

www.challengernewspaper.org
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

512-560-4735

An Independent Press - 95% Street Written—Voices Of The Street
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MERRY CHRISTMAS!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Mission: The Challenger Street Newspaper advocates, informs, and connects diverse people from all walks of life. We empower street dependent campers with economic opportunity and get their viewpoints heard.



Director / Editor:

Valerie Romness
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is a good time to get rid of old blankets, hats, gloves, scarfs. Just hand them out your car window or donate to a shelter.



95% Street Reporters

Leslie Cochran wrote for the Challenger our first 6 months.

Clip Art used from MS Publisher

We use century gothic font cause it uses least amount of ink.

Contributors:

- John Curran
- Thom the World Poet
- Timothy Warfield
- Andy Steckel
- Ryan Dowd
- Zebra
- Clifton Pappas
- Annette R. Kovac
- Andre
- Jesse G-Treasurer
- Morlog-IT
- J.T. - Laptops
- Fred Pettit—Co-Founder
- Spanish Translation: Belinda
- Web Host: DreamHost
- Web Updates: Val

Our partners:

- Mobile Loaves & Fishes
- Treasure City Thrift
- Austin Public Library
- T.O.O.F.
- JP's P.L.H. Fndn
- Hogg Foundation
- Richard R. Troxell-N.H.C.



2023



To subscribe or make a donation
www.challengernewspaper.org
Venmo Cash app Square or



BUS PASSES

By CTOSH email & Val Romness

Paper passes with a magstripe on the back will continue to work on the fareboxes, which are not changing.



THANKS TO ALL OUR

ADVERTIZERS,
DONORS,
CONTRIBUTORS AND
DISTRIBUTORS
YOU MEAN A LOT!

Editorial Policy

Material in the paper reflects the opinion of the author. Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published. We ask you to proof read your article. Grammar is edited only for understanding. Editor doesn't edit your voice.

Deadline is 2nd Sunday or the 15th.

Should you come into contact with an individual you believe could benefit from outreach, call the Sunrise Hotline

512-522-1097
M-F 8a-8p

Time for a discussion Challenger Will Visit Your Org/Hood

Zoom or in person

Understanding Homelessness and building empathy.

