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

Volume 1, Issue 11

September 15, 2004 - October 14, 2004



The Randall Shelter is scheduled to close on October 31, 2004, just in time for winter weather. If no other site can be found, this resident might be directed to one of the city's hypothermia shelters.

Randall Shelter Closing 170 Men Face Uncertain Future

By Diane Rusignola

After two decades operating in Southwest, the Randall Transition Center will be closing on October 31, leaving 170 men without beds, food, clothing, toiletries, transportation and more.

The issue concerning the Randall closing stems back years and is connected with the Corcoran Museum of Art's imminent expansion, now set for 2006.

Randall, which consists of an old gymnasium and a redbrick complex, sits on a larger piece of land at 75 I Street, once fully occupied by Randall Junior High School, a public school that has been vacant for decades. In that time, the space had first been used as District government offices and was later leased by Bill Wooby's Millennium Arts Center (MAC), which provides a cheap space for artists to do their work.

Randall has shared its space with these other occupant for years; since MAC moved in five years ago, the Randall Shelter has been its sub-tenant, with a month-to-month lease and rent picked up by the city as of June 2000.

The Corcoran, which had been looking to expand since July 1997, recently negotiated a deal that included using Randall's space as a temporary home for its college while its downtown address is under construction.

The Corcoran's \$200 million plans – and the fate of Randall – were ultimately set when the D.C. Council voted in July to authorize a \$40 million tax increment financing (TIF) package, funding that has generated some controversy. Corcoran supporters see the TIF as the city's way of saying it supports the museum's cultural importance, while others considered it misallocation of funds to a group

that is not raising funds as fast as it would like.

As of yet, however, the city has not found a replacement site for the Randall Shelter, which means that its residents will either have nowhere to go when Randall closes or will be moved to hypothermia shelters. The Coalition of Housing & Homeless Organizations (COHHO) has been looking into a number of advocacy steps to help the Randall Shelter and its residents.

Mary Ann Luby of the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless works in conjunction with COHHO to help make services available to homeless people.

"The neat thing about Randall is its location," Luby said. "There should be space in every quadrant

See **RANDALL**, p. 7

ELECTION 2004:

Homeless Voice Their Opinions on Health Care, Housing

By Lisa Thomas

Every afternoon, John stands before a metro station selling *Street Sense* to any one of the stream of people who walk past him on their way home from work.

"It's better than begging," he said with a smile.

To John, standing within only a couple minutes' walk from the White House, shelter and food are among his most immediate concerns. But in a city governed by politics, John knows what the fall buzz is all about.

trapped."

With the skyrocketing housing prices in D.C. and a stagnant federal minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour — or the D.C. minimum wage of \$6.15 an hour — he has good cause for concern.

And John is just one of the growing number of homeless people in Washington, D.C., who are gaining a voice and speaking up about matters that keep them on the streets. The issues of most concern to the homeless include finding jobs that pay a living wage, having access to job training and affordable medical care, and expanding Section 8 housing.

For David Harris, homeless and also from Washington D.C., his concerns mainly lie with housing, cuts to the Section 8 low-income housing voucher program, and universal health care.

"I think our country needs universal health insurance. I'm also concerned about possible cuts to the Section 8 program," Harris said. "Also things like welfare and social security benefits, and job training programs that can expand people's job opportunities.

George Siletti, a former homeless person, said, "We need someone who can be in presidential office who will work with the American people and not cut back on social programs to help individuals and families continue to live a successful life."

See **ELECTION**, p. 4



Demonstrator at an anti-poverty rally in New York City.

Is this upcoming presidential election important? "Yah, definitely," he said.

"For me, a living wage is the most important issue," he added. "Without a living wage, I'll be

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Street Sense Mission Statement and Editorial Policy

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

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

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

Interested in a Subscription to *Street Sense*?

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

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Street Sense would like to thank the following people for their generous donations:

- Willette Coleman
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Their contributions help make this paper available to you and our vendors.

Street Success

Hope Dies Last For Formerly Homeless Woman

This is a new series of stories about homeless people who have succeeded in getting off the streets

By Mary Sebold

Francine Triplett starts every day with the 23rd Psalm: "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul."

That isn't something new. She has done so since she became homeless in 1994. One day that year, she woke up and boarded a Metrobus to escape from a man who had abused her for 13 years. She got off at Dupont Circle. There, a woman with unusually strong backbone began her five-year odyssey on the streets of Washington, D.C.

Before that bus ride, Triplett worked at local hotels for 30 years. She greeted lots of famous football players who stayed in hotels at L'Enfant Plaza before games with the Redskins. Once homeless she missed the simply day-to-day interaction with acquaintances and strangers.

"I just wanted conversation [with passersby]. It's lonely out there, and I know some people are just barely making it themselves. Sometimes, I wished someone would send me to

a good hotel, so I could have a real bath!"

Though Triplett was without a home, she always had a job. She cleaned office buildings at 23rd and M and chipped in with homeless friends to pay for week-ends in cheap hotels. On "school" nights, they slept in or near Dupont Circle.

In 1999 she decided this was a lifestyle she could no longer bear. "I made a decision. I was tired. I was tired of looking up at the sky and crying every night. I didn't want to drink anymore or run to the Burger King at 6 a.m. to wash myself in the bathroom sink before work."

Calvary Women's Shelter beckoned Triplett. While waiting for a space in the program, Triplett worked in a law firm where she bound documents and photocopied reports. Once in Calvary's program, she learned to care for her diabetes and high blood pres-

sure. A case manager helped her find an apartment through the program, and she applied for disability insurance. Francine has been a cleaning assistant and volunteer at Calvary for two and a half years.

She is also an active member of the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church where she uses her safe food handling license as a cook. On September 1, the church will open a nursery, and Triplett hopes to take care of the children during services. She

also plans to continue her GED classes and search for a paid job using her culinary training.

Whenever she can, Triplett travels with the National Coalition for the Homeless Speakers' Bureau. She has been to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Delaware. In her spare time, Triplett reads and minds six adopted grandchildren.

When asked what advice she had for people who were still homeless, Triplett said, "Go to a shelter. Pray to God.

He can help you get off the streets. Drugs and alcohol? Leave them alone!" Triplett also suggested trying different programs, including NA and AA. "Get involved. There is always a program for you. Be patient."

Triplett credits Kris Thompson, Director of Calvary, for her turn around. "She always said to me 'You can do it.' I could ask her anything, and she put it out there, so I could understand it."

Now that she has an apartment of her own, Triplett wishes the city would focus more on affordable housing, especially downtown, where high-priced condominium buildings sprout overnight. "The city should pay attention to the homeless," she said.

Her six-year-old granddaughter Tatyana, who often accompanies Triplett on speaking engagements, is proud of her grandmother and hopes other homeless people find ways to get off the street. "Don't laugh at the homeless. Help them out."



Street Sense

Volunteers Needed!

Writers:

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

Editors and other volunteers:

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

Come to the next Street Sense meeting on Wednesday, October 6th @ 6:00pm. Meetings are held at the National Coalition for the Homeless (1012 14th St., NW, Suite 600). For more info contact Ted at 202-737-6444 ext. 17

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ELECTION from p.1

The preservation of individual rights and freedoms is another concern.

“My personal feeling is that personal liberties of many types have eroded under this administration. I’m already on the fringe, and it seems like more and more personal freedoms are being taken away,” John said. “When you’re homeless, you become isolated, and access to public spaces is more difficult. When you look a certain way, nobody questions what you’re doing there.”

Asked whether any of the leading presidential candidates were able to make a personal connection with homeless people, John answered with a resounding, “No.” Afterward, he smiled and said, “They’re politicians.”

Harris added, “John Kerry will get a vote from me by default — he can’t possibly be as bad as George Bush.”

However, Harris wondered whether the election would result in any meaningful, real results. “All presidential elections are important, but I’m not sure the results of this will have much impact on the lives of poor or homeless people,” he said.

As for organizations whose members work on behalf of homeless people, this election couldn’t be more significant. “I would say that the upcoming election is extremely important,” said Steve Berg of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. “I think we are going to make a decision as a country — either we are going to decide that homelessness is a problem with a solution that we should adopt, or we are going to decide that

homelessness is something we are going to have to learn to tolerate and feel okay about.”

Still, among homeless people or those working on behalf of the homeless, the message is clear: The current situation is no excuse for ignoring the problems of homelessness and cutting key social programs to aid the poor.

“I believe, along with everyone at the National Alliance to End Homelessness, that the federal resources needed to end homelessness are an important priority, and nothing about the current situation justifies ignoring that priority,” Berg said.

The number of homeless people and low-income families is increasing across the country. According to the National Coalition to

End Homelessness, approximately 3.5 million people experience homelessness every year.

And yet, candidates tend to dismiss homeless people as a powerless group who are unlikely to vote, but they are very mistaken. As the homeless population grows so too grows the sounds of their voices. This year, more homeless people have registered to vote than ever before, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless. And across the country, voter registration campaigns are galvanizing the homeless commu-



Low-Income and Homeless Citizens Protest with the Kensington Welfare Union March at the Republican National Convention

nity so their voices and concerns do not go unheard.

Last week, during the Republican National Convention in New York City, protesters and poor and homeless people took to the streets to let their concerns be heard. The Poor People’s Economic Human Rights Campaign launched its own protest rally calling attention to the escalating crisis of poverty and homelessness engulfing the nation.

Besides just calling attention to the issues of the poor, homeless and low-

income citizens are hoping their protesting and voting will eventually encourage change as well.

“I think there’s always hope — however dim — of electing officials that would help us,” Harris said. “And if I didn’t vote, I wouldn’t have much right to complain about who’s in office.”

September 26-Oct. 2 is National Homeless and Low Income Voter Registration Week.

