these beautiful and unique sterling silver earrings or pendants.

Order by number from among the following striking pieces: Handcuffs (available as pendant [J1] or earrings [J2]), Scales of Justice (available as pendant [J3] or earrings [J4]), Jailhouse (opens to show a prisoner breaking rocks; available as pendant only [J5]), Judge's Gavel (available as pendant only [J6]), Law Enforcement Star (available as pendant [J7] or earrings [J8]). Gift boxed for only \$30 each.



# BEAUTIFUL PRISON ART PRINTS AND POSTCARDS

Prison Art Prints on these two pages are 11 by 17" and available either matted (final size 16 by 20") for only \$20 each or framed (final size 16 by 20") for only \$40 each. They are also available as 4 ¼ by 5 ½" quality postcards for only \$1.50 each. Please order by number with order form on back page or call 202-393-1511.



Mayor Fenty by Dennis Sobin, Petersburg Federal Prison, VA (#P52)



Anthony Dye, Dooly State Prison, GA (#P32)



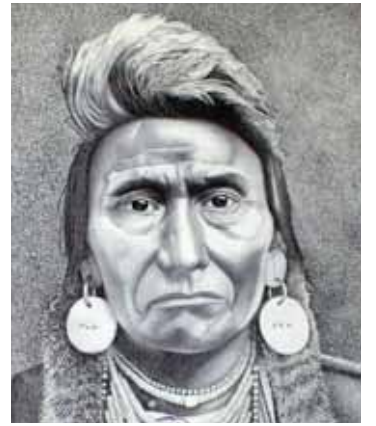
Anthony Dye, Dooly State Prison, GA (#P33)



Tito Parra, El Paso County Jail, TX (#P38)



Larry Walker, Trenton State Prison, NJ (#P23)



Frederick Benjamin Thompson, South Woods State Prison, NJ (#P49)



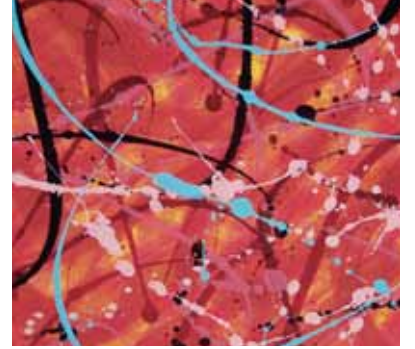
John Grubb, State Prison, SC (#P20)



Michael Jewell, Powledge State Prison, TX (#P27)



Ras Mosi, Evans State Prison, SC (#P36)



Michael Jewell, Powledge State Prison, TX (#P10)



Ras Mosi, Evans State Prison, SC (#P19)



Brian Cole, Rivers Prison, Winton, NC (#P21)



B.K. Nash, Brushy Mountain State Prison, TN (#P22)



George Bozeman, State Prison, KY (#P34)



Sudan Paul Miller, Ionia State Prison, MI (#P11)



Ras Mosi, Evans State Prison, SC (#P18)



Lynda Baker, Scott State Prison, MI (#P2)



Ronna Baer, Federal Prison, FL (#P4)



Brian Cole, Rivers Prison, Winton, NC (#P5)



Ritchie Weatherspoon, Ionia State Prison, MI (#P1)



Francisco Gonzales, Arizona State Prison (#P8)



Tammy Williams, Federal Prison, WV (#P15)



Tenola Gamble, California State Prison (#P42)



Russ Luncsford, Iowa State Prison (#P43)



Tenola Gamble, California State Prison (#P44)



Larry Walker, New Jersey State Prison (#P47)



Ras Mosi, South Carolina State Prison (#P45)



Larry Walker, Trenton State Prison, NJ (#P24)



Brent Fategoni, Rikers Island Prison, NY (#P28)



Dwayne Murray, Minnesota State Prison (#P46)



Ritchie Weatherspoon, Michigan State Prison (#P48)



Rene Vu, Gatesville State Prison, TX (#P26)



Timothy Burselson, Coffield State Prison, TX (#P40)



Curtis Easton, Southeast State Prison, IL (#P25)



David Porter, Roxbury State Prison, MD (#P13)



Anita Winston (mother of prisoner), DC (#P30)



Ras Mosi, Evans State Prison, SC (#P37)



Richard Seymour Jr., Auburn State Prison, NY (#P35)



Selvyn Tillet, Maryland State Prison (#P39)



Kevin Smith, Rikers Island Prison, NY (#P29)



Russ Luncsford, State Prison, IA (#P12)



Frederick Benjamin Thompson, South Woods State Prison, NJ (#P14)



Ted Berkey, Federal Prison, AZ (#P3)



Richard Hinger, High Desert State Prison, NV (#P9)



Tenola Gamble, California State Prison (#P41)



Larry Walker, Trenton State Prison, NJ (#P17)



Derrick Steilman, Washington State Prison (#P31)



Carolyn Cosmos, DC Jail (#P6)



Laura Crescio, Federal Prison, IL (#P7)



Cannon Hubbard, Snake River State Prison, Oregon (P50)



Brian Driggers, Snake River State Prison, Oregon (P51)



Brian Driggers, Snake River State Prison, OR (#P16)

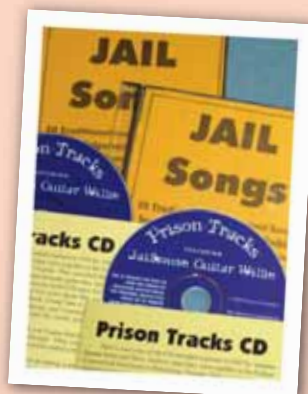


## Hand Cuff Key Ring Greeting Cards - Eight to Choose From

Give the perfect greeting card to that special bad boy or bad girl in your life. These 8 1/2" by 5 1/2" cards with matching envelopes include real working miniature metal handcuffs. They can be removed from the front and used as a key ring (or thumb cuffs if that's your thing). Order by number; the eight cards have the following messages: "Breaking out of another year (and into a new era of freedom) Happy Birthday" [C1]; "You Captured My Heart" [C2]; "You Locked Up My Love" [C3]; "Your Future Looks Bright (Metal)" [C4]; "Employee of the Month" [C5]; "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." [C6]; "Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth. John F. Kennedy" [C7]; "Chains of love got a hold on me. Carole King" [C8]; "He who opens a school door, closes a prison. Victor Hugo" [C9]. Only \$4 each.

## Prison Music CDs

You'll Sing Sing and shake, rattle and roll your chains when you put one of these authentic jailhouse music CDs on your CD player. First, there's *Prison Tracks* [M1], recorded in prison by two outstanding inmate guitarists who perform over an hour of superb acoustic instrumental guitar duets. They play over 30 popular songs, including "My Girl," "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter," "I Shot the Sheriff," and "When the Saints Go Marching In." Also available is *Jail Songs* [M2], featuring over an hour of traditional and original prison tunes, sung with gusto by ex-con Dennis Sobin with guitar and harmonica accompaniment. Includes all your Johnny Cash, Leadbelly, Haggard and Sobin favorites. Only \$13 each.