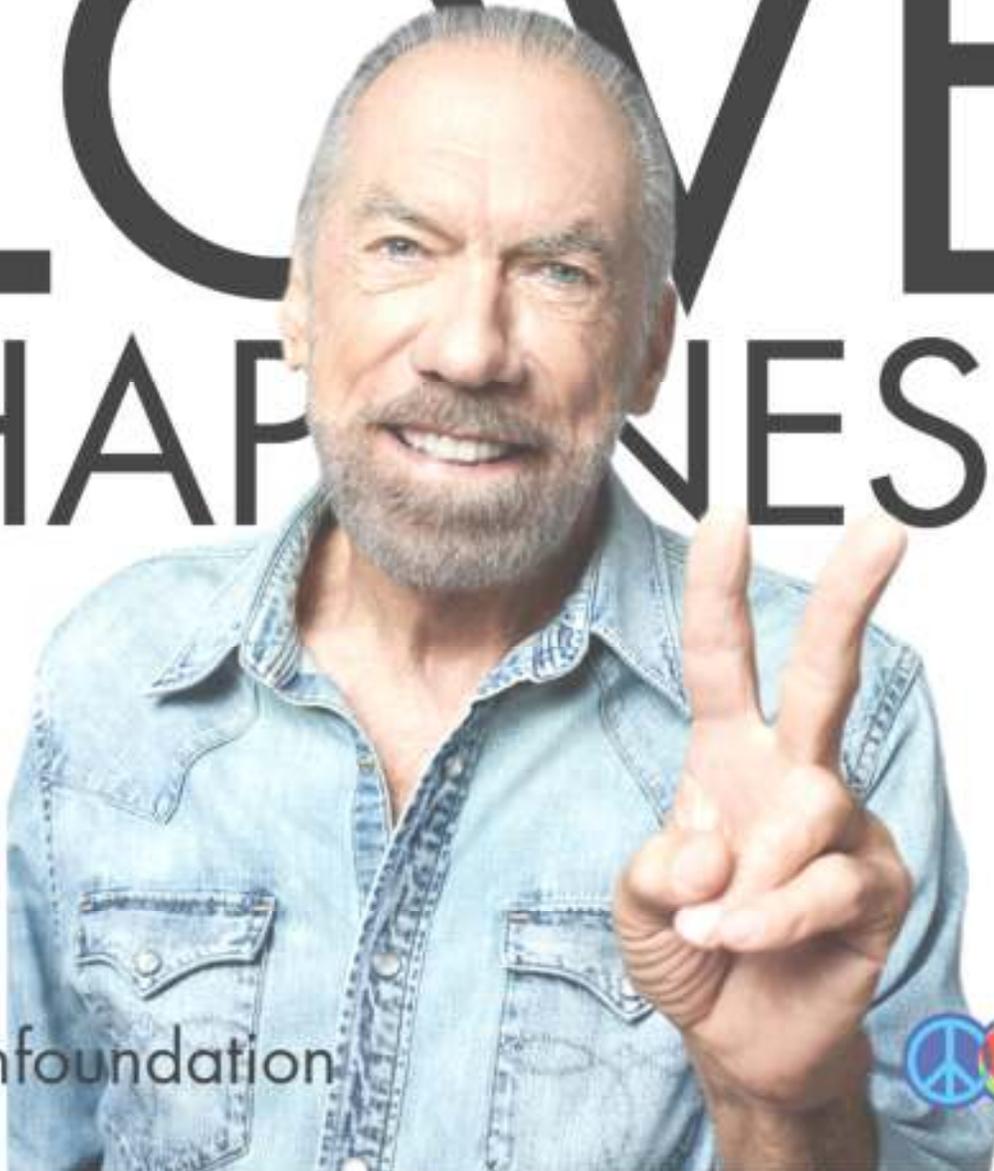
Goals

- 1 See the whole person
- 2 Meet them where they are
- 3 Recognize that there may be invisible disabilities
- 4 Use cultural competence
- 5 Never take your eyes off the person's humanity



Contact 512 560 4735 or challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

PEACE
LOVE
HAPPINESS



@plhfoundation



KINDNESS FOR WEAKNESS

BY ANNETTE R. KOVAC

Out and about town, the inevitable “Don’t mistake my kindness for weakness!!” is often included in and overheard in conversations throughout the streets of Austin everyday. From bus stops to board rooms, food bank lines to Facebook, from Churches Chicken to Cathedrals... this stern warning must be said if people are to be friends, do business, know each other at all. Necessary, hypocritical hackneyed, rather ritual in true and false arena. If you have to use the phrase at all and are uncertain in trusting someone, I believe the gut feeling from God is the best guide.

Wisdom and kindness must go hand in hand. I’ve seen kindness exploited routinely, as if it’s nothing, my own and hundreds of others. Those of us still trying to be straight up and ethical, regardless of the circumstance or character presented, are still getting robbed, rolled and dis-

mayed by devious fake friends with agendas; and that’s just as often as the predators waiting and watching in the dark to make your acquaintance. New “friends” or people you’ve known for years do not care to consider the epic destruction they cause. Jesus wants us to give, forgive and help others, help each other. But He also tells us to be discerning. Your kindness is a privilege.

Honesty and trust will be considered naivety. Empathy and remorse taken as weakness. Don’t feel guilty for helping them, nor allow them to guilt you for finally refusing them. Contrarily, know that you indeed overfed and walked with your enemy, gave them all your heart could. Your “frenemy” will scourge himself. I’ve experienced that a lot as well, have seen ugly fates fall on these evil types. However, rewarded elation will find you for not reacting, for wisely just remaining. Being still and letting the pieces fall where they will, perse. The Bible says “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by doing so you will heap burning coals on his head.”
Romans 12:20

Remember:
Not every person who smiles is a friend.
Not every person deserves a yes.
True kindness has a backbone.
They give sweet words & empty promises
Discern who’s worthy of your time, love, kindness.
If you rescue them, you’ll have to do it again & again & again..
You must put yourself first... you cannot take care of others if you aren’t well yourself.
You’re enabling them by never saying no, never questioning them.