Mail-In Voter Registration Form

The District of Columbia’s Board of Elections and Ethics will accept this and other printed versions of the Registration Form. Fill out this form and mail it to:

District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20001

To register to vote in the District of Columbia, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be a D.C. resident
- Be at least 18 years old on or before the election
- Not be in jail for a felony conviction
- Not have been adjudged “mentally incompetent” by a court of law
- Not claim the right to vote anywhere outside D.C.

Federal law now requires that all voter registration applications must include either the applicant’s driver’s license number or the last four digits of their social security number. If you do not have a driver’s license, you must provide the last four digits of your social security number. If you have neither, please check the appropriate box on this voter registration form and the District will assign you a number.

Informacion en español: Si le interesa obtener este Formulario en español, llame al 727-2525

(Use a pen to complete this form)

1	Check one: Are you a U.S. Citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Reason for completing this form		Voter ID Number	
	Will you be 18 years of age on or before the next Election? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change <input type="checkbox"/> Party Change <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change		Reg. Date	Clerk
If you checked 'no' in response to any of the questions above, do not complete this form.						
3	Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix Jr. Sr. II III IV	
4	Address Where You Live Circle One NE NW SE SW			Apartment Number	Zip Code	
5	Address Where You Get Your Mail (If different from #4)				Zip Code	
6	Date of Birth	Daytime Telephone Number	Driver's License Number, or the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number			
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic Party <input type="checkbox"/> Republican Party <input type="checkbox"/> D.C. Statehood Green Party <input type="checkbox"/> No Party (Independent) <input type="checkbox"/> Other Party (write name below)				12 Voter Declaration— read and sign below	
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11	Name and Address on Last Registration					
	Signature _____ Date _____					
WARNING: If you sign this statement even though you know it is untrue, you can be convicted and fined up to \$10,000 and/or jailed for up to five years.						

Census Figures Show Poverty on the Rise in the Nation

D.C.'s Poverty Rate Decreased in 2003, Yet Still Fifth Highest in the U.S.

By Ted Henson

The recent census data for 2003 show that 12.5% of the population in the United States, or 35.9 million people, are living below the official poverty line, 1.3 million people more than the year before.

A breakdown of the new data also shows that over half of the increase, or nearly 800,000 people, are children living in poverty. The number of children living in poverty was 12.1 million, or a rate of 17.6%, up from 16.7% in 2002.

The across-the-board increase of those living in poverty was expected, however. Experts said that steady reports of higher long-term unemployment, low wage growth and surging health care costs indicated that 2003 was harsh on America's poor.

The nationwide increase of those living in poverty also resonated on the local level. Data for the District of Columbia show that while the poverty rate decreased by 0.7% to 17.3%, it still stood at the fifth largest poverty rate in the nation and well above the national average. As for Virginia

and Maryland, the poverty rates rose from 8.9% to 10% and from 8% to 7.3%, respectively.

"Poverty in the District continues to be a troubling phenomenon," said Ed Lazere, the executive director of the D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute. "Research we have done this summer shows that income inequality in D.C. was higher than in any other US city."

Lazere said that because the national and regional economies have been weak, the news is good in the sense that things did not get much worse. But overall, he said that the census numbers did properly illustrate the poverty situation in Washington.

As Michael Stoops, director of community organizing with the National Coalition for the Homeless pointed out, the poverty situation isn't

fully depicted in the numbers. "The census data is the most reliable," he said. "But the fact that it still isn't showing the extent of poverty in this nation shows that we have to get busy on addressing the problem."

Stoops noted that the dollar amount that the census uses for measuring poverty differs from families to couples to individuals. The poverty rate for a family of four in 2003 averaged about \$18,810, whereas the average poverty line for an individual was

\$9,393.

"The current levels that are used to define poverty are far below what the reality is," said Stoops. "If the bar was raised closer to where it should be, many more Americans would find themselves below the official poverty rate."

Other data from the census indicated that 45 million people were without health insurance in 2003, up

from 43.6 million in 2002, representing 15.6% of the population. Census Bureau analyst Dan Weinberg said that the increase in the number of people without insurance was due to the uncertain job picture.

"Certainly the long-term trend is firms offering less generous [benefit] plans, and as people lose jobs they tend to lose health insurance coverage," he said.

Other statistics showed that the median household income for 2003 remained basically flat last year at \$43,318. D.C. fell below the average, with a median income of \$42,597, a 2.7% increase from 2002, while Maryland and Virginia were well above the average with \$55,213 and \$52,587, respectively.

There was no noticeable change in median household income for whites, blacks and Asians, but income fell 2.6% for Hispanics to \$32,997.

The census data were released nearly a month earlier than they were this time last year. Some called into suspicion the timing of the release, but the Bureau maintained that it was released to coincide with the release of other data.

For a copy of the census report, please refer to the poverty section of the census website: www.census.gov

"...income inequality in D.C. was higher than in any other US city."

Poverty Rally Unites Many, Calls for Action



The "No Room for Poverty" rally drew thousands of people on the White House lawn on Sept. 4, 2004

On Sept. 4 thousands of advocates and concerned citizens from across the country came together for the "No Room for Poverty" Rally in front of the White House on the Ellipse. The rally's goal was to bring attention need to end poverty, focusing on five key areas: health care, jobs, housing, education, and the digital divide.

During the four-hour long event dozens of speakers from all walks of life shared their experi-

ences in poverty and expressed the need to close the gap between the rich and poor. The Community Action Partnership, which sponsored the rally, also urged the presidential candidates to pledge to convene a White House Conference on American Poverty.

Some of the other speakers included Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women; John Taylor, president and CEO of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition; and Sarah Greene, the

president and CEO of the National Head Start Association.

For more information on the Community Action Partnership and their efforts to organize a White House Conference on American Poverty, refer to their website:

www.communityactionpartnership.com/



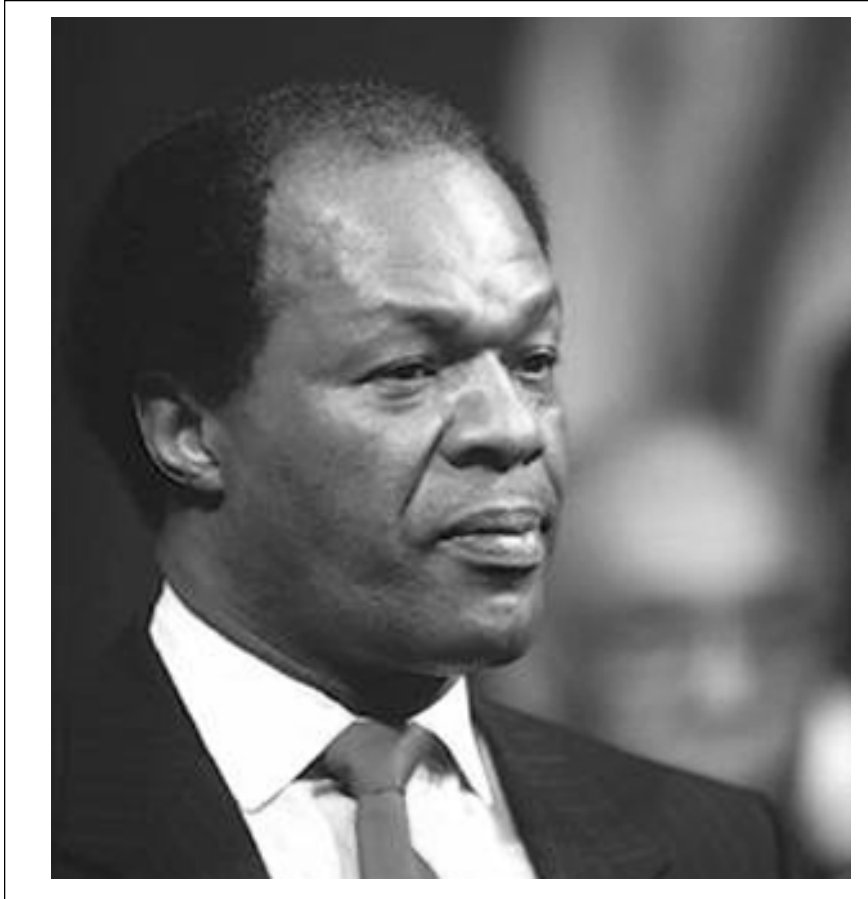
One girl watches the rally while displaying her message.

Former Mayor Barry's Thoughts on Housing and Poverty

Marion Barry is the four-time mayor of Washington, D.C., and the second elected mayor in its history. He first arrived in D.C. in 1965 while working for the historic civil rights group, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. Barry was a fiery, outspoken leader who soon changed his focus from desegregation and voting rights in the South to confronting the racial and economic disparities within the District of Columbia.

He emerged as a local leader through the "Free D.C." movement for home rule in 1966 and was first elected to public office when he gained a seat on the D.C. school board in 1971. He later won a seat on the City Council, and he was elected mayor in 1978, 1982, and 1986 and again in 1994, in a political resurrection after the 1990 FBI sting that landed him in prison for six months on drug charges.

Although Barry's administration was saddled with allegations of cronyism and his own personal struggles with drugs, he has remained a beloved leader and staunch ally of the District's most disenfranchised communities, particularly poor, African-American residents. Barry was interviewed by Street Sense reporter Gabrielle Coppola.



SS: In 1998, you said, "I feel called to serve in other areas, outside of public office," and you took some time off. What have you been doing in the meantime, and what made you decide to run for office again?

MB: In 1998, I didn't decide to permanently retire from electoral politics; that's what I did for a while. I do investment banking. Municipal finance is my specialty, so I've been doing that. I did a little community work, but not much, because I'd done 44 years of service and I decided to spend a little time with myself and by myself, without all the other things going on.

I shop at the Safeway at Market-place, Naylor Road, SE. Every time I go in there, I've been inundated, people crying about how they don't have a job, how bad things are in Ward 8, and one day, someone said, "You've gotta run, you've gotta run, 'cause things are so bad."