## Prison Poetry Books

Improve your library or coffee table with these attractive and heart rending prison poetry books. Written by youthful inmates at the nation's largest prison, Riker's Island in New York. These are quality trade softcover volumes that range in length from 110 to 180 pages and are alternately titled From the Inside and Keeping It Real. Six in the series. Take one or all. If less than six, we'll make the selection. Only \$12 each.

## Revenue for Your Nonprofit or Business?



Become one our authorized outlets and get all the great items in this catalog and more at discounts of up to 75% off. That means a profit for you of 300%. Plus you'll generate the excitement of having reasonably priced prison art gifts at your location. Whether you're planning a one time fundraiser or an ongoing enterprise, you need look no further for fun and high profitability than these unique gift items.

We even include free signs and free consultation to unlock very high earning potential. Ideal for churches, schools, and nonprofit organizations and businesses of all types. For further information, please call 202-393-1511 or email Dennis@PrisonsFoundation.org.



## Original Art at the Prison Art Gallery

Visit the Prison Art Gallery, 1600 K St. NW, Washington, DC 20006 to see over 1,000 original works of art by imprisoned and formerly imprisoned artists, including (clockwise) the work of Scott E. Fenn, Anthony Dye, and Jahi Daoud L. Foster-Bey.



## ORDER FORM

Please rush me the following unique gifts from the Prison Art Gallery Gift Shop. Enclosed is my credit card information or check made payable to the nonprofit Prisons Foundation, 1600 K Street NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_

1. Prison Art Prints matted at \$20 each (order by number)  
 \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_)
2. Prison Art Prints framed at \$40 each (order by number)  
 \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_)
3. Prison Art Postcards at \$1.50 each (order by number)  
 \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_)
4. Sterling Silver Justice Jewelry at \$30 each (order by number)  
 \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_)
5. Prison Music CDs at \$13 each (order by number)  
 \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_)
6. Handcuff Key Ring Greeting Cards at \$4 each (order by number)  
 \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_) \_\_\_ (How many \_\_\_)
7. Prison Poetry Books at \$12 each \_\_\_\_\_
8. Jailer Whistle Key Ring at \$3 each \_\_\_\_\_
9. Mug-Shots-of-the-Famous Playing Cards at \$5 each \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

S&H \$5

Total enclosed (or authorized) \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: **Prison Art Gallery**, 1600 K Street NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006 [www.PrisonsFoundation.org](http://www.PrisonsFoundation.org) 202-393-1511

## ATTENTION ARTISTS

You can make a difference in the lives of struggling prison artists. Enroll in our FREE workshop to become an art mentor for prisoners in local jails. This FREE training will take place on a Saturday and could lead to both volunteer and paid positions in prisons.

Contact [Staff@PrisonsFoundation.org](mailto:Staff@PrisonsFoundation.org) or call 202-393-1511

Funded in part by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, an agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts

Design: Katie Smith  
 President: Helen Thorne  
 Development: James Tracy  
 Music Ambassador: Dennis Sobin  
 Outreach: Jahi Daoud L. Foster-Bey  
 Research Director: Kevin Horrocks

Webmaster: J.B. Pruitt Jr.  
 Special Events: Bryan Parker  
 Art Consultant: Lloyd S. Rubin  
 Photographer: Laura Brown  
 Gallery Curator: Anita Winston  
 Correspondence: Nduta Kamau

Tel. 202-393-1511 [www.PrisonsFoundation.org](http://www.PrisonsFoundation.org)

### *Passions of One's Soul*

Passions of one's soul  
 renditions, insights, mental  
 pictures, creative inkflow  
 Passions of one's soul masterfully  
 controlled creations brief sleight  
 of hand, mind and soul.  
 Intertwined and crafted upon  
 command, illusions, emotional  
 storylines, creativity created  
 to wrap around hearts, minds  
 and "passions of one's soul."  
 Minds wrapped within mysteries

secrets and tales of generational  
 whispering spirits within the  
 deepest depths of heart and soul  
 Passions  
 Keys used to unlock the mind,  
 hearts, "passions of one's soul"  
 Colorful possibilities, manipulated  
 psalms of realities, motivating  
 powerful concepts rooted  
 deeply interlocked insights.  
 Illuminated synergy, illusive  
 passions, stimulated metaphors  
 within realms of profound  
 wordplay, consciousness,  
 "passions of one's soul."

– CJMJ1

### *Baby Fat*

When we were babies, FAT and ROUND,  
 everyone loved us and wouldn't put us down.

Pinched our JAWS and hugged us tight,  
 fed us until we couldn't take another bite.

We WADDLED when we walked which made us extra cute,  
 and we walked around all day in our birthday suits.

Now that we're grown, we look just the same;  
 we're loveable and walk EXACTLY the same.

No one thinks we're cute, they give us the BOOT  
 and we no longer walk around in our birthday suits.

– Mary Jane Owens

### *The Flight*

I must take this flight  
 Although it's long and uncertain  
 I must leave this place behind  
 It has been scary, frightening  
 And very unkind. I won't make  
 It here through the night.  
 I must take this flight. I  
 Must step out in the light  
 And make my future bright.

– Andrew Grey

VIDEO REVIEW *By Eric Sheptock*

# Promises to Keep

*The story of Mitch Snyder should resonate for residents of Franklin shelter today*

A friend and fellow advocate recently suggested that I screen the film “Promises To Keep” at Franklin School Shelter, where I stay. “Promises to Keep” is an Oscar-nominated documentary, narrated by Martin Sheen, about how the Federal City College in D.C. became the Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV), one of the largest shelters in the country.

The purpose of the screening was to invigorate the residents of Franklin shelter, which is slated to close by Oct. 1, to take a stand and to repeat history by fighting for the shelter in much the same way that Mitch Snyder, a homeless advocate, and the homeless community fought for the Federal City College.

I acquired a copy of the video from the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH). Then, several community activists and I showed the video on April 16. It was actually my first time seeing it. I found it to be quite inspiring.

I’ve heard the name “Mitch Snyder” mentioned quite a few times since my arrival in D.C. less than three years ago. However, I’d never heard the full story. I must say that he was an awe-inspiring man.

In the early 1980s, the Federal City College sat vacant. As many as 600 homeless people per night would find shelter there. In 1984, the Reagan administration decided to vacate the premises of all homeless persons and board up the facility. A long, bitter battle ensued.

Snyder and dozens of homeless people stood against the Reagan administration and demanded that this vacant building be given to the homeless community. Promises were made by the U.S. government to convert the building into a homeless shelter and renovate it. Those promises were broken and contracts were renegotiated.

However, Snyder and company stood their ground through it all. Finally, in 1988, after four long years of legal struggles, the federal government ceded the building to the Com-

munity for Creative Non-Violence, a group of Vietnam War veterans who denounced violence.

There are some similarities between the situation that created CCNV and the fight for Franklin School. Both fights involve former educational facilities. Both fights involve the homeless community standing against government. Both fights involve broken promises.

Then there are the differences. One was a former college and the other a building that had served various purposes, including school. CCNV was a federal building while Franklin School belonged to the D.C. government.

The homeless community of this day and age seems to be much more lackadaisical. And the corporate community seems to be a bit more gung-ho and government-backed.