As Socrates said, “Question everything”.

They’ll use charm and then tantrums with added guilt if that doesn’t work. Everyone owes them, the world owes them, sound

familiar? If you’re being manipulated by someone who just takes, takes, takes, never reciprocates and obviously doesn’t value your friendship, you must recognize the situation boldly and set borders, or let go. The world owes us nothing. It has no obligation to nurture us. You are being weakened by the disasters they can create. It isn’t being mean to guard your heart, health and livelihood. It isn’t wrong to protect your peace.

Because peace is what we need. It’s unfortunate that there have been crooked types as such since the beginning of civilization. Historically, philosophically and modern day street smartily, the faker-taker deceptive cretin thrived on through the ages... to have its own warning phrase, which he actually uses in his own game himself. You made the mistake of offering your kindness, and you’re wiser for it. Next time, they’re mistaken- if they’re thinking you’re falling for that banana in your tail pipe again!

“A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.”
Psalm 91:7

Time to spend money on mental health yet?

GONE HOME

BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*Please let the paper know if someone has passed;
We want to remember them. A picture is nice
Call 512-560-4735 challengernewspaper@yahoo.com*



33RD HTH HOMELESS MEMORIAL

READ 291 NAMES AT THE

**MEMORIAL TREE, BENCH & PLAQUE
ON SOUTH SHORE OF LADYBIRD LAKE**

**HONORING 291 UNSHELTERED AUSTINITES DEAD
ON OUR STREETS SO FAR IN 2025**

BY THOM WORLD POET

Have you the time to remember and recall all 291?

Here are some -anonymous Friend,Mundo(unknown last name)

Baby Moss,Baby Boy Zulutrma,Baby Boy Villareal,Baby Boy Helwig

Baby Boy De La Cruz Ortega,Baby Girl A Cocxol,Baby Girl B Cocxol

Redd(unknown last name),Jason(unknown last name),Julie Furry,

"Knot-Head"(unknown name),Sunshine Williams Anderson,

Tina (Unknown last name),No ID-Ben White Hospital,

Unidentified-Drowning,Unidentified-Lovell Drive,Unidentified-Rundberg,

Unidentified Female,Unidentified Individual,Unidentified Individual,

'Hawk-Eyes"(name unknown),Unidentified Individual,Unidentified Individual,

Unidentified Individual,Unidentified Individual-and 263 other Austin Homeless Angels..

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US! F THE OPPRESSOR



Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Serving Goodness.™

Empowering communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless since 1998.

WE PROUDLY SUPPORT

The Challenger Street Newspaper



mlf.org | [@mobileloaves](https://twitter.com/mobileloaves) | [#ServingGoodness](https://twitter.com/ServingGoodness)

PLEASE DONATE TO MLF'S Community First! Village PROJECT

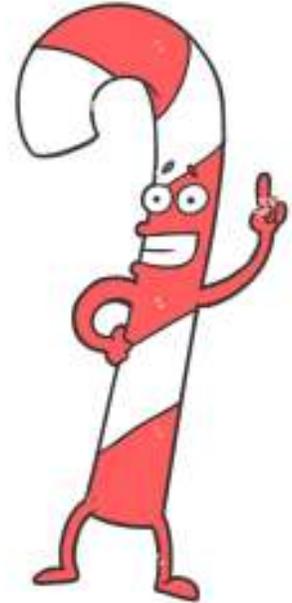
A CANDY CANE BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

I'm a candy cane waiting to be used
 Rough around the edges; not abused
 A baked goodie or just hanging around
 Jolly I am, even while showcasing a frown

Cover me with fudge so I can stick to your heart
 Dip me well to sweeten what the prior months left tart
 Edible and I can also fuel your cheer
 Happy Holidays; toast to another year

A must have if you like to decorate
 A sew in no matter what's on your plate
 Melt me with charm and a beautiful smile
 I'm a collectible that's not running out of style

Happy Holidays with sweetness of love
 Sticky at times, be cautious if you are wearing gloves
 Let the cold temperature even the mood
 A fire to your taste buds as if this candy cane were cooked food



MEDICINAL WORDS (TAKE AS DIRECTED)

BY THOM THE WORLD POET

YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

Away with existential ennui!