I don't want to sit around and complain about it, I've got a lot of energy, a lot of ideas. Let's get back into the game, and I'm back in it to win it.

SS: You got to D.C. back in 1965, so have you seen things change in terms of there being affordable housing and the size of the homeless population? What are the big changes that have taken place since you got here in 1965?

MB: Well, among the poor, the left out, and people that are homeless, and a whole bunch of other people that people don't care much about, but I do — things might have gotten a little bit bet-

ter here and there. But for the majority of people who live in Ward 8, it hasn't. When we get \$250,000 dollar housing, we certainly welcome it, but we also should be welcoming people of low-to-moderate income, too; they have no place to go.

The social needs are greater now than ever before. Think about what's the priority, the city should spend its money on that which is a priority.

SS: Do you think they're doing that now?

MB: I don't know, you need to ask them. Some people say they don't care.

SS: But you think that they're

not spending as much money as they could be on affordable housing?

MB: Absolutely not, not even close.

SS: You had four terms as mayor of D.C.; what

specific things did you do to address the problem of affordable housing and homelessness.

MB: We supported these HOPE VI grants, and we were creating them at Henson Ridge, which provided a tiny bit of relief. We increased the

HPAP [Home Purchase Assistance Program], which means we increased the number of people who could use it, the \$20,000 you can get. A lot of people use it for down payments. Increased spending on HPAP.

SS: If you were elected to Ward 8, what specific steps would you take to deal with this problem?

MB: Well, first of all, we would introduce a whole series of bills, one guaranteeing a summer job for every young person. It should also be a requirement for the mayor to come back within 36 months with a comprehensive healthcare program and build a new public hospital.

In terms of housing, I'm gonna introduce a bill to the council establishing a quasi-independent agency called the Housing Production Corporation. And the Housing Production Corporation would be able to borrow money on the open market to build more houses, so it won't cost the taxpayers any money.

I mean, that isn't nothing to be sneezed at — that's a major push. Just think, we have 10,000 units coming on line this year; I mean, that's a major thing.

SS: Do you think the District's limited home-rule status affects its ability to deal with the housing issue?

MB: Of course — he who has the gold rules, remember that. As long as the Congress has their fingers in our pocket, they're gonna try to run it.

SS: Is there anything else you'd like to say about the housing and homelessness issue, or that you'd like to say to the readers of Street Sense?

MB: I support every effort you can find, every effort, to house everyone who's out in the streets. Not only to house them but to give them various other kinds of medical help.

As long as the Congress has their fingers in our pocket, they're gonna try to run it.

RANDALL from p.1

so that those who live there have a shelter nearby. We [at the clinic] are really distressed about the movement of Randall out of downtown.”

COHHO has felt the frustration of no timeline and no progress on the Randall crisis in recent months. Luby said that in an August 27 letter, Neil Albert, D.C. Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth, Families, and Elders, said that the Randall Shelter would

be closing as of October 31. If no acceptable replacement for Randall has been found by then, several hypothermia shelters will expand to accommodate current Randall residents and include them in the 2004-05 winter plan. Randall is one of seven emergency shelters for men that currently exist in the city. There are also four emergency shelters for women.

Luby described the difference between hypothermia shelters and shelters like Randall as significant. While Randall, which offers supportive services for homeless men to begin rebuilding their lives, consistently houses many of the same people each night, hypothermia shelters attract different people nightly, and are often larger and less safe. According to its website, Randall’s “transitional housing assists clients in overcoming problems causing homelessness: chemical dependency, mental illness, unemployment, housing and financial issues, family and legal problems.”

Randall advocates fear that much of the progress the men have made at the shelter will be lost if they are forced into hypothermia shelters come November 1, and that Randall residents may regress back into some of their old behaviors.

“At Randall, these men have stabilized



somewhat. But at a hypothermia shelter, they’ll be put back in the mix with substance abuse. Programmatically, it’s nuts,” Luby said.

So Others Might Eat (SOME), a community-based organization that provides direct services such as food and affordable housing to the city’s poor and homeless people, has also been working to prevent Randall from closing. “Randall has been

open for more than [two decades],” said T.J. Sutcliffe, director of advocacy and social justice at SOME. “There has to be a replacement.”

Luby noted that the legal clinic has made a plea to the Corcoran board of directors for everyone to

work together on this issue. “Why can’t the shelter coexist with the Corcoran? We need a balanced approach between people who struggle and new people coming into the area. We may have to revisit decisions we have made in the past,” Luby said. “With a \$40 million TIF, should we not turn around and be beneficent?”

We need a balanced approach between people who struggle and new people coming into the area.

Rally Sheds Light On Section 8 Cuts

By Mike O’Neill

“What do we want?”— “Housing!”
“When do we want it?”— “Now!”

This was the refrain of the nearly 150 people who crowded around the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) building in early September, rallying to save the Section 8 program. Lawmakers are currently debating whether to approve devastating funding cuts for this a federal initiative that provides rent subsidies to millions of low-income people around the country.

More than two million low-income households rely on Section 8 housing vouchers to help pay their rent, and more than 54,000 people are on voucher waiting lists. But the Section 8 program has long been a target of the Bush administration, which recently urged a federal rule change that would cut funds for local housing authorities and eliminate subsidies for as many as 60,000 families currently living in Section 8 housing. If the Bush administration’s Section 8 budget for 2005 passes without amendment, housing authorities around the country would be forced to drop an estimated 250,000 families from the Section 8 program next year, and/or institute significant rent increases for program participants.

Demonstrators at the September rally called on Congress to recognize the importance of affordable housing for all Americans. Organized by the National Coalition to Save Section 8, a diverse, broad-based group of researchers, service providers, advocates, homeless people, people currently living in public or subsidized housing, and representatives of religious

groups, the rally gave concerned citizens a chance to show their elected leaders the faces – and stories behind – the problem of homelessness in the United States.

Many people gave personal narratives of their struggles with poverty and homelessness, describing difficult job searches, poor-quality housing, and the ever-widening gap between rich and poor in the D.C. area. They pointed out that there are 3.5 million homeless people in the United States – and that the figure is increasing daily. Others held signs declaring that “Everyone deserves a home” and “Housing is a basic human right.”

After demonstrating outside HUD, the protestors marched to the U.S. Capitol,

chanting, “Money for housing — not for war!” They were eventually stopped by the capitol police, who later let the group continue the march. Near the Capitol, demonstrators gathered to hear remarks from Mary Ann Luby, policy director for the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, a rally co-sponsor.

The only member of Congress to attend the demonstration was California Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-9th). Ms. Lee was enthusiastic and grateful to see so many passionate people gathered to express their concerns about threats to



Demonstrators met in front of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and marched to Capitol Hill to protest Section 8 cuts.



Section 8. She told the demonstrators to contact their congressional representatives and urge them save Section 8. Ms. Lee also stated that she believes housing is a basic human right and that homelessness is an important concern in her state, where there are more than one million homeless people. District of Columbia Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D) planned to attend the rally, but at the last minute, event organizers asked her not to attend because of inclement weather.

Other Save Section 8 demonstrations took place on September 8 in Atlanta, Austin, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New York, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Madison, Indianapolis and Santa Fe.

Street Sense

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

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

Provider Profile: Sunday Suppers

By Leslie Hess

A white van pulls into a driveway on the corner of 9th and N Streets NW and volunteers unload half a dozen tables and a plastic chairs. A makeshift dining hall quickly appears right on the sidewalk.

The homeless and neighborhood residents line up for the hot meal that 'Sunday Suppers' has provided weekly for 14 years. Only once — during the blizzard of 1996 — have volunteers been unable to deliver a meal like this:

Music plays, Motown, Soul, R&B, while Coolers filled with cold water and iced tea are placed on crates. A vat of pasta is placed along side a box of freshly made sandwiches, hard-boiled eggs, cookies and breakfast bars.

A handful of volunteers, most of whom have heard about the program from their church or friends, and those who live in the neighborhood, help out. They pour drinks, dish out pasta, and chat with area residents. Josh, a recent college graduate who lives in a townhouse next door, bakes fresh rolls in his kitchen.

But the backbone of this ritual is Wayne Merrill, his wife, Mary Ann, and the friends they sit and chat with every week.

Sunday Suppers offers an alternative experience to typical soup kitchens. Wayne and Mary Ann know most who come by name. It is the only place where D.C.'s homeless and poor can sit outside and eat a free meal, relax with

friends, and listen to music.

The music was Wayne's idea. "The music adds a festive feeling," he said. "It gives people something they have in common. Sometimes people dance."

Hugs are encouraged to create a friendly atmosphere. Wayne and Mary Ann have been told countless times that the hugs are the only ones many homeless receive all week.

Anthony, a neighborhood resident, has been Wayne's friend since the late 1980s. He comes to relax and feel spiritual. "It's about a peaceful environment," he explained.

Sunday Suppers follows simple rules: everyone waits in line and everyone is served one at a time.

Phill Starling has been assisting Sunday Suppers since 2001. He admires Wayne and Mary Ann's approach to service and the way they deliver their message.

"Their work is religiously motivated — a result of their personal faith," Starling said. "But it's focused on action, not words. No sermons, just love."

Sunday Suppers offers Phill and other volunteers a chance to socialize and talk with those who are homeless or living in poverty, rather than just serving them food.

The weekly gatherings have a long and successful history.

In November 1988, Wayne began volunteering with another organization providing meals to the city's homeless. He and other volunteers would hop in their cars and drive around the city, following the glow from oil drum fires, indicating where the homeless gather.



Working the same route for two years, Wayne and his colleagues became friends with those they served. Shortly after the homeless organization decided to abandon his route and consolidate its services into only two sites, Wayne set out on his own.