Although Mitch Snyder is no longer with us – he committed suicide in 1990 – CCNV remains a functioning shelter to this day. It is also among the largest in the country. May it stand as a testament to the fact that homeless people DO matter and CAN make their voices heard.

Nonetheless, the homeless community as a whole — not just Franklin residents — is continually pushed to the wayside and forced to fight for recognition and humane treatment. I would hope that all homeless people of the District continue the fight that Snyder began and not stop fighting until the war on poverty and homelessness is won.

Hopefully, Franklin residents won’t just take mistreatment lying down. However, we must go beyond just saving the shelter. We must proceed to move people into housing. Saving the shelter and stopping there would amount to a half-won battle.

Let it not be said that Mitch Snyder’s death was in vain.

*Homeless advocate Eric Sheptock can be reached at ericsheptock@yahoo.com.*

BOOK REVIEW *By Robert Trautman*

# Picking Up the Tab

This book should make you angry. It intends to.

“Free Lunch: How the Wealthiest Americans Enrich Themselves at Government Expense (And Stick You With the Bill)” (Portfolio 2007), by David Cay Johnston, explains in detail how businesses large and small alike use every government tax benefit they can find – local, state and federal – to line their pockets. And, of course, in the end, you and I pay.

Johnston writes that it all started, to a large extent, with President Ronald Reagan, who wanted to get government “off our backs,” out of the way, to let business run free with as little public oversight as possible.

Johnston, a New York Times reporter, argues, “The benefits of this bonanza flowed overwhelmingly to those at the apex of the economic pyramid,” with the rest of us left behind.

“Free Lunch” was written before the shaky mortgage industry collapsed, but that disaster is in keeping with Johnston’s thinking. The collapse came about in part because of a lack of adequate government oversight of a greedy lending industry intent on making a fast buck.

Johnston cites eye-opening examples of how crafty and well-connected businesses milk the public purse. He writes about a major sporting goods chain that said it might locate a store in Hamburg, Pa., which posed an economic threat to a two-decade-old, locally owned store. The chain said that it was also considering locating to Delaware or New Jersey.

The ploy got the desired result – local politicians bid against one another for the new store. To open in Hamburg, the chain wanted a subsidy of at least \$32 million, more than Hamburg spent on its entire city budget. And the chain got it, saying the city would earn back its money in sales tax from all the customers flocking to the new store.

Johnston explains that the sporting goods chain wasn’t the first business to utilize this type of scheme. Rather, the method was pioneered by Sam Walton of Wal-Mart. Businesses persuade communities to give them tax breaks. In return they offer low prices to local residents. However, the companies pay their clerks so little that many of the employees are forced to go on welfare.

Johnston says that Warren Buffett received \$100 million in subsidies to open a GEICO call center in Buffalo, N.Y., even though the center cost only \$40 million. GEICO got back what it invested, plus a \$60 million gift from local and state taxpayers.

Home alarm system operators also play a lucrative game. They charge an average of \$29 per month for monitoring, \$22 of which is gross profit. “These profits are huge,” Johnston writes, “because the alarm company does not pay its largest single cost, labor, to check out the alarms.” This charge, he notes, is indirectly borne by the public through the police.

Johnston provides numerous additional examples of similar business scams. Lobbyists, who finance campaigns, get the rules written in favor of their rich clients, and the poor are left in the dirt.

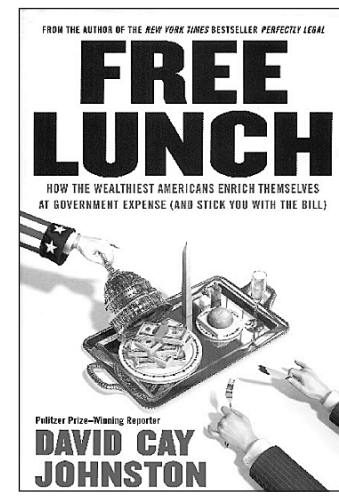
What can the public do? There are moral precepts, of course: the rich should not take from the poor, the government should oversee business and penalize the dishonest. But Johnston writes that more needs to be done to end the corrupting influence of money on our political system. The public should finance the cost of government.

Currently, legislators can send out as much mail as they wish without charge, known as the “franking privilege,” because communication between lawmakers and constituents is vital to a functioning democracy.

Johnston says this free mail concept should be broadened to include legislative travel, or “junkets.” If a trip is necessary to evaluate a situation that may warrant legislation, taxpayers should pay for it, not the special interests that currently finance this travel and, naturally, expect something in return.

Johnston also believes that legislators should be provided funds to maintain a second household instead of flying “back home” to meet their constituents as the guest of corporate special interests, as many do now.

He concludes, “Just debating the idea that we should pay the full cost of Congress would have value, opening our eyes to the subtle ways that we systematically corrupt our political system. A debate on making members of Congress into public servants, instead of beggars for favors, would get us thinking as a nation about how every single free lunch cheats us all.”



**FREE LUNCH:**  
**HOW THE WEALTHIEST AMERICANS ENRICH THEMSELVES AND STICK YOU WITH THE BILL**  
*By David Cay Johnston*  
*Published by Portfolio Hardcover*  
2007

## Gregory's Great Game: Solution to April 16 Puzzle

P	L	E	A	S	U	R	E	P	R	S	P
A	R	P	R	P	R	O	F	I	T	T	L
N	P	A	O	E	C	I	T	C	A	R	P
L	R	E	W	O	P	R	P	A	N	E	L
H	C	T	I	P	W	A	R	E	N	E	E
P	R	O	R	L	P	O	P	C	N	T	A
E	N	I	L	E	E	B	I	L	L	S	S
U	G	I	R	P	K	L	C	P	O	E	E
S	P	P	Y	R	O	P	K	I	R	N	P
R	I	A	A	P	A	I	N	T	P	S	R
U	R	P	P	R	I	D	E	P	T	E	P
P	R	I	V	A	T	E	P	A	S	T	E

# Gregory's Great Game

Street Sense vendor Gregory Martin loves creating puzzles.

Simply find the following words in the grid below. The solution to the last puzzle is found on page 10.