Away with isolation and Lonely

YOU HAVE VISIONS & DREAMS

Time to consult your Muse

To spark your Art Anew

THIS HAS ALL HAPPENED BEFORE

And may well happen again

If you have no family(at least you have friends)

RECITE THE LITANY OF GOOD WORDS

Those who stood with you

When the whole world wavered in waves-They were true

NOW LINK TO THOSE WITH WHOM YOU SHARE YOUR HOPES

You know(even when you do not know..)

BEGIN IN THIS SPECIFIC MOMENT

Glow!



GUERNICA BY JOHN CURRAN

I knew him in the years after that, he never would speak about it until the one day, and then it all came pouring out... Morning, the little fishing village. Columbia, the Bahia de Santa Maria, and all the fishing boats were lined up in the beach, going nowhere, as it had been for two weeks now.

No fishing, no trade, no tourists, no nothing. The word was there was death from the skies. The big nation, Estados Unidos, was raining deadly missile strikes on single boats traveling across the open Caribbean. For what reason, who knows. Drugs they say. There were verified accounts from reliable sources up the coast. The people were afraid and did not know what to do. People here were dependent on their boats. With a boat you could do many things.

Without there was nothing. One day, my friend told me, he'd had enough of the fear. There was a special mission. A little donkey had been born. A very special little donkey. The offspring of his own donkey from an arrangement he'd had with a special amigo down the coast, an old old friend.

The little donkey had been the product of Dave the Great and his buddies' hot little mare Juanita, in return for a steady supply of corn. And so now he'd got the word, come get the cute as buttons newborn and bring plenty corn. And so, with that, my friend loaded his boat. Everyone said he should not do this. Not now. The fear was very strong. There had been sightings now, military ships, fighter aircraft, another boat blown up, somewhere, nobody knew exactly where, or for what, they only knew all were killed every time, and no one took any blame nor gave any explanation. His young wife



Gabriella, she pleaded, the children cried, the fear of all now was very strong. Yet still he loaded his boat. Plenty bundles of corn. You could almost say it was bundles of something else. But no, just corn, plenty corn. And so he prepared. They chided, they begged. "No, no. not to risk it now. And for what? A baby donkey?!" But no, not to be dissuaded. "Give the bastards an inch, they take your souls" he would say. And so at the last his wife Gabriella and the oldest boy came too. He could not tell them no, what could he do. And so they set out. A wonderful bouncy ride. The boat was not large but it would handle plenty bundles of corn and three people father mother and son, on a short run of just a few leagues down the coast.

It happened coming back. They had the baby donkey, the cutest little thing, there with them, hobbled and bewildered. My friend would say even then he knew, this would grow into one fine strong animal. Ah but such was not to be. Just short of back home they were hit. My friend was thrown, ejected. For some reason he'd been in the far stern when the missile hit, up front. All he heard were the screams, all he remembers seeing as he hit the water was the enormous fireball and a flying head, disembodied, crossing his vision like some macabre scene from Hell. And it was not until now that he could tell it, to me, finally. We were in front of that painting that we'd come to see, and he said yeah, that's it, It was just like that. The painting was Guernica. On that bench in front of that painting we sat for a long time and he cried and he cried, did my friend. That was a long time ago. I remember him.