On September 30, 1990, Wayne began to visit four sites every Sunday evening, serving 30 to 40 people. Eventually they were consolidated into two, and attendance rose to approximately 100 people, where it remains today.

Along with their friends, Wayne and Mary Ann prepare each meal in their own kitchen in Maryland.

Preparation starts at about 3 p.m. every Sunday and by 6 p.m. they are loading the van and heading to 4th and K Streets NW. By 8 pm, they arrive at the second site, here at 9th and N streets NW. (Sunday Suppers receives no official permission from the city or property owners to serve meals on these sites).

Shorty, a man in his mid-forties, has been coming to Sunday Suppers for years. His family has lived in the neighborhood for generations, he said. It is

local residents like Shorty who make for a different, neighborly atmosphere at 9th and N streets than at the 4th and K site, which serves more transients.

Wayne and Mary Ann fund much of Sunday Suppers on their own and donations and gifts in kind are also provided by friends and neighbors. Their first and only fundraiser, organized by a Sunday Suppers volunteer, took place at a bowling alley in Bethesda in the fall of 2003.

Wayne explains their dedication as "a choice of lifestyle centered around service."

"That's the way I want to live my life," he added. "Making the world a better place..."

He knows that one meal every week will not keep anyone alive, but "If they want a hug, this is the place to get it."

When: Every Sunday evening

Where: Corner of 4th and K St. NW (6:30 pm to 7:45 pm)

Corner of 9th and N St. NW (8:00 pm to 9:15 pm)

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

Wish List

As Street Sense grows, so do its needs. If you have access to any of the following resources, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Office needs: Two office desks that are large enough for computers, filing cabinets, office chairs, a small couch, a copy machine, fax machine, and a scanner.

Vendor needs: Blankets, Sleeping Bags, warm clothes for cold weather, socks and underwear, raingear and umbrellas, backpacks, windbreakers/jackets, toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, nailclippers, etc.) and old shoes.

Contact us at 202-737-6444 ext. 17 or email us at streetsense@nationalhomeless.org with information.

The National Coalition for the Homeless

Mission

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

Yes, I want to partner with the National Coalition for the Homeless and others committed to the goal of preventing and ending homelessness in our nation.

Please make your tax deductible check out to NCH. NCH is a 501(c)(3) organization. Our F-EIN is 52-1517415, CFC # 2960

National Coalition for the Homeless
1012 14th St., NW Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 737-6444
Fax: (202) 737-6445



Study Dispels Myths About Homeless

By Laura Thompson Osuri

Countering the general stereotypes of homeless people, a recent survey found that four out of five homeless people have high school diplomas and more than a third were employed when they became homeless.

The study, released in early September by the Association of Gospel and Rescue Missions (AGRM), asked more than 2,500 homeless men and women at 60 rescue missions across the country about their education and work experience while they were homeless and when they were housed. It was the first time the Kansas City-based group has ever conducted such a survey.

"The results went beyond what we expected," said Phil Rydman, the communications director of AGRM. "The high school diploma rate was definitely higher than we expected and the job stability was surprising."

Nearly half of the men and women surveyed said that they had held only one or two jobs during the previous five years, which Rydman said showed that many homeless people are loyal and dedicated employees. And most people were employed in construction — 39 % — and the food service industry, 35 %.

And while the majority of jobs that these homeless people were holding or have held are at the lower levels of the work force, 80 % of them had high school diplomas. And 29 % of the homeless survey had some college experience, with 9 % actually having completed a college degree.

Of these working men and women on the streets 40 % were employed when they became homeless. But not surprisingly, just over half of respondents said that their job loss had a direct impact on their losing their home.

Because all of the people surveyed were living in or using services at rescue missions, the survey also asked how the missions have helped them get back on their feet. Rydman said that answers

like "providing a stable address" and "offering addiction recovery programs" were expected, but others were surprising. One-third of the homeless people surveyed said that personal counseling

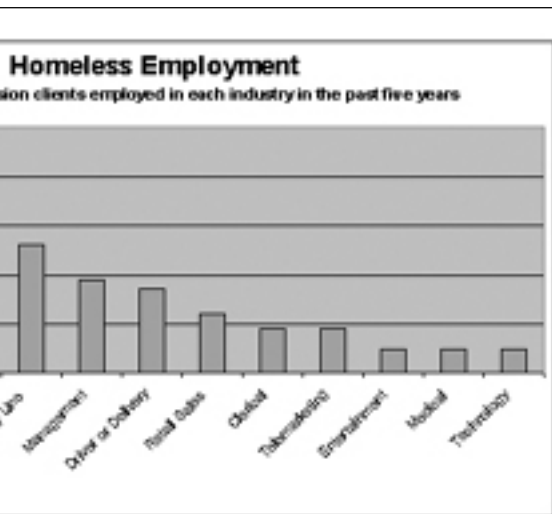
"The high school diploma rate was definitely higher than we expected and the job stability was surprising."

from missions was useful and 37 % said missions helped them restore personal relationships.

To be sure, Rydman said, the fact that the men and women surveyed had made the decision to go to the mission and seek help means that these results do not represent the entire homeless population but rather a much more motivated segment.

"These are people who have made a conscious decision that they need to do something to take control of their life," Rydman said. "And that is not the mindset of the entire homeless population."

Although several missions exist in the Washington area, including the Central Union Mission in downtown, D.C., none of them responded to the study, which was conducted in early August.



NEWS . . . Around The Nation

West Nile Concerns Raised in Los Angeles

Advocates are worried that the homeless population in Los Angeles could be hit hard by the West Nile virus, and are issuing a call for extra safety measures for those who sleep in parks and alongside rivers where mosquitoes carrying the disease thrive.

While many know the warning signs and notice an increase in dead birds possibly infected with the virus, they are reluctant to leave the parks. "A lot of them are staying by the rivers and the water because that's where people won't complain about them," says Jenny Arevalo, a response team member tells the *Mercury News*. "But they're putting themselves at higher risk," she adds.

A city council member has asked a team from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to pass out information about the disease and talk with people camping near water and in parks.

Advocates are advising people sleeping outdoors to cover up at night and visit an emergency room if they experience any symptoms, like a fever and stiff neck. They're also trying to obtain insect repellent.

A study done in Houston found that 10 % of West Nile encephalitis cases in 2002 were homeless men and women. But homeless people living in the parks say they'll stay.

"I won't leave," says Kevin Snow. "I am concerned about it, but worry? It doesn't do any good to worry. There's no known cure anyway."

Houston's New Free Bus Service for Homeless

Free bus service in Houston, Texas, is getting homeless men and women to clinics, shelters and social service agencies.

Project Access is one of few like it in the country.

The Associated Press reports it was developed by Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston, which is a consortium of 28 agencies and organizations. It was launched a year ago after an annual survey found the biggest barrier for homeless people to get health care was transportation. A \$120,000 city grant allowed the group to charter a bus company and run a route each weekday.

School District Helps Homeless Children with Supplies

A school district in California is gathering school supplies to help homeless children have equal access to education. The Hollister School District is starting a school supply drive called the "Backpack Project."

The district's goal is to gather school supplies and backpacks for homeless and needy children in the community.

"All of these children have to deal with special circumstances like hunger and fatigue, along with trying to stay in school," Diane Ortiz of the HSD tells the *Hollister Freelance News*.

There are more than 80 homeless children in the district. "We really want to try and make sure they have equal access to education," she says. With many homeless families moving from shelter to shelter, roughly 23 % of homeless children drop out of school nationwide.

"When you have 80 children living in a shelter in a small community, there is obviously a problem," she said. "Our goal is to reduce the barriers for these students and their families and let them know the schools support them. This is not something we can cross our fingers and try to ignore."

The district hopes to have 50 backpack stuffed with pencils, crayons, notebooks and other school supplies ready to go by the beginning of the school year. Since there is no state or federal grand funding, they are counting on the community to help out. The HSD hopes to continue supporting students in need by providing help with free lunches and after school programs.

Boredom is Motive for Vicious Death in Oakland

Boredom was the reason given by three teens who beat a homeless man to death in California last month.

Joseph Brown was attacked while he slept near an abandoned building in West Oakland. Brown was the 44th of 48 people killed in Oakland so far this year. His badly beaten body and the age of his alleged killers is shocking to Chief Richard Word. "This was such a brutal and senseless crime," he says. "I cannot understand how three young boys could be so cold and callous."

The three teens remain in custody at juvenile hall. It's expected they will be charged with murder. None had prior criminal records.

These Briefs are From the Street News Service:

<http://streetnewsservice.org/>

Virginia's Children

Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station,
green and rolling suburban hills,
traffic-choked highways...

Steamy kitchens,
endless lines of
weary, hungry
men and women
dressed in ragged hand-me-downs,
hauling their whole lives
in weighty parcels- backpacks
and garbage bags...

It's a long way
from leafy suburbs
to the cold heart of a city-
not in miles,
but in the contrary images
seen by eyes
on opposite sides
of a counter.

A young girl hands a plate,
piled high with a life-sustaining meal
into gnarled hands;

"thank you" and "you're welcome"
are exchanged, a quick link made,
then it's time
to serve the next;
there are so many
hungry faces.

The girl has no time to wonder
where each one sleeps at night
or where they find sanctuary
from drenching rain and icy winds-
there are so many
hungry faces.

Evening comes;
the children of Burke and Fairfax
sit in comfort,
pens and notebooks in hand.

I sit here with them,
sharing their comfort,
waiting to hear
how they've been touched
by this morning's hungry souls.

I sit here with memories
of a thousand mornings
standing frozen, hungry and weary
with my whole life
hanging from my shoulders,
awaiting a life-sustained meal
and, hopefully, a smile
from one of the children
of Burke and Fairfax.