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>May</b>          | <b>Spring</b>        |
| <b>Mother's Day</b> | <b>Day of Prayer</b> |
| <b>Flowers</b>      | <b>Taurus</b>        |
| <b>Memorial Day</b> | <b>Gemini</b>        |
| <b>Air Show</b>     | <b>News</b>          |
| <b>Vendor</b>       | <b>Poetry</b>        |
| <b>Paper</b>        | <b>Profiles</b>      |
| <b>Armed Forces</b> |                      |

M	D	A	Y	O	F	P	R	A	Y	E	R
O	I	T	L	W	A	G	F	I	P	F	E
T	C	S	R	P	O	E	T	R	Y	L	P
H	V	E	N	D	O	R	A	S	R	O	A
E	B	I	N	I	M	E	G	H	C	W	P
R	Y	A	D	L	A	I	R	O	M	E	M
S	T	U	R	P	N	E	B	W	V	R	D
D	I	M	I	E	G	N	I	R	P	S	P
A	S	E	C	R	O	F	D	E	M	R	A
Y	A	M	R	S	E	L	I	F	O	R	P
I	E	S	N	E	S	T	E	E	R	T	S
R	M	N	T	A	U	R	U	S	W	E	N

# Cryptogram

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

"Y NFLZ, Y MPZ'G GRYZS Y'N LJPZF DRFZ Y JPPS LG GRF RPNFJFWW BFXWPZ PX GRF UKN PX GRF BWEORPGYO PX GRF MXKZS PX GRF MXKQ LMMYOG PX GRF OXYNY-ZLJ LZM WFF GRFYX ULUE BYOGKXFW YZ NE NYZM'W FEF. EPK MPZ'G GRYZS GRFE DFXF OKGF JYSF FTFXE PGRFX ULUE?" – MKWGYZ RPVVNLZ

Hint: X = R

April 2 Solution:

"They say it is better to be poor and happy than rich and miserable, but how about a compromise like moderately rich and just moody?"  
– Princess Diana

# Street Su-Do-Ku

Just fill in the numbers 1 through 9 without repeating a number in any column, row or box.

April 2 Solution

3	8	6	5	9	7	2	1	4
9	2	5	3	1	4	8	7	6
4	1	7	2	8	6	3	5	9
8	6	9	7	5	1	4	2	3
5	3	4	9	2	8	1	6	7
2	7	1	6	4	3	9	8	5
7	9	2	8	3	5	6	4	1
1	5	8	4	6	9	7	3	2
6	4	3	1	7	2	5	9	8

9		5					1	
	2	1	9			8		
			1		3	9	2	
6	9			5				8
				8				
1				4			6	2
	1	9	7		6			
		7			4	6	8	
	4					7		1

## WANTED Street Sense Board Members

Street Sense is calling all qualified readers to consider joining the Street Sense board of directors. We are looking for people who have a passion for helping empower homeless individuals and who have innovative ideas to help our organization succeed.

All board members are unpaid and requirements include board meetings and work team meetings every other month, and about three to six hours of work outside the meetings each month.

We are looking for potential board members who are:

- Attorneys
- Accountants
- Journalists
- Marketing Specialists
- Members of the Small Business Community
- Leaders at Nonprofits That Serve the Homeless

If you are interested, please send your resume and a cover letter explaining why you would be a great addition to the Street Sense board to board president Ted Henson at [ted@streetsense.org](mailto:ted@streetsense.org)

## PLACE YOUR AD HERE!

With Street Sense now coming out twice a month and reaching nearly 12,000 people each issue, now is the perfect time to promote your business with us.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

And who your business will be reaching can't be beat. Our typical reader is a 35-year old woman who lives in D.C. and works for the government or a nonprofit earning \$70,000 a year.

### RATES

Rates are about half the cost of the neighborhood monthlies and are as low as \$57 for a 1/16 page ad that runs multiple times.

### DISCOUNTS

Discounts offered to nonprofits and to those that prepay for multiple ads.

Call Larie at 202-347-2006 or email [larie@streetsense.org](mailto:larie@streetsense.org) for more information and to get a copy of our new advertising brochure. Or ask your local vendor, who can earn 20% commission from ads sales.

MOYO'S CORNER *By Moyo Onibuje*

# The Future is Now



**F**or some time now, I have promised Street Sense that I would start to write on technological issues, since most of our expanding readership is computer savvy.

This time around, I'd like to tackle the future of computers. There has been a billion-fold increase in the amount of computing you can buy with a dollar.

Although it's hard to think of all the possibilities such technologies will afford us, some that immediately come to mind include advancements in health, intelligent data mining tools and better gadgets.

We as Street Sense readers also need to use technological advances to benefit the poor and the homeless in our society.

No matter what difficulties we face as a civilization in the next decade or so, if we continue to see exponential increases in computing power, it seems safe to assume that solutions for many problems human beings face will be found sooner than we may have expected.

The shift from linear to exponential computer growth has led to quantum leaps forward. For example, what happens when certain genes are turned off or on in the human body? Without computers we wouldn't even have this information, much less analyze which particular gene is responsible for what.

Although food prices are going up and poverty is increasing, this is a result of the economic policies of governments, not the failure of information technology. Computers have helped engineer better disease-resistant crops, faster harvesting times, greenhouse technologies and solar energy.

We are also better at identifying the forces at work in nature – hurricanes, tornados and tsunamis, to name a few.

Information technology implants in the body

*I can't stress too much the importance of reading science fiction, as many new technologies are predicted in such books.*

are able to prevent seizures, give hearing to the deaf and in some cases sight to the blind.

Iraq war veterans who come back with missing limbs are given prosthetic limbs that are stimulated by muscle movements and other sensory signals. What makes it all the more remarkable is that the software in these devices can be upgraded.

Other technologies on the horizon include the "mental commands set," where our own thoughts will be able to instruct appliances to work. One day soon, we will be able to walk down a street and link up with a sensor or a nearby satellite, and search the Internet just by thinking.

When we reach a point when our hourglass is running out, it may well be that information technology will buy us more time on Planet Earth.

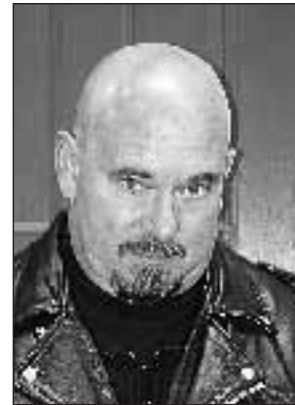
I can't stress too much the importance of reading science fiction, as many new technologies are predicted in such books. Arthur C. Clarke predicted 60 years ago that one day there would be orbiting communication satellites.

At the time, such an idea seemed impossible.

*Street Sense vendor Moyo Onibuje grew up in Nigeria and England and loves to read. He can be reached at moyotokunbo@live.com.*

MAURICE SPEAKS *By Maurice King*

# Lies, Lies and More Lies



**I** have been homeless and looking for a solution to my housing dilemma for five years now. It was always clear to me that I would not find a solution to the problem on my own.

I have gone the way of case management, and that has been an exercise in frustration, as case managers appear to have very selective hearing.

When I state to them the obstacles I face in finding housing, they seem to ignore anything that seems too complicated or too difficult for them to handle and then proceed to fail in assisting me. Then, of course, if an analysis is needed for the reason for the failure, they try to claim that I am being difficult. It only makes sense to dump on the victim even more.

What has angered me the most is the fact that I have heard so many lies told in relation to my case. When I first registered with a core service agency, my case manager said that she would register me for a Home First II subsidy. Of course, she never did that; I discovered the truth when I switched to another agency and my new case manager checked the status of the application, which did not exist. It was the first of many lies that I was to hear over the years.

Every time something went wrong, someone had to lie to cover up for the error that had been made, always making me out to be the one at fault. I reported in my column back in May 15, 2007, about how I lost the opportunity for an apartment because the paperwork for my subsidy could not be found when it needed to be shown to the landlord.

How that could be my fault is totally beyond me, but that's how the story went down. Then, to top it all off, came the story that I was refusing every property that was offered me, as if anything had indeed been offered me.

Lies, lies and more lies, is all I can say. That's the sort of "help" I've been given.