SHEEPHEAD BY JOHN CURRAN

Sheephead, hard one to catch that, they very wary, like to just nibble around the edges before even making up their minds. Delicate small mouths, like the little fiddler crab, not so much shrimp or nothing else large like. A fine finicky little guy, and great eating, the best, and the hardest to catch.

There in old low country Carolina, marshes, brackish salt water coming in from the Atlantic with all kinds of ocean variety coming with it. It was a great place to have spent some time as a kid and if I could go back to that time and place I surely would. So it' early and it's warm enough 'n the old mans taking out our small boat 'n going up river some 'n over other side ', me, , I was getting to go along. Mostly Dad went by himself so this was pretty cool deal for me. We pushed off and headed out, dad at the little stern motor, and went on down a'ways and over on the other side, in by



the marsh. It ws probably some midtide or in some way a good time for fishing. The old man see, was no joke, he knew his fishing. So there we were. We was now changed positions, he's in the front of the boat 'n I'm in the back, sitting on the little crossbeam.

Dad's casting it out 'n damned if right away he didn't get a good strike. He works it and it does take a minute. 'n course I'm watching there on my crossbeam when all of a sudden Dad busts that fish clean outa' the water or it just jumps out, anyway it's out 'n in the air, and dog-gone it that ol' man a' mine if he didn't swing that fish rise on over and into my lap. Damn, yes it's true I did just about jump right up and take off running thru the marsh right then. And he would later never get tired of telling how he laid that fish right in little jr's lap, and it was a Sheephead, to boot.

Pullout—Directory of Resources

See inside

Distributors Wanted!

BE YOUR OWN BOSS * CHOOSE YOUR HOURS!



We're a quick, no barrier income

get paid the same day

Start with a free paper, sell it to get a \$1.00 starter kit.

The kit comes with ID Badge & 10 papers to sell on a donation basis

We meet

Sundays 1-3 pm

Outside City Hall (Guadalupe & Cesar Chavez) or
Central Library Rm 471

Strike up a conversation & offer our paper on a donation basis. After you sell the 10, future papers costs you \$1 each and YOU keep the profits.

The Challenger is written & published monthly by 95 % un-housed people. The paper operates from a mobile office with 2 suitcases & a backpack. Our Director/Editor, Val, prints the paper at home, then we fold them when we meet.

We take Venmo, Cash app & PayPal. Make sure they put your name or badge number. It might take a couple weeks to build your business. We are also digital online,

If you submit an article, poem or art, you get 10 copies of the issue that you're published in.

We're a 501C-3 non-profit

Challengenewspaper@yahoo.com
www.Challengenewspaper.org

Challenger Newspaper
PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715
512-560-4735

It Works!

JAIL MAIL PROGRAM

We want you, and anyone you know who is incarcerated, to write your voice in our paper. You should write neatly so we can type or any writing, art or drawings send by email. Yes, we will publish you!

We don't have free subscriptions, but if you're published we will send a copy.

Challenger Newspaper PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715 challengenewspaper@yahoo.com



Tues-Thurs 1-7 PM
Fri-S-S-Mon 11am-7pm

Moving soon
5201 Cameron Rd



Treasure City Thrift
Clothes, Housewares,
Books and more!
5201 Cameron Rd.
www.TreasureCityThrift.org

REALLY REALLY
FREE MARKET
LAST SUNDAY
2-5 PM

Challenger Directory of Resources Updated 12/2025

Please notify

Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com
if you notice changes to the directory

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Call 988

DOMESTIC / SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

LASSA TX Hotline: 844-303-7233

SAFE 512.267.7233 www.safeaustin.org

VINE 512-936-1200 www.vinelink.com

Kind Clinic .833.937.5463 www.kindclinic.org

If this is insufficient or you need help reporting or treating an event, email Challenger ATTN: Jenny

NAT'L SEX ASSAULT HOTLINE 1-800-656-HOPE

HUMAN TRAFFICING 1 (888) 373-7888

NAT'L HUMAN TRAFFICKING Resource Center Text "HELP" or "INFO" to 233733 English, Spanish and 200 more, traffickingresourcecenter.org
<http://stopthetrafficking.org>