— David Harris

Read To Me

"read to me"
she says;
in the plaintive desperate coo
of a wounded bird.

his voice
stumbles, stutters
even as his words
sing and soar;

she tastes each syllable
as a cool drop
to soothe
unrelenting thirst.

his words
carry visions
of hungry desolate streets
that consume of all hint of hope;
of chilly nights
wrapped
in dingy
gray wool blankets.

still, under the unbroken flow
from his lips
she feels
embraced
by warm peaceful arms.

the moveless puddles
of her eyes
reflect
morose gray skies;
she closes the lids
and slips into a dream
along grimy city streets
of his creation.

after the turning
of just a few pages
his voice
cracks & fades
but she is content;
her pudgy hand,
skin pale as pearls,
grasps his-
skin of ashen chocolate,
chilled from the breezes
stirring bare night trees
outside her window.

as she slips
into drowsy silence,
the warmth from her lonely fire
slowly seeps
into his bones;
each weary
from different lonely journeys,
they find
rest
and peace
together.

— David Harris

To K——

(after Benjamin Peret)

I am your stony lung, your other;
I am your slow unwilling thought.
To you I am scratched blurry plastic,
splintered wood.
I am rain on the bricks, cold fog,
a pasteboard ticket.

I am your green-gold snake.
I am your spires of Dresden.
I am your blue Bohemian hills.

Your silvered fields am I, your drifted earth.
Your blessed flesh, your torn page,
lost volume, scrivined ink.

But you don't love me, you Love my evoL - you evoL
me,
and I don't know what I do for you.
I am scratched blurry plastic,
and you are my ivory query, springing trust.

My arms wrap around in empty space before me,
they stagger me forward, I love you.

— David S. Hammond

“Johnny Cash, Our John Henry”

(Johnny Cash died a year ago, September 12, 2003.
These words are based on
songs about John Henry, a legendary railroad worker
whose skill and speed with
his hammer helped him win a contest with a steam-pow-
ered drill. John Henry
was a champion of the human heart and hand, and so
was Johnny Cash.)

I was just waking up when I heard Johnny Cash had died
I could hardly believe my ears
I switched on the lamp and rubbed the sleep out of my
eyes
I almost broke down in tears, Lord Lord, I almost broke
down in tears

The news announcer spoke about a death in Tennessee
and I knew exactly whose the name would be
I knew that Johnny was in Glory with June Carter by his
side
I knew that Johnny was at peace and he was free, Lord
Lord,
Johnny was at peace and he was free

When Johnny Cash was a little baby sitting on his
mama's knee
he reached out his hand and grabbed an old steel string
guitar
and said this'll be the life of me, Lord Lord, this'll be the
life of me

Johnny Cash and Luther Perkins played a steady driving
rhythm
like a nine-pound hammer swinging on cold steel
like a factory a-working, like a diesel train a-rolling
like a lonesome whistle telling how I feel, Lord Lord,
like a lonesome whistle telling how I feel

Whenever Johnny saw injustice, he would raise his
mighty voice up
he would sing out for the poor and beaten down
he would sing out to remind us of the ones that are held
back
and now Johnny has gone home to claim his crown, Lord
Lord,
Johnny has gone home to claim his crown

Johnny Cash was like a preacher, like a president, a
prophet -
like a strong man laying track to be our guide
and his voice was like a hammer, with his guitar double-
driving
and a life of songs of mercy and of pride, Lord Lord,
a life of songs of mercy and of pride

Somewhere a train is rolling to outrace the setting sun
about a thousand miles an hour is the speed
that train has faith and power, it has dignity and grace,
and it carries on the hope that we all need, Lord Lord,
it carries on the hope that we all need

— David S. Hammond

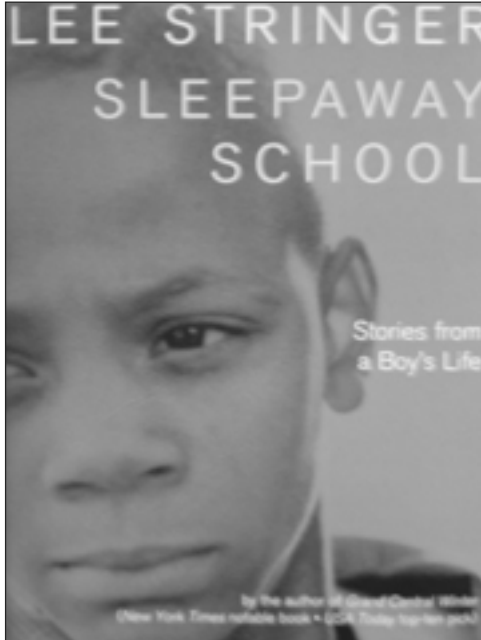
Book Review:

Sleepaway School by Lee Stringer

When you think about it, the first dozen or so years of a person's life are often the most significant in shaping who he is to become later on. The neighborhood he lives in, the friends he hangs out with, the amount of encouragement he receives from teachers, parents, and other caregivers—these are the deeply ingrained parts of a person's being that no woman or man can ever truly shake, even 30 or 40 years after the fact.

Lee Stringer is no different.

At 54, Stringer, a former drug addict who first made a name for himself with his acclaimed 1999 work *Grand Central Winter: Stories from the Street*, relives his turbulent youth with extraordinary candor and intensity in his new book, *Sleepaway School*. In this deeply revealing memoir, Stringer documents the fleeting period during which he, an African-American male growing up in pre-Civil-Rights America, transitioned from a young boy into a young man.



As he lays bare the transgressions and misdemeanors that would temporarily lead him down a self-destructive path as an adult, he reveals the equally prominent signs of his eventual liberator—his startling way with words.

The cards Stringer was dealt were not easy ones: he and his brother Wayne spent several years with a foster parent before their mother was financially able to gather them up and take them home. Their father, a delivery truck driver from Peekskill, N.Y., was nonexistent for them, making only cameo visits once or twice in their lives. Together, mother and sons eked their way in the small predominantly white community of Mamaroneck, N.Y., the same town where Stringer makes his home today. But by the third grade, Stringer was having difficulty controlling the rage he felt toward other, “luckier,” students, let alone toward a God who seemed, in Stringer's view, to have it in for him.

Stringer recounts the details of his boyhood with such heartfelt precision—the smile on his mother's face, the tone in a teacher's voice, the knot in his stomach when he's realized that his anger has gotten the best of him—a reader can't help but wonder if he isn't able to channel his 10-year-old self. Boldly, he leads us through some of the most painful memories of his past—a race-fueled scuffle in an auditorium, a hallway confrontation, a school for at-risk students, an asylum. As he does so, Stringer gently reveals a young boy's innocent and hopeful spirit that, until now, had remained safely hidden from view.

Stringer's powerful prose will make you wince at times, weep at others, and smile at every hard-earned triumph. You'll find yourself re-reading passages simply because they are so beautifully phrased, evoking feelings that every human has known but for which there is no name.

Throughout his young life, Stringer viewed God as something to fear—someone whom others in his life seemed to have an “in” with, but not him. By the end of his book it's obvious that this same God was keeping an eye on him all along—enabling him to finally break free of his downward spiral through a gift of writing that is so pure, so profound, so soulfully good that it can't possibly be of this earth.

-- Jennifer Wenger

Cook's Corner

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Ingredients

4 chicken breasts
salt and pepper
1 c. unseasoned bread crumbs
¼ c. minced fresh parsley
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. garlic powder
2 eggs
2 tsp. water
¼ c. flour
4 slices of ham or prosciutto
4 thin slices of Swiss cheese
1 ½ Tbs. butter
1 ½ Tbs. olive oil



Preparation

- Rinse, dry chicken and trim fat.
- Gently pound each breast until about 3/8 inch thick.
- Season chicken with salt and pepper.
- Mix in a bowl breadcrumbs, parsley, salt, and garlic powder.
- Lay breast flat and add one piece of cheese and one slice of ham on top.
- Fold breast in half and press edges firmly together (don't have cheese hanging out of the breast).
- Roll outside of breast in flour until completely covered.
- Mix eggs and water together.
- Dip chicken into egg mixture.
- Roll breast around in the breadcrumbs.
- Repeat for each breast.
- In a large skillet add butter and oil.
- Cook chicken on both sides until golden brown.

This recipe comes from Lawrence Cheeks, a trainee at 3rd & Eats Restaurant. His creation won first place in a competition between seven chefs with the culinary arts training program. The competition was stiff for the contest, and coming in a close second was Mark Marcus and his Chicken Alfredo, and in third was Robin Mosby and the Vadalina Onion Chicken.

The restaurant, located at Judiciary Square, not only serves delicious food each day, but also contributes greatly to improving the community.

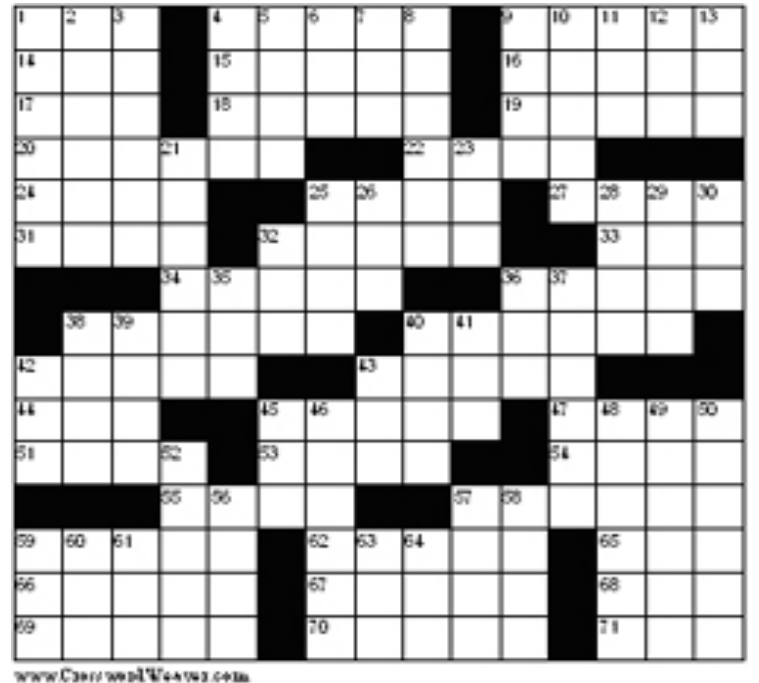
Unlike ordinary restaurants, the 10 to 15 trainees that make up the staff of 3rd & Eats are low-income or formerly homeless individuals who are clients of Community Family Life Services (CFLS), a nonprofit social service agency located next door to the restaurant. Trainees are enrolled in CFLS's culinary arts training program for 18 weeks and participate in on-the-job training and classroom instruction. They are also simultaneously enrolled in the National Restaurant Association's sanitation course, which when completed earns them a basic food supervisor's license.