Currently, I am without a subsidy. The reasons for that were never given to me, but the stories that were circulated certainly must have done considerable damage. These stories probably did not just circulate within the core service agency at which I receive services; that would explain why I lost the subsidy I had.

I have my own questions to ask, such as why my subsidy paperwork was lost when I had the opportunity for housing in April 2007. That was a blunder that harmed me considerably, but nobody ever showed any accountability for it.

I also have to ask why the case managers never heeded my warnings about the obstacles to be addressed prior to seeking housing; we wasted a lot of time looking for properties for which I could not have qualified had the proper inquiries been made in advance.

I keep wondering just how much longer things will continue this way. It has already been five years, which is no short amount of time, and I am no closer to a solution now than I was when I started. If anything, now the search will be even more difficult.

It would be nice to feel that I had someone working on my side and not against me. So much damage has already been done that I have to wonder if there is any solution in store for me at all.

*Maurice King has been writing for Street Sense since January 2004 and is in the process of publishing his own book. E-mail him at benadam@cyberdude.com.*

## WHAT OUR READERS ARE SAYING...

### Free Service Directory

Dear editor,

If you need free food, shelter or medical care in the Washington, D.C., metro area, a 164-page paperback directory from the Interfaith Conference (IFC) of Metropolitan Washington is your best source for information.

To get a free printed copy of the 2008 Emergency Food, Shelter and Health Care Directory, either visit the IFC at 1424 9th St., NW, on the G2 bus line between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., or mail IFC a business-sized envelope with \$1.65 in postage until May 11, or \$1.73 after May 12 when postal rates go up.

You can also order by calling IFC at 202-234-6300, sending a fax to 202-234-6303 or e-mailing ifc@ifcmw.org.

The directory is also available online at [www.ifcmw.org](http://www.ifcmw.org).

The directory lists emergency food pantries, meal services,

shelters, day shelters, medical services, other resources such as clothing, counseling and legal aid, and local and national hotline numbers, including their 800 numbers.

Services are located in D.C., Calvert, Charles, Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, and Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties in Virginia.

Listings include the service provider's name, its address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail, contact person, hours of operation, services and service population as well as wheelchair accessibility and any restrictions.

The directory lists D.C. food pantries. But be aware that only some food pantries give free food to "anyone in need."

If you call Metro at (202) 637-7000, you can find out which bus or Metro line will take you closest to the nearest food pantry or other free service.

– Raymond Avrutis

### Offensive Photograph

Dear editor,

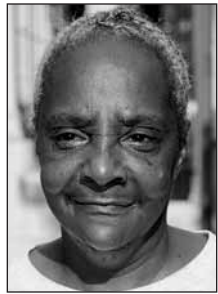
I, Alicia Jones, a Street Sense vendor, find the picture of the man smoking on a crack pipe (Street Sense, 4/16) offensive. Is this picture or similar ones representative of homeless life? Can a person approach me to ask questions about Street Sense paper without fear of being harmed? Am I on a drug withdrawal? Will I harm them?

Out of all the beautiful stills of photography a person behind the camera can take of D.C. and of the homeless in a positive manner, this appalls me. I know I can speak for the adults and pre-teens who purchase Street Sense from me. Street language (whores, pimps, violence) should not be tolerated!

– Alicia Jones  
Vendor No. 187

THE MILLS FAMILY: PART IV *By Jo Ann Jackson*

## The High School Years



**M**y English teacher always said, “If you don’t pay attention, participate in class discussions and do your homework, you’ll sit in the back of the classroom, because that’s where the dumb area will be.”

Sometimes she would give us 10 pages for homework. It could be “David Copperfield” or “Romeo and Juliet.” A lot of students would read just a few pages in case she asked them a question.

But I would read the story over and over, and then write notes on things that were hard for me to understand.

Everyone would always laugh and call me a bookworm, but it wasn’t so funny when our teacher said, “Put all books away and take out a couple of sheets of paper.”

Then she would raise the little shade that covered the blackboard. “This is a test from your homework assignment.”

The ones who didn’t study at all had some wild excuses. For instance, they forgot and left their books in the locker, or their parents didn’t come from work until late, so they had to feed and watch their brothers and sisters.

One young lady gave this excuse, and the teacher said, “When we discussed having to take care of our brothers and sisters, you were the first to say, ‘I’m glad I’m an only child.’ So how did you get brothers and sisters overnight? Answer the questions and maybe your brothers and sisters will help you with tonight’s assignment.”

Everyone in the class knew I studied. Some would ask to move to a seat near me so they could copy my answers. I finally figured out a trick for that. I would answer my questions very fast and let them copy the wrong answers. This made them feel good.

When they returned to their regular seats, I hurried up and erased the wrong answers and put down the correct ones. I did this because one so-called friend had copied my homework. I didn’t have the slightest idea that she would be so dumb as to copy it word for word.

“Jo Ann and Shirley, I would like to see you after class.”

Whenever you were asked to stay after class, it meant trouble, and this was my first time. My heart and brain were working overtime. What did I do?

“Well, I want to know who copied off the other one’s paper. Shirley, spell ‘ambition’ and ‘conclusion.’”

Shirley smiled and almost made me wet my pants when she said, “ambeton.”

“Now spell ‘conclusion,’ poor child, ‘conclusion.’”

If I could have gone through the floor, I would have. Lord, please help me, I’m in deep trouble, just don’t let her call my aunt.

“Well, Miss Jackson, Miss Jackson.”

I know I’m going to get the punishment of my life.

“Since you want to make someone else’s education easier while you do the studying and

homework, I’m giving Shirley your A and you’ll receive her F. In order to get the F removed before I turn in grades, you will have to bring me five book reports within two weekends, and if I don’t have them, I’ll call your parents.

“Shirley, the same goes for you. It’s not officially an A until I receive the same number of book reports, and don’t think about copying because I’m giving you different books.”

When we were finally dismissed, I looked at Shirley and said, “A D for dumb is really too good for you, because I’m going to give you an I. I for IGNORANT. Nobody is dumb enough to copy another person’s homework word for word.”

Well, readers, I made it through that incident and swore it would never happen again.

It was getting close to graduation and all my teachers were asking me about the prom. I hadn’t even thought about it. No one would ask me. Peanut and the other girls had already been asked.

Everyone was talking about how pretty their gown was and how they were going to have their hair done. Not me. I had a part-time job after school, even though most of the money was kept by my uncle so he could stay intoxicated.

First, I was going to ask for permission. I was told that my graduation pictures and robe would be fine, but the prom was out of the question. There was a saying that adults used when I was young: “It’s a poor rat that only has one hole.” This means you should always have something else put away on the side. So, this little mouse had another hole that no one knew about, except for her cousin.

I had another job while at school. I was paid by the school to help teachers correct papers or watch their class if they had something else to do during my free period and lunch hour.

My cousin and I had a long talk one day, and she said, “The money I give you for babysitting and your money from school should be put into a savings account.” The money in my savings account was enough to buy me a gown, get my hair done and everything else.

Now, who was going to be my date? Peanut had an idea. She would ask her brother Toby, who was married and in his early thirties. Toby and his wife both agreed to the idea.