NAVIGATIONS CENTERS:

Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center (M-F 9-1) . 4430 Menchaca (Ben White) Hot meal, mail, showers, hygiene, ltd clothing, laundry, computer lab, triage referral/navigation: Service Point ID, Coordinated Assessment, MAP/Food stamp sign-up; Medical clinic (Th only), Integral Care; job resources, recovery support. **Hotline: 512-522-1097** NARCAN VENDING MACHINE sunrisenavigationcenter.org

Trinity Center: 304 E. 7th St. Navigation/service center, meals, case management, ID docs, Coordinated Assessment; MAP, SNAP, Food Stamp sign-up; bus passes, ltd travel assistance, clothes/showers (women only on Mondays), mail, phone, computer access, housing referrals. M-F 9a-1p, Sun. 3-4:30p Come in person/no appts. TrinityCenterAustin.org

Charlie Center-Mosaic Church Navigation Cntr 2675 Research Blvd. (McNeil/183) 512-922-8954 Tues, Wed, Thurs 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. ID's, Social Security Cards, Vital Records, Meal Served Daily, SNAP Sign-Up, Coordinated Assessments, Housing Info & Referrals, Case Management, Mail, Packages, Medication, Secure Document Storage theCharlieCenter.org

Austin Community Court— 505 Barton Springs Rd. Help navigating the system, mail, phone, storage of vital records, help fill out forms, case management. Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Mailing address: Downtown Austin Community Court P.O. Box 13464 Austin, TX 78711 (512) 974-4879

First Austin Baptist— Case management, Resource navigation, Call for appt. 512-476-2635, 901 Trinity St. fbcaustin.org

BATHROOMS:

-Public Restroom 4th & Trinity
-Public Restroom 6th & Brazos
-Portapotti 7th & Trinity
-Portapotti 6th & IH35
-Downtown Austin Community Court / 505 Barton Springs Rd / 8-5 Monday – Friday
-Libraries
-Near city trails

Shower and bathroom:

Rec Centers
Mon-Sat, 10a -3pm:
Bartholomew Pool
1800 E. 51st St East
Barton Springs Pool
2131 William Barton Dr Central
Springwoods Pool
13320 Lyndhurst St. Northwest
Balcones Pool /closed for season
12017 Amherst Dr. North

Showers:

M-F Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center 8:30 -11am
M-F— 7th & I-35 / 9:30 AM-1:30 PM
M-F— Burnet and Hwy 183 / 9:30 AM-1:30 PM
The Other Ones Foundation A mobile hygiene truck (showers, sink and toilet)

Barton Springs Pool

Shwrs available/**New Bath House is now open!!**
Swim at your own risk 5-8 am & 8-9:50 pm daily
8 am to 8 p (fee charged)
Closed Mondays & Thurs
VETERANS are always in free

LAUNDRY:

Mission Accomplished

Mobile laundry, (must have voucher) care packages and connections to assist in transitioning to stable, self-sufficient and healthy lifestyles.
Each location 9am-12N
Unscented soap available.
M— Sunrise Navigation Ctr—4430 Menchaca Rd
Tu-Violet Storage—700 E.. 7 St (parking lot)
W, F, Sat-The Other Ones - 780 S. Hwy 183
W-The Charlie Center at the Mosaic Church
12675 Research Blvd.

FOOD:

Angel House / Austin Baptist Chapel Soup Kitchen Food Pantry/breakfast/lunch - daily 9:30-10a, 11a-12:30p, 512-643-2327, 908 E. Cesar Chavez St

Bread For All: Food Bank Faith Presbyterian Church at 1314 E Oltorf St, 5-6:30 pm Mondays. We also sponsor a mobile distribution with the food bank at Parker Lane United Methodist (2105 Parker Lane) second Monday of the month from 9-10 am. All are welcome. <https://austincitylutherans.org/food/>

Caritas of Austin: Housing, food, educ, employment, veterans assistance. Housing programs require referral via Coordinated Entry system. Daily Lunch 11a. CENTRAL: 611 Neches NORTH: 9027