The goal is for trainees to obtain and retain positions in the culinary arts at an average wage of \$8 to \$10 per hour to help support and put their families back on the road to stability.



Crossword September

- | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Across | 59 | DC homeless coalition | 32 | Compass point | |
| 1 | Soup container | 62 | ___ duck | 35 | Tree |
| 4 | Bind | 65 | Halloween mo. | 36 | Ripen |
| 9 | Gold weight | 66 | What babies do | 37 | Rare |
| 14 | Spanish "one" | 67 | Buzz | 38 | Invitation abbreviation |
| 15 | Barry's Ward | 68 | Sleepaway author | 39 | Brews |
| 16 | UK members | 69 | Street _____ | 40 | Roman garments |
| 17 | Golfer's goal | 70 | Vendor into African music | 41 | Possessive pronoun |
| 18 | Anesthetic | 71 | Goof | 42 | Legume |
| 19 | Darkly | | | 43 | Location of Section 8 rally |
| 20 | Type of gasoline | Down | | 45 | Deoxyribonucleic acid (abbr.) |
| 22 | Comfort | 1 | Rooftop structure | 46 | Hardest to find |
| 24 | MGM's Leo | 2 | Bayer's competitor | 48 | American songbird |
| 25 | Fibs | 3 | DC Congresswoman | 49 | Swordsman |
| 27 | Lager | 4 | Adolescent | 50 | Reform for _____ |
| 31 | Green Gables dweller | 5 | Ritual | Care | |
| 32 | Globe | 6 | Good grief! | 52 | Guiding principles |
| 33 | Take to court | 7 | Her | 56 | Only |
| 34 | Meal listings | 8 | _____ Sense | 57 | "cootie" |
| 36 | Association (abbr.) | 9 | New to poverty increase | 58 | Navy's rival |
| 38 | Berated | 10 | Constellation | 59 | Disks |
| 40 | Cats | 11 | Border | 60 | Miner's goal |
| 42 | Triplett's favorite bible verse | 12 | Sign language | 61 | Term of affection |
| 43 | Traveler's lodging | 13 | Scriptural your | 63 | The other half of Jima |
| 44 | Evening | 21 | Blood disease | 64 | Reservoir |
| 45 | Illegal hallucinogens | 23 | Fire remains | | |
| 47 | Take off your hat | 25 | Extol | | |
| 51 | Recess | 26 | Internal Revenue Service | | |
| 53 | Nothing | 28 | Union of Soviet Socialist Republics | | |
| 54 | Dunking cookies | 29 | Pairs | | |
| 55 | Despot | 30 | Part of a min. | | |
| 57 | Urchins | | | | |



August Solutions



Marvin Hammerman: Part VI

A Novel by Street Sense Vendor Mallory

As the black night sky covers the city, check-in time continues at the men's shelter at 713 8th Street. In the office of the shelter director, Maylor Wilson, the shelter director, Willie Roberts, the shelter worker, Gregory Bradwell, Assistant D.A., his assistant, Anna Jackson, private investigator Russell Jamison, and homicide detective Adam Grimwald are now assembled together.

There is another knock on Mr. Wilson's door.

"Come in."

Excuse me, Mr. Wilson, the name of that person you requested information on is right here.

Wilson hands it to Inspector Bradwell. That person's name is Ryland Harden.

Grimwald, run a check on this guy and see what you can dig up on him.

Right away, Inspector.

And one more thing — put an APB out on him. He may be hard to catch now that he knows he's been made.

Well, Jamison, this is your case. You tell us what you need.

I have to find this guy, Inspector. I'll be staying on the street.

As Jamison prepares to sleep on the street, new information comes in about Harden. The shelter director's phone rings.

Inspector, this is Grimwald.

Yeah, Grimwald. What do you have for me?

Inspector, you are not going to believe the rap sheet on this Harden guy. Ryland Edward Harden, a.k.a. Ryland Jackson, a.k.a. William Harden, a.k.a. David Ryland, a.k.a. Eugene Harden, a.k.a. Ryland Reed, a.k.a. Edward Evans, a.k.a. Harry Harden, a.k.a. Ryland Ross, a.k.a. Edward Mason, a.k.a. John Ryland . . .

Jamison, now taking all of this in, realizes now what he's up against. This guy could be using any number of false names to get over on people. "Inspector, I think that I have enough of what I need to get this guy."

Meanwhile, Ryland Harden is no longer Ryland Harden. He uses the name Harden Green. As he walks to another shelter somewhere across town, the night wind begins to turn chilly. He is hungry, and he needs a drink of alcohol. He begins to beg for change, but a lot of people pass him by. He is dirty; he smells like he slept in an underground sewer for a week. He is very tired — he has got to get to the other shelter. But he doesn't make it to the other shelter. Fatigue hits him hard, and as he stumbles and staggers to a nearby alley to sleep, he knows he is a wanted man. He must hide himself where

he cannot be found.

Russell Jamison, now a homeless man going by the street name Skidder, begins to ask questions about Harden, but he asks as though Harden is a good friend of his. Jamison makes his way over to a group of men gathered around a fire barrel trying to keep warm. He joins right in on the conversation, laughing and joking right along with the other homeless men. "Say buddy," says one man, "I have never seen you around here — where are you from?"

Oh, Minnesota, Minnesota.

You a long way from home, ain't you?

Yeah, well, a good friend of mine told me about this town. I thought I would stop in to check it out.

What's your friend's name?

Oh, he goes by the name Ryland, that's all I ever knew him by.

You must mean ole shaggy hair Ryland, tall white fella, 'bout 6' 3", got a scruffy beard, walks like his knees are knocking together.

Yeah, that's him, have you seen him?

Hey, my man, I see him everywhere, uptown, midtown, downtown. Man, that dude gets around, somebody told me he almost busted the door down at the shelter this evening trying to get out there, something must've spooked him. That

dude's on drugs, man. You might find him at the evening mission over on 40th Street.

Jamison now has the information he needs, but he needs to get in touch with Bradwell. He can't look too suspicious, that may give him away. "Say, where can I get something to eat at this hour?"

A Salvation Army truck comes around every evening about this time to feed everybody — stick around, it will be here shortly.

Hey listen, I'll just walk around a little while I'm waiting.

As Jamison tries not to act or look too suspicious, he finds his way to a phone, contacts Bradwell, and gives him the details on what he has learned. He then contacts Marvin Hammerman's office to fill Hammerman in on what he has learned.

Marvin, I will be going to 1919 North 40th street to the evening rescue mission. I think I am in for a showdown with this guy.

Jamison, please be careful. This guy could be armed.

Part 7: The Showdown. Jamison and Harden face off.



What Our Readers Are Saying . . .

Dear Editors,

I am writing to express my admiration for your newspaper. I have read several issues and have been impressed with the quality of the work as well as the courteous and professional manner of the vendors.

I purchased a copy of Volume 1, issue 10 on Monday August 16, 2004. The vendor, Jose Castillo, asked me if I wanted a copy of the paper. I was interested in reading it, especially since I haven't read it in a few months. He pointed out the profile of him that appeared on the back page and he and I discussed the front page article regarding voter registration efforts. Both articles were very informative.

I was especially impressed with two pieces written by Maurice King. His review of Fahrenheit 9/11 was by far the best and most objective review of the movie I have read. And his untitled poem was so good I had to read it out loud to my wife right then.

We appreciate the work you and your staff do in putting together this paper. I will continue to buy the newspaper from vendors rather than subscribe so that I can continue to support these men and women who daily face struggles I cannot begin to understand.

Sincerely,
Matthew Marcou

Dear Street Sense,

I left my wallet inside my locked office; five blocks away from a metro stop and after everyone else had left my office last night. I didn't realize that until I got to the metro stop (Farragut North), so I was essentially trapped.

My only idea then was to ask one of your vendors who was selling Street Sense there for a loan of \$2 to get me home on the metro. He readily agreed, almost without reliance on my promise to repay the money and more soon. I am embarrassed to admit that I did not even catch his name in my state of hurry and anxiety, but he was clearly very generous and trusting.

Thanks to him and thanks to your good organization,
William F. Howard

The vendor referred to in this letter is August Mallory. He has been selling Street Sense near Farragut North since the paper started in November 2003. He recently got a full-time job with the facilities management division of George Washington University.

Please send your thoughts, comments, or editorials to:
streetsense@nationalhomeless.org

or mail them to:

Street Sense c/o The National Coalition for the Homeless
1012 14th St., NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20009



AUGUST H MALLORY
CHAIRMAN/CEO

DIVISION ONE INTERNATIONAL

Specialty Wholesalers

101 W 23rd Street, 2nd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21218

(410) 659-4021
www.ezinfocenter.com/8403058

Street Sense's HOW TO . . .

Speak to someone
experiencing homelessness



When I speak to organizations, schools, colleges and so forth, when it comes time for the question-and-answer session, the most frequently asked questions are, "How do I start a conversation with someone who is living on the streets?" and "How do I give something to someone without offending the person?"