Two weeks before the prom, my cousin and I went shopping. She helped me pick out a beautiful blue gown with a trim, white shoes and a crown.

Now Toby had to ask my uncle. My cousin came to the house like she was visiting so she could be there when Toby came. My uncle knew Toby was Peanut’s brother. When he knocked at the door, I thought I would faint.

My uncle opened the door and smiled once he saw it was Toby, because he knew that he was going to get something to drink. “Come in boy, I haven’t seen you in a while.”

Toby said, “I have something to ask you.”

“What is it, son?”

“May I take Jo Ann to the prom?”

Find out how my uncle responded.

*To be continued.*

*Jo Ann Jackson is a proud grandmother and a vendor for Street Sense. This is the fourth part of her memoir about her childhood.*

BUSINESS TIPS *By Jeffery McNeil*

## Entrepreneurs, Not Panhandlers

*The Daily Life of a Street Sense Vendor*

**I**’ve been selling Street Sense for a few months and have managed to save and invest my money in a small room in Virginia. I wish I could say that everything is wonderful and that there was a big parade for me for trying to get off the street, but that was not the case.

Still, I never do anything without the idea of being world-class or the best at it. My landlord and my bill collectors don’t care about my troubles; they want their money on time. No excuses.

I’d like to tell you some of the reasons I sell Street Sense so people understand that we’re not homeless panhandlers begging for change. We are small entrepreneurs taking risks and trying to live the American dream. We don’t rely on paychecks and we have to budget our money so that we can stay in business.

Being a Street Sense vendor is like being your own boss. You have to use your time very wisely during the day. If anyone has ever been in business, you know the time and energy you have to put in to make ends meet.

Being a vendor is commodity-oriented and very cyclical because of the two-week period between

new issues of the newspaper. I might also add that weather and climate affect people’s moods and whether they want to buy or not.

Another major factor is competition. I can never rest because there’s always new and veteran vendors trying to enter my markets. Last month someone doubled me in sales so like in any business, you’ve got to be creative and innovative.

Many areas are flooded with vendors trying to sell to the same people in the same areas, like Dupont Circle and Whole Foods. To me, this doesn’t make any sense because you kill an area with excess competition.

If anyone has ever been in sales, they know that the key is finding new markets, so I am a traveling salesman. I can show up anywhere. I especially like going to areas where no one ever heard about Street Sense. I love meeting new people and selling to them for the first time.

I pay for my transportation, food and papers and have to keep records and books so I can have a profit. Paying for all the daily expenses in a day can leave you with little at a time.

Like any business there’s feast and

famine periods so you have to be frugal with your money.

If I buy a lot of papers and no one buys them, I take a loss. If I buy papers and give them away for free, that’s lost money. Like any business, when you don’t sell your inventory, you take losses.

Weather is another factor that can ruin you. When it’s cold outside, it’s hard to approach people about Street Sense. Rainy days can also hinder sales.



*Last month, someone doubled me in sales so like in any business, you’ve got to be creative and innovative.*

As you can see, to sell 1,000 papers a month, my approach is one person at a time. I don’t go out trying to sell a certain number a day. I go out meeting and saying “Hi” to people. I might get 100 rejections but those two or three sales make all the “No’s” worthwhile.

I write everything down that happens during the day to

become better. Also, to attract new customers and tourists, I like to make catchy signs. My philosophy is to hit a broad range of audiences by trying to get multiple buyers during rush hour.

Sales are a numbers game so I like to go where it is busy to absorb the rejections. I want every customer who approaches me to have a very pleasant encounter or conversation with me.

There’s a stigma about homeless people and I want my customers to see that I might not be where I want to be but I do have confidence and character.

I work more hours than people who go to jobs and some days I make very little but I go back out again. I rarely take days off so holidays can be rough because I can’t really work those days.

Still, I am the captain of my ship. I rule my own circumstances. I believe in myself and want to be successful.

I just want people to realize that Street Sense vendors are entrepreneurs, not panhandlers. We are the ultimate risk-takers. Thank you.

*Jeffery McNeil regularly puts on a suit to sell Street Sense. He can be reached at [jeffery\\_mcneil2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffery_mcneil2000@yahoo.com).*

# StreetSense

## Announces the First Annual David Pike Excellence in Journalism Awards

On June 12, Street Sense will give out the first annual Excellence in Journalism Awards at the National Press Club in memory of its late board member and journalist David Pike. The awards honor print journalism that changes perceptions about homelessness, draws attention to the factors affecting homelessness, and influences social responses to homelessness.

### Criteria

Submissions must:

- address homelessness or the causes of homelessness (affordable housing, mental illness, domestic violence, health care, for example)
- focus on the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area
- be published in a local or national print media outlet in 2007

### Categories

- Investigative Reporting. Entries may be a single article or a series of articles and may include additional materials such as sidebars or illustrations.
- Editorial Writing. Entries may be one opinion piece or a series.
- Breaking News. Entries must showcase deadline reporting of a single event.
- Feature Stories. Entries may be personality profiles, trend stories, human interest stories, or any feature that is not a breaking news story. They can be a single story or a series.
- Photography. Entries may be a single photo or a series of no more than three.

### Submission Guidelines

- Anyone can submit a story, whether you are a reader or the writer(s).
- Please submit the article electronically as a text, PDF or HTML attachment.
- Please include the name of the category you are submitting to, your contact e-mail, phone number and address.
- If you are the writer of the article, please include a brief biography about yourself.

**DEADLINE EXTENDED! All submissions must be received by MAY 16, 2008.**  
Please send all submissions and any questions to [awards@streetsense.org](mailto:awards@streetsense.org).

## Get Twice as Much Street Sense Each Month Delivered Right to Your Door!

Do you want to continue to support Street Sense throughout the year?  
Order a subscription today.

Not only will you receive 26 issues packed with all our latest news, poetry  
and photography, you will also help raise awareness about poverty in the  
D.C. area.

**YES!** I want to subscribe to Street Sense for just \$40 a year for 26 issues.

**YES!** I want to give half of the cost of a subscription to my favorite vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Street Sense.

Mail to: Street Sense, 1317 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Thanks for your support!

### FROM THE EDITOR

## Cracking It Open

By Kaukab Jhumra Smith



Things got a bit heated at the Street Sense office recently.

At least three vendors – Francine Triplett, Conrad Cheek Jr. and Alicia Jones – were offended at the photo essay, “The D.C. Streets: The Other Side,” that Street Sense ran as a color spread in its April 16 issue.

The photo essay, by volunteer photographer Dan Wilkinson, was the result of many hours spent patiently cultivating sources downtown. It included an extreme close-up of a man smoking crack near Franklin shelter on 13th and K streets, NW. Only the man’s lips and part of his moustache were in the frame; the focus was on his hands and on the glass pipe held to his mouth.

Francine was upset because the photograph played into a stereotype, she said: “People already think that homeless people do nothing but drugs.” (Dan says the man told him he is not homeless and does not live at Franklin but only goes to the area to buy and smoke crack.)

Alicia said there were plenty of positive things in the city that the photographer could have focused on instead. Her letter to the editor is published on page 12.