Northgate Blvd. Lobby hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-11AM & 1-4:45PM. Tuesday 8-11AM & 1-6:45PM. Friday 8-11:45AM caritasofaustin.org

Central Presbyterian (200 E. 8th, corner of 8th and Brazos) Breakfast Thursdays 8-9 am, limited space, clothes and toiletries. 512-472-2445 cpcaustin.org

El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission:

Community Health Worker Training, Adult Educ, Youth Progs, Vaccines and Health Literacy. Office hours: M-F 9a-5p, Food Help: T/Th 8a-10a 7000 Woodhue Dr, 512-439-8900, ElBuen.org

Foundation Communities' Prosper Health Coverage program provides FREE help for all people to find and use affordable health insurance or other health coverage programs. We have phone and in-person advice available. Call 512-381-4520, email enroll@foundcom.org, book an appointment online (<http://prosperhealthcoverage.org/>), or visit one of our community Prosper Centers at 5900 Airport Blvd. or 2900 South IH-35 from 9am–5pm, Monday–Friday

Foundation for the Homeless / Feed My People

Tuesday/Thursday breakfast 5:30-7 am.. First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Showers, AA meetings, a clothing closet (Thursday only), showers, and haircuts (every other Thursday).

Gateway Church - Feed the Community Food Pantry, 7104 McNeil Dr. Wednesdays 9-11am

Green Doors' veterans (transitional housing) and affordable housing residents (affordable rental or PSH with vouchers) until capacity is full. They may require a brief hotel stay for folks seeking to join the transitional housing program (and Green Doors would cover the cost); affordable rentals are immediate admission because they are single occupancy. info@greendoors.org or 512-469-9130 for information or applications.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes For locations and schedules, visit <http://www.mlf.org/truck-schedules>.

The Other Ones Foundation Work opportunities, out of town transportation assistance, emergency shelter. 512-568-7557 780 S. Hwy 183. toofound.org

University Presbyterian Church/Micah 6 Food Pantry Thursdays at 5:30-7 pm and Saturdays at 9:30-11 am. 2203 SanAntonio St., micah6austin.org

University United Methodist Church/ Open Door Ministry: breakfast & clothing every Saturday from 8-9 am. 2409 Guadalupe St.

Victory Ministries (2300 Canterbury St) supplies are VERY LOW. People being served outside only. If able, PLEASE CALL 512-480-9628 to check status before coming.

Westover Hills Church of Christ Providing food (non-perishable groceries) for everyone Saturdays 9-11 am. Drive-thru style. Located at 8332 Mesa Dr., Austin, TX 78759. Food for Seniors

Resource Directory con't

Updated 12/2025

STORAGE/LOCKERS:

Violet KeepSafe Storage 700 E 7th St. (Indoors/ bathroom available) 96 gal barrel with long-shank lock. 7 days 7 am - 7 pm. To apply for a storage bin, call first to check bin availability. If you have a Photo ID, that will help. 512-974-1294

EMPLOYMENT:

Challenger Street Newspaper

Sign up 1-3 pm on Sundays outside City Hall (Guadalupe & Cesar Chavez) or Rm 471 Central Library.. Low barrier self employment. Make money today and every day you work. Distribute the paper on a donation basis, you keep all profits. Challengernewspaper.org

Workforce First: Offers individuals experiencing homelessness opportunity to work cleaning parks. Also offers case management. The program is on a waitlist that can take several months to get through. Must be 18+ and currently unoused. Call 512-568-7557 or email brian@toofound.org

Skillpointalliance.org Job training: plumbing, HVAC, electrical, manufacturing. Women & Men 512-729-4922

Fair Living Wage Calculator: enter zip code www.universallivingwage.org

City Resources App: <https://opennow.maps.austintexas.gov/>

REFERRALS:

First Call for Help : 211 or 988
Free, bilingual information & referral service about food, clothing, housing, child and youth services, job placement assistance, education, recreation, support groups and other programs and services.