My friends, it is not as complicated as you think. Homeless people are people too, and they like to be treated with dignity and respect – so start a conversation as you would with anyone else. "Hello" is a good way to start to get to know someone. Usually, if the person wants to speak with you, he will offer a reply. If he does not, just move along. Some people feel that you are invading their privacy. You can always go to the next person and try and start another conversation with "hello."

Get involved in a conversation about something positive, like sports, which is always a good ice breaker. Or talk about something in the news that is positive. You may think people who are homeless do not read the newspaper. But, my friend, they do, and they would love to have someone around to share their point of view with. Believe it or not, people who experience homelessness come from all walks of life, and there are people with college degrees who have hit hard times on the street. So what I am saying is, not all people who experience homelessness are uneducated or unskilled in the work force.

So as long as you start a conversation in a positive way and not a negative one – like "How long have you been homeless?" or "Why are you homeless?" – you will be well received.

And, my friends, give a person space when approaching someone or having a conversation. Remember the three-foot rule, and that should be enough space so as not to crowd a person. We all like our own space.

George Siletti was homeless off and on for 25 years. He has just moved into his own apartment. He has been writing for Street Sense since November.

If your company is interested in helping this paper and its vendors grow and succeed, please consider becoming a

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\$600 = six months of food for vendor meetings
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We, the Homeless, Also Vote

By Maurice King

With an election coming up and funds almost gone for any housing initiatives for the homeless, it is safe to say that no homeless person can afford to ignore the significance of what will happen on November 2. Too often, the homeless remain a population without a voice. This year, we cannot sit back and watch the election as if it were a drawing of the lottery.

I have looked at all the posters for upcoming campaign events. Not one deals with the plight of the homeless or the attention or lack thereof either party claims to give homelessness issues. The closest thing I have seen to a rally for homeless concerns was a protest of proposed changes to Section 8 housing support. The change is a proposal to eliminate the program; elimination apparently makes sense because of tax cuts that were supposed to lower income levels. Has anyone in the shelter or on the streets felt would be surprised if they

In staff meetings at my shelter but never a coming election — an endanger the shelter's very though ending priority of all people at the expressed support for any upon his commitment to This election certainly the problem is that neither about the problem of any extent.

I know that if the homeless do not speak out now, they will remain homeless forever.

“trickle down” to anyone in the shelter, I have about operations at word about the up-election that could existence. Even homelessness is the shelter, no one has candidate based end homelessness. merits discussion; candidate is talking homelessness to

Bush has done nothing but dry up public funds in four years; he has given little but token lip service to the problem of homelessness. However, Kerry has not made a convincing argument that he would do things differently, except when it comes to helping veterans. Most of his talk about eliminating homelessness has been grouped with a general anti-poverty campaign that is old news for most Americans — we have heard such promises many times before.

When the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Alphonso Jackson said on May 20, 2004, that “being poor is a state of mind, not a condition,” the homeless did not respond. Nor did they respond when Secretary Jackson made his subsequent statement — that his father taught him that being poor was a state of mind because there was always “hope” that you can improve your economic condition.

The homeless remained silent, partly because they were not present but largely because most of them have already given up all hope. After all, no one seems to be on their side or representing their interests. Yet that silence is keeping all of us from finding a solution to the chronic problem of homelessness in the United States.

I know how demoralizing it is to be homeless and not to see any hope for the future. I know what it means to be so depressed that getting up in the morning does not seem worth the effort because nothing will change for the better. I have also heard the “boo-hoo” catcalls from the so-called “compassionate conservatives,” and I know that if the homeless do not speak out now, they will remain homeless forever.

Can the homeless afford to lose this opportunity to step forward and be noticed? The numbers of homeless persons and families are growing by leaps and bounds. There has never been a better time for the homeless to become a political force in the United States. While people on the street can walk by a homeless person asking for a handout — and in Washington, D.C., this phenomenon is well known — it is not so easy to ignore throngs of people without a place to live, voicing concerns ignored by those who purport to assist them. Now is the time for the homeless population to find its voice.

I would warn the homeless to be wary of assuming that the political left is an ally. I saw just how true this was in 2003 when Montgomery County, Maryland, known to be a liberal county, told me without hesitation that the county “does not give shelters to men, only to women and children.” Help does not necessarily come from any particular political party; help comes from people who know what is right and just in life.

We still have two months left. We can still make ourselves heard. Who's with me on this? I'm talking about real action, not just letters to the editor. How many seriously want to see homelessness end? The reactions that I get — or do not get — will tell me how many people truly are serious about wanting to see the end of homelessness in our time.

Focus on Baltimore

By August Mallory

In this issue of *Street Sense*, I want to focus on thanking three organizations, two in areas outside of Baltimore and one within Baltimore.

The first area is a retail store in downtown Washington known as the Dress Barn. I would like to take this opportunity to thank DeAnne Whittington and her team of outstanding professionals for their support of *Street Sense* and their hiring of two *Street Sense* vendors. Not only does Dress Barn support the paper, but the store also has been very active in the downtown business district and made large contributions to the community. The store has helped many homeless people find employment by passing out flyers or doing other miscellaneous tasks. It does a great deal of community work in the downtown area, and the group most definitely deserves a community service award. And I want the corporate office to know this. Dress Barn, thank you for all that you do for your community.

The second organization is the George Washington University, which has made a strong commitment to serve the downtown community through tireless volunteer work at Miriam's Kitchen, a social services breakfast program for the homeless. GWU students also volunteer their time to help in many other areas to aid the homeless, including holding workshops and reading groups. And my many thanks go out to Tamara Christopher — or Chris, as we call her — and the facilities management division on the GWU campus for their support of *Street Sense*. I want you all to know that each and every one of you is special in some form or fashion.

And, last but not least, my Baltimore focus for this month: I would like to thank Faith Tabernacle Church, located at 2422 W. Patapsco Ave., for supporting *Street Sense*. Like many other churches, Faith Tabernacle has a wonderful homeless outreach program, and its staff encourages everyone to join in Sunday morning for worship services. Led by Pastor Robert G. Hardy, Faith Tabernacle is a great place to truly find oneself spiritually, mentally and physically. Faith Tabernacle also follows the laws of the Bible as its guide to serve those who are homeless or impoverished. Many thanks to Faith Tabernacle, Pastor Hardy and staff.

For comments on this editorial, please contact August Mallory at augustmallory2003@yahoo.com. You may also contact him at Division One International: 410-659-4021.

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A Day in the Life

For this monthly feature, vendor Marshall White chronicled through pictures and text his daily routine while homeless in Washington D.C.



The day starts at the CCNV, a shelter at 2nd and D Streets, NW. The Shelter has housed up to 1,200 at one time. (above)

The Father McKenna Center is located at St. Aloysius Church in NW Washington. They offer lunch here, but you have to show up at 11am to go through an hour long rap session first. (right)



This is the entrance to Chinatown at 7th and H Streets. It is a great place to sell Street Sense because of all the foot traffic. (right) The Mitch Snyder Arts and Education Center on D Street offers computer training and other services for the homeless. (lower right)



Making a Difference in the Foster Care System

By Jennifer Hernandez

I believe the term “foster care” should be changed to “loveable care.” Changing the name will show children everywhere that they must never have to feel ashamed of who they are or why they were placed into the system.

I left my only child, Gabriella, with my siblings. They turned her over to Wake County Social Services in January 2000. She has yet to return home. I have no idea where she is even today.

It is for this reason that parents must lobby to make a change. This can happen to anyone.

Foster parents must put the funds they are given toward making foster children's lives better. Foster parents must not use the money for pleasure or for their biological children. They must respect each child who comes into their home. They must know that each child has a voice and wants to be loved. They must send each child to school in good clothing, not hand-me-downs from a thrift store, or worse. They must know and respect a child's basic needs. They must not place a child in harm's way just because he lacks education or understanding of the word “love.” The child must be taught.

My daughter was given size-one shoes. Her shoe size was two. She had to take off her own shoes and place them in a bag, and they were never seen again. When I saw her I noticed that she was in pain. She told me that her sneakers hurt and that she had to break down the back them in order to get some relief. I was angry!

She left my home in a perfectly good pair of size-two sneakers and good clothes. Why was she wearing rags? Where were her clothes, and why was she so sad? That foster parent treated her like dirt and called her the

“devil's child.” The family took the television out of the room that my daughter slept in and mocked her. She was traumatized by wicked intentions. This must stop!

My daughter was from a healthy home with unconditional love, and this parent did not care! She abused my daughter and made her confused and frightened. My daughter needed someone to love her until I returned, but this parent did not care! This must stop!

We must protect our children, because too many of them are turning to drugs and becoming delinquents. We must teach them we care, even if they're in a system away from home, without their biological parents! We must show them trust, guidance, love and self-worth! We must work for tomorrow!

We must not ignore the demands that we see in their eyes, because they speak to us through their eyes. We must not ig-

nore their cries, because they relate it back in anger. We must not let others call them hateful names when they're young, because we are what we learn. We must not allow temporary parents to abuse them, because they will abuse themselves. We must work for tomorrow!

Not all foster parents make bad choices. Not all foster parents are uneducated or lack basic skills. I am not speaking of those parents. I am speaking about the ones who turn our children into enemies of the future. I want those children's eyes to stop looking so sad like my daughter's. I want to see happy eyes, like the way

she was before leaving me. I saw other children's eyes at Wake County Social Services and told one foster parent to take a child to the barber the next time he was to see his biological parent. I heard that the boy had a haircut the following week. I heard a mother's crying words as she told me that the Wake County system took her 4-month-old girl while she was nursing. She walks around Wake County District Court each day wondering about her young child.