Other objections were that the photograph was unsuitable for children and would upset teachers and parents who use the paper as a teaching tool on social matters.

However, the same issue of Street Sense features a front-page editorial by vendor Jeffery McNeil, “Drug Use Cuts Across Class and Race,” which argues that drug addiction can’t be blamed just on the homeless or the poor. Taken together, I think Jeffery’s editorial and Dan’s photos provide an interesting counterpoint and illustrate our mission of “elevating voices and public debate.”

Other Street Sense vendors have actively helped guide our reporting during the weeks that reporter Brittany Aubin and photographer Dan Wilkinson have explored the subject of drugs and homelessness for our April 16 and April 30 issues.

“People need to know why the shelter system isn’t working and why transitional housing isn’t working,” one vendor said, pointing out how hard it is to escape addiction when drug dealers frequent the spaces right outside shelters. He wants readers to understand.

Meanwhile, Brittany has faced similar objections during her work on this issue’s cover story on the obstacles to recovery for homeless addicts. “I have consistently faced hurdles to getting information, or even maintaining a conversation,” Brittany wrote recently.

“Despite working from tips given by vendors, I couldn’t help but feel at most a reluctance, and at worst a hostility, to stories that could perpetuate stereotypes of drugs and homelessness from both homeless individuals and the advocates serving them,” she said.

It’s worth repeating that Street Sense editorial policy, laid out on page 2, is to reflect a multitude of perspectives on poverty. Street Sense does not exist to “sanitize and castrate” community issues, as Brittany eloquently says, or to project “a shiny, grateful and presentable image of homelessness.”

I couldn’t have put it better myself, so I’ll let Brittany complete her thoughts.

“As a news outlet, I believe Street Sense has an obligation to present the fullest, most complex view of issues as possible. This cannot happen in a framework that permits only one archetype of a homeless individual,” she writes. “Homelessness should not merely be unacceptable when it happens to the ideal archetype – to the single mom, to the repentant former playboy, to the elderly woman forced from a gentrified home.”

She continues: “I have spent hours at Franklin Square Park, I have talked to city officials, I have asked vendors. I have called shelters and surveyed service providers. I have pored over studies and crunched numbers ... I do believe that it is right to communicate what I view. For many, this investigation has hurt feelings, or seemed intrusive or to have served narrow sensationalistic interests. To that, I can empathize, but not apologize. I sincerely hope that others will step forward to add the complexities of their viewpoints to my own.”

We welcome your comments at [editor@streetsense.org](mailto:editor@streetsense.org).

# Community Service Index

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

### SHELTER

Calvary Women's Services  
928 5th Street, NW  
(202) 783-6651  
www.calvaryservices.org

Central Union Mission (Men)  
1350 R Street, NW  
(202) 745-7118  
www.missiondc.org

CCNV (Men and Women)  
425 2nd Street, NW  
(202) 393-1909  
users.erols.com/ccnv/

Community of Hope (Family)  
1413 Girard Street, NW  
(202) 232-7356  
www.communityofhopedc.org

Covenant House Washington (Youth)  
2001 Mississippi Ave SE  
(202) 610-9600  
www.covenanthousedc.org  
Housing, education, job development

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

Gospel Rescue Ministries (Men)  
810 5th Street, NW  
(202) 842-1731  
www.grm.org

John Young Center (Women)  
117 D Street, NW  
(202) 639-8469  
http://www.ccs-dc.org/find/services/

La Casa Bilingual Shelter (Men)  
1436 Irving Street, NW  
(202) 673-3592

N Street Village (Women)  
1333 N Street, NW  
(202) 939-2060  
www.nstreetvillage.org

801 East, St. Elizabeths Hospital (Men)  
2700 MLK Avenue, SE  
(202) 561-4014

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

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

### FOOD

Charlie's Place  
1830 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
(202) 232-3066  
www.stmargaretsdc.org/charliesplace

Church of the Pilgrims  
2201 P Street, NW  
(202) 387-6612  
www.churchofthepilgrims.org

Dinner Program for Homeless Women  
AND the "9:30 Club" Breakfast  
309 E Street, NW  
(202) 737-9311  
www.dphw.org

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

Food and Friends  
219 Riggs Road, NE  
(202) 269-2277  
www.foodandfriends.org

Miriam's Kitchen  
2401 Virginia Avenue, NW  
(202) 452-8926  
www.miriamskitchen.org

The Welcome Table  
Church of the Epiphany  
1317 G Street, NW  
(202) 347-2635  
http://www.epiphanydc.org/ministry/welcometbl.htm

### MEDICAL RESOURCES

Christ House  
1717 Columbia Road, NW  
(202) 328-1100  
www.christhouse.org

Unity Health Care, Inc.  
3020 14th Street, NW  
(202) 745-4300  
www.unityhealthcare.org

Whitman-Walker Clinic  
1407 S Street, NW  
(202) 797-3500  
www.wwc.org

### OUTREACH CENTERS

Bread for the City  
1525 Seventh Street, NW  
(202) 265-2400 AND  
1640 Good Hope Road, SE  
(202) 561-8587  
www.breadforthecity.org  
food pantry, clothing, legal and social services, medical clinic

Community Council for the Homeless  
at Friendship Place  
4713 Wisconsin Avenue NW  
(202) 364-1419  
www.cchfp.org  
housing, medical and psych care, substance abuse and job counseling

Bethany Women's Center  
1333 N Street, NW  
(202) 939-2060  
http://www.nstreetvillage.org  
meals, hygiene, laundry, social activities, substance abuse treatment

Green Door  
(202) 464-9200  
1221 Taylor Street NW  
www.greendoor.org  
housing, job training, supportive mental health services

Friendship House  
619 D Street, SE  
(202) 675-9050  
www.friendshiphouse.net  
counseling, mentoring, education, youth services, clothing

Georgetown Ministry Center  
1041 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
(202) 338-8301  
www.georgetownministrycenter.org  
laundry, counseling, psych care

Martha's Table  
2114 14th Street, NW  
(202) 328-6608  
www.marthastable.org

dinner, education, recreation, clothing, child and family services

Rachel's Women's Center  
1222 11th Street, NW  
(202) 682-1005  
http://www.ccdsd.org/howorwc.php  
hygiene, laundry, lunch, phone and mail, clothing, social activities

Sasha Bruce Youthwork  
741 8th Street, SE  
(202) 675-9340  
www.sashabruce.org  
counseling, housing, family services

So Others Might Eat (SOME)  
71 "O" Street, NW  
(202) 797-8806  
www.some.org  
lunch, medical and dental, job and housing counseling

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Bright Beginnings Inc.  
128 M Street NW, Suite 150  
Washington DC 20001  
(202) 842-9090  
www.brightbeginningsinc.org  
Child care, family services

Catholic Community Services of D.C.  
924 G Street, NW  
(202) 772-4300  
www.ccs-dc.org  
umbrella for a variety of services

D.C. Coalition for the Homeless  
1234 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
(202) 347-8870  
www.dccfh.org  
housing, substance abuse treatment, employment assistance

Community Family Life Services  
305 E Street, NW  
(202) 347-0511  
www.cflsdc.org  
housing, job and substance abuse counseling, clothes closet

Foundry Methodist Church  
1500 16th Street, NW  
(202) 332-4010  
www.foundryumc.org  
ESL, lunch, clothing, IDs

Hermano Pedro Day Center  
3211 Sacred Heart Way, NW  
(202) 332-2874  
http://www.ccs-dc.org/find/services/  
meals, hygiene, laundry, clothing

JHP, Inc.  
1526 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
(202) 544-9126  
www.jobshavepriority.org  
training and employment

Jubilee Jobs  
1640 Columbia Road, NW  
(202) 667-8970  
www.jubileejobs.org  
job preparation and placement

National Coalition for the Homeless  
2201 P Street, NW  
(202) 462-4822  
www.nationalhomeless.org  
activists, speakers bureau available

National Student Partnerships (NSP)  
128 M Street NW, Suite 320

## Shelter Hotline: 1-800-535-7252

(202) 289-2525  
washingtondc@nspnet.org  
Job resource and referral agency

Samaritan Ministry  
1345 U Street, SE , AND  
1516 Hamilton Street, NW  
(202)889-7702  
www.samaritanministry.org  
HIV support, employment, drug/ alcohol addiction, healthcare

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
1514 15th Street, NW  
(202) 667-4394  
http://stlukesdc.edow.org  
food, counseling

St. Matthew's Cathedral  
1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW  
(202) 347-3215 ext. 552  
breakfast, clothing, hygiene

Travelers Aid, Union Station  
50 Mass. Avenue, NE  
(202) 371-1937  
www.travelersaid.org/ta/dc.html  
national emergency travel assistance

Wash. Legal Clinic for the Homeless  
1200 U Street, NW  
(202) 328-5500  
www.legalclinic.org  
legal services

## MARYLAND

### SHELTER

Comm. Ministry of Montgomery Co.  
114 W. Montgomery Avenue, Rockville  
(301) 762-8682  
www.communityministrymc.org

The Samaritan Group  
P.O. Box 934, Chestertown  
(443) 480-3564

Warm Night Shelter  
311 68th Place, Seat Pleasant  
(301) 499-2319  
www.cmpgc.org

### FOOD

Bethesda Cares  
7728 Woodmont Church, Bethesda  
(301) 907-9244  
www.bethesdacares.com

Community Place Café  
311 68th Place, Seat Pleasant  
(301) 499-2319  
www.cmpgc.org

Manna Food Center  
614-618 Lofstrand Lane, Rockville  
(301) 424-1130  
www.mannafood.org

### MEDICAL RESOURCES

Community Clinic, Inc.  
8210 Colonial Lane, Silver Spring  
(301) 585-1250  
www.cciweb.org

Mobile Medical Care, Inc.  
9309 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda  
(301) 493-8553  
www.mobilemedicalcare.org

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Catholic Charities, Maryland  
12247 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring

(301) 942-1790  
www.catholiccharitiesdc.org  
shelter, substance abuse treatment, variety of other services  
Mission of Love  
6180 Old Central Avenue  
Capitol Heights  
(301)333-4440  
www.molinc.org  
life skills classes, clothing, housewares

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless  
600-B East Gude Drive, Rockville  
(301) 217-0314  
www.mcch.net  
emergency shelter, transitional housing, and supportiveservices

## VIRGINIA

### SHELTER

Alexandria Community Shelter  
2355 B Mill Road, Alexandria  
(703) 838-4239

Carpenter's Shelter  
930 N. Henry Street, Alexandria  
(703) 548-7500  
www.carpentersshelter.org

Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless  
3103 Ninth Road North, Arlington  
(703) 525-7177  
www.aachhomeless.org

### FOOD

Alive, Inc.  
2723 King Street, Alexandria  
(703) 836-2723  
www.alive-inc.org

Our Daily Bread  
10777 Main Street, Ste. 320, Fairfax  
(703) 273-8829  
www.our-daily-bread.org

### MEDICAL RESOURCES

Arlington Free Clinic  
3833 N Fairfax Drive, #400, Arlington  
(703) 979-1400  
www.arlingtonfreeclinic.org

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Abundant Life Christian Outreach,  
5154 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria  
(703) 823-4100  
www.anchor-of-hope.net  
food, clothing, youth development, and medicines

David's Place Day Shelter  
930 North Henry Street, Alexandria  
(703) 548-7500  
www.carpentersshelter.org  
laundry, shower, workshops, hypothermia shelter

Legal Services of Northern Virginia  
6066 Leesburg Pike, Ste. 500  
(703) 778-6800  
www.lsnv.org  
civil legal services

Samaritan Ministry  
2924 Columbia Pike, Arlington  
(703) 271-0938  
www.samaritanministry.com  
social, job and HIV/AIDS services

**HUMOR STREET** By Courtenay Lewis



“Humor Street” is a new monthly comic feature for Street Sense by artist Courtenay Lewis. Please send comments or suggestions to editor@streetsense.org.

**VENDOR PROFILE**

**Stephanie Gooden**

By Jessica Elliott



Stephanie Gooden was born in Jamaica and was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in 1979. She grew up in the D.C. metropolitan area and graduated from Coolidge High School.

Stephanie then went on to attend the University of the District of Columbia, but ended up putting her college education on hold after having her second child. She plans to return to college if she can get financial aid.

Stephanie’s past work experience includes a lot of customer service, including working as a sales staff member at Neiman Marcus, tele-fundraising at Clean Water Action, an environmental political action organization, and waitressing at Jasper’s, a seafood restaurant in Maryland.

Stephanie has four wonderful children, aged three, five, 13 and 15, and hopes one day she can provide them with financially secure futures.

In her spare time, Stephanie loves to read, interact with her kids, family, friends and other loved ones. She also spends time praying and reading the Bible, thinking about God, and fulfilling God’s purpose for her life.

“I hope that people use the information provided by Street Sense for personal gain, and the improvement of conditions for the homeless population,” Stephanie said.

**How did you become homeless?**

I was very sick and fell behind on my rent. At that point I lost my place. Rather than impose on a friend or family member, I chose to live in a shelter until I could gain my financial independence.

**Why do you sell Street Sense?**

I sell it because it is a well-written, informative newspaper with a great office staff. It provides an income with a flexible, independent work schedule.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

I see myself not being homeless and accomplishing my life goals.

**Favorite movie?**

Dramas and psychological thrillers

**Favorite music?**

Reggae, rap, hip hop, R&B, and other appealing musical genres

**Favorite food?**

Any food that is well-cooked and well-seasoned

**Favorite book?**

The Bible

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

**StreetFact**

**One in 100 Americans is in prison.  
See story on page 8.**

SOURCE: PEW CENTER ON THE STATES

April 30 – May 13, 2008 • Volume 5 • Issue 13

Street Sense  
1317 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage Paid  
Washington, DC  
Permit #568

Mail To:

Interested in a subscription? Go to page 14 for more information.

**Introduce A Friend To Street Sense**

**A recent survey showed that less than half our readers pass along their Street Sense copy to friends.**

**Please help spread the word. Give this issue to a friend or coworker. Thanks!**