This situation happened to me without any warning and without any reasons. I have learned my rights. I have learned to

We must protect our children, because too many of them are turning to drugs and becoming delinquents.

honor society. I have learned never to place my child in harm's way again. I have learned to listen. I have studied the Constitution. I have learned how hard it is to pass a law. I have learned that I am a mother with a voice, not only for me but for all those mothers whom I met along my journey, spoke with, cried with and listened with. We were mothers fighting the same cause.

I met one woman in a shelter in Washington who gave her only child away several years ago. It never occurred to her that she shouldn't have given up until she heard my cry never to stop fighting. We spoke about her daughter, and she had no idea where the child was. I encouraged her to keep searching, and she promised she would. I encouraged several mothers along my journey and received many gifts from them to give to my daughter because they knew I would get her back. They had given up, but after meeting me they decided to fight. I made a difference in my journey, and so can you.

Changing the term from “foster care” to “loveable care” would honor worried mothers everywhere. “Love” is a word children of all ages can understand no matter who their parents are. A “loveable care” parent will think twice before taking away the television, before abusing a child, before spending funds the wrong way. Why? Because the first word they hear will be “love,” and then they'll stop the abuse.

SHELTERS

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

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

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

Community for Creative Nonviolence
425 Mitch Snyder Place, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 393-1909
www.erols.com/ccnv
Hours: Shelter 24/7; Office: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: Shelter, clothing, dinner for residents only, medical and dental care, psychiatrist, 32 bed infirmary, legal aid, veterans services, social services, counseling, job assistance, drug and alcohol program.

Community of Hope (Family Services)
1413 Girard Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 232-7356
www.communityofhopedc.org
Hours: Shelter 24/7; Office: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: 90-day shelter, medical services, counseling, supportive services, homework, tutoring
Restrictions: Community Partnership referrals required for housing.

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

Franklin School (men)
13th and K St., NW

Washington, DC 20001
(202) 638-7424
Hours 7:00pm – 7:00am

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

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

House of Ruth: Madison Emergency Shelter (Women)
651 10th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 547-2600
www.houseofruth.org
Hours: 24/7; intake at 4:30pm
Services: Bed capacity: 64; Spanish/English staff; comprehensive social services.

John Young Center (Women)
117 D Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-8469
Hours: 7:00pm – 7:00am

La Casa Bilingual Shelter (Men)
1436 Irving Street
Washington. D. C. 20010
(202) 673-3592
Intake 7:00 pm-9:30 pm.
Must be in by 9:30 p.m. Dinner is provided at 7:00 p.m. Bilingual staff,

Martin Luther King Shelter (Men)
Martin Luther King, Jr., Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20032
(202) 889-7634
Hours: Emergency shelter 7:00pm – 7:00am
Transitional program, 24hrs

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

New Endeavors by Women
611 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 682-5825
Hours: 24/7 Office: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
Services: Bed capacity: 38, case management, education, job training, employ-

ment referrals, budgeting and savings requirement, support for recovery, housing assistance.
Restrictions: Only women over 21.

New York Ave Shelter (Men)
1355-57 New York Ave, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 832-2359
Hours: 7:00pm – 7:00am

Open Door Shelter (Women)
2nd and D Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-8093
Hours: 4pm - 7am

Randall Shelter (Men)
75 I Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 479-0016
Hours: Emergency shelter 7:00pm – 7:00am
Transitional program, 24 hrs

SOUP KITCHENS

10th Street Baptist Church
1000 R Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
202-232-1685

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

Church of the Pilgrims
2201 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 387-6612
www.churchofthepilgrims.org
Hours: Sunday Afternoons Bag Lunches 1:00pm-1:30pm

Dinner Program for Homeless Women
945 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 737-9311
www.dphw.org
Hours: 4:00pm-7:30pm
Services: Nutritional meals, clothing, support services, case management services, legal assistance, employment training, emergency referrals and computer workshop.

Eofula-Spanish Senior Center
1844 Columbia Road NW
Washington, D.C. 20009
202-483-5800

First Baptist Church of Deanwood
1008 45th Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20019
202-396-0534

McKenna's Wagon
2114 14th Street

Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-6608
Hours: 8:00am-8:00pm
Services: Mobile soup kitchen at various locations in NW Washington.

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

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

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

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

EMERGENCY FOOD

Bread for the City
1525 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: 202.265.2400
Fax: 202.745.1081
and
4275 4th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20032
(202) 561-5941
www.breadforthecity.org
Hours: 9:00am-12:30 & 1:30pm-3:45pm (M, W, Th, F); 9:00am-12:30 & 1:30pm-2:45pm (Tu)
Services: 3-day supplemental food bag, clothing, social services on request.

Covenant House of Washington
3400 Martin Luther Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20032
(202) 610-9630
www.covenanthousedc.org
Hours: 8:30am-8:00pm (M-F)
Services: Work with teenagers and young adults. Provides food, clothing, educa-

tion, assessment, life skills, recreation, health and fitness, legal services, pastoral care, residential resources, case management, job training, youth opportunity center.

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

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

MEDICAL RESOURCES

Community of Hope (Health Services)
2250 Champlain Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 232 9022
www.communityofhopedc.org
Hours: MTW 9am - 5pm, Th 1-8pm, F 9-noon
Services: Medical Services, medical counseling, supportive services
Restrictions: None

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

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

OUTREACH CENTERS

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

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

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

Rachel's Women's Center
1222 11th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 682-1005
Hours: 7:00am-4:00pm (M, W, Th, F) 7:00am-3:00pm (Tu); 9:00am-3:00pm (Sat); NA meetings 10:00am (M-Sat)
Services: Day shelter, breakfast, lunch, crisis counseling, case management, street outreach, referrals, support and education group, legal clinic, 12-step program, showers and laundry facilities.

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

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

agencies preferred.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Byte Back
815 Monroe Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
(202) 529-3395
Classes Start September 18, 2004
Services: Computer Training Course
Beginner's Classes are \$25

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

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

Catholic Charities Emergency Center
1438 Rhode Island Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20018
Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
(202) 526-4100
Services: Emergency services such as food, rent assistance, mortgage assistance, and utilities.
Restrictions: Need to call in for an appointment.

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

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

Downtown Services Center
945 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 393-5400
Hours: 7:30am-4pm
www.downtowndc.org
Services: Referral to all agencies in the city, breakfast, employment services, Unity Healthcare and Mental Health Clinic, access to Green Door, showers, telephone services, laundry, access to VA services, housing counseling, job training and preparedness

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

Columbia Road Health Services (CRHS)
1660 Columbia Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009
Tel: 202-328-3717
Services: Offering medical, counseling, employment, and social services, regardless of one's ability to pay. Spanish and English spoken.
Hours are Mondays to Thursdays: 9am to 9pm.
Fridays: 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 9pm to 1am.

Community Family Life Services
305 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 347-0511
www.cfls1.org
Job training, children's programs, food pantry

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

Jubilee Jobs
1640 Columbia Road, NW
(202) 667-8970
Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm (M-F)
<http://www.jubileejobs.org/>
Services: Job Counseling and Referral

Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
1200 U St., NW
Washington, 20009
Outreach Advocate (202) 328-5505
www.legalclinic.org
Hours and locations: Intake at ten sites around the city, call for schedule. Free legal assistance to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

Street Sense Vendor Code of Conduct

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

Be a vendor for Street Sense!

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

Then write, call or stop by Street Sense!

Phone: 202-737-6444 ext. 17

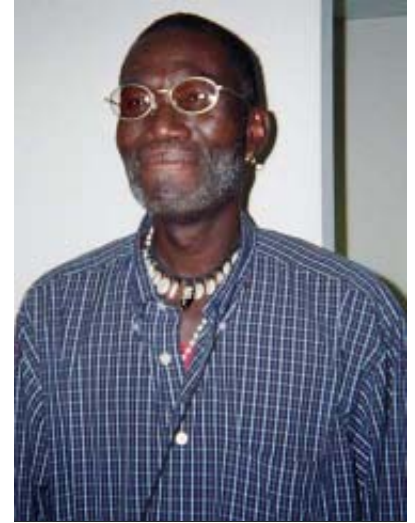
E-mail: streetsense@nationalhomeless.org

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

Vendor Profile: Tommy Bennett

How did you become homeless?

It began about three years ago. When I was released from the halfway house, I had nowhere to go. Then a friend of mine told me about CCNV, a shelter here in Washington. I stayed there for about a year and a half. When my time was up, I was put out and went to different shelters. The housing authority sent me a letter and I turned them down because I was on drugs and didn't want to jeopardize it. So I stayed in the shelter system. Drugs and alcohol were the main thing keeping me on the streets.



What, if anything, has been helpful for your while homeless?

I went to a treatment center, which I'm still in, and set to graduate in October 2004. The treatment center has turned my life around and helped me be a responsible human being and adult. I've been clean now for four months. Sometimes it is hard to not go back to using drugs, but I continue going to my meetings and talking with other people.

What are some things that you enjoy doing?

I enjoy helping my friends out to give them the courage to do what I've done, and to get their lives together. I like to take long walks, meditate and be to by myself. I also enjoy sports like basketball and football. I'm also die-hard Redskins fan as well.

What would you like to see yourself doing in the future?

I got a letter that notified me about a job training school, and I want to find something that I enjoy doing and can do well. I want to have my own business one day in African music.

Tell me something interesting about yourself.

I started playing African music when I was 12. I played congas and timbas; we did a lot of traveling. We were all giving African names; mine was Tomala. In 1974, a documentary was made on us and featured on television. Also, I walked the Middle Passage, from here to Mississippi. I was featured in the newspaper at the time. The hottest day was 110 degrees and we walked about six miles that day.

Favorite food? Chicken and fish

Favorite book? Any mystery novel.

Favorite movie? Between *Spiderman* and *Batman*.

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

Where your dollar donation goes:

\$0.70

TO THE VENDOR

\$0.30

For printer/
production
costs