Arcilinc.org
CASE MANAGEMENT 512-832-6349

VETERANS

▲ **VETERANS** ▼

American Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 Text to 838255

Texas Veterans Commission
www.tvc.texas.gov

V. A. 512-823-4100 7901 Metroplis Dr) 78744
Outpatient Clinic: Primary healthcare, specialty care and hospitalization. Contact Andrew Miller
Transitional housing for single veterans.

Caritas of Austin: 7th & Neches. Community Kitchen is serving lunch M-F 11 AM-12:30PM. Our clients receive case management/housing stability services and groceries through our food pantry. The lobby has public access to water, bathrooms, phones and info on community resources. Lobby hours: Monday,

Wednesday, Thursday 8-11AM & 1-4:45PM. Tuesday 8-11AM & 1-6:45PM. Friday 8-11AM

Green Doors 512-469-9130 1503 So IH35
Housing First- Transitional, affordable, permanent housing.

Strike Force Help with VA benefit claim, denial or appeal, call 254-299-9950. See www.tvc.state.tx.us for even more resources and links. 877-4AID-VET

Center Point Texas Veterans Program 512-297-2990
outreach, assessment of needs, vocational readiness training, housing assistance, job placement and referrals to job skills training programs for homeless Veterans . 2101 S. Interstate 35 Suite 219 Austin, TX 78741 Up to \$800 housing/car repair

Barton Springs Pool

VETERANS are always in free
Shwrs available/**Bath House is now open!**
Swim at your own risk 5-8 am & 8-9:50 pm daily
8 am to 8 p. Closed Mondays & Thurs

SHELTER:

ARCH Austin Resource Center for Homeless
500 E. 7th St. 512-978-9920

8th Street Shelter- Emergency shelter for single women & transwomen 501 E. 8th St (Neches) (referral only) Contact Sunrise Navigation Cntr 512-522-1097 8am-8 pm M-F On site case management

Marshaling Yard: Appointment only.

Esperanza is expanding, they got more land adjacent.

Esperanza Community 780 S US Hwy 183 (Old Bastrop Hwy) between Briggs Equipment and Palm Harbor Homes. Contact the Other Ones Foundation for a space (512) 568-7557. Pets are welcome. Charging station, . Shower trailer Bus Route #217

The Safe Alliance Call for locations, 512-267-SAFE (7233) Emergency shelter, counseling, transitional housing and case managers for women escaping domestic & sexual violence. children & men also accepted.

YOUTH:

Lifeworks Under 27 yrs. 835 N. Pleasant Valley Rd. Mon-Thurs 12-4 pm Bus routes 300 & 493. Food, hygiene, bus passes, Wifi, gear, charging, mailing address, coordinated assessment.

American Youth Works 216 E. 4th St.
High School Diploma Program, ages 16-20
Also has a first-time home buyer program.

Street Youth Ministry 2008 Justin Ln

SAFE CARES a program of The SAFE Alliance, YOUTH 12-22 experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or human trafficking. Case management, advocacy, therapy, and Drop-In services. Call 512.267.7233(SAFE)

SENIORS/ELDERS:

Family Eldercare Outreach and in-home care for those over 60 years old. M-Th 8-4, Fri 8-12

Call for locations, 512-450-0844

Safelink for 60 yrs+ FREE cell phones and service 1-800-Safelink (1-800-723-3546)

So. Austin Senior Center 3911 Menchaca Rd, Austin, TX 78704 (512) 978-2400 M-F 8-5

Conley-Guerrara Senior Center 808 Nile St 512) 978-2660 M-F 8-4;30 Sat 8a-12:30p

No. Lamar Senior Center 2874 Shoal Crest Ave (512) 978-2480 M & W 8:30 A-8:30 P, TU & TH 8:30 A-4 P, F 8:30 A-1:30 P

MEDICAL, DENTAL:

Dell Seton Medical Center at UT (formerly Brackenridge) 512-324-7000 1500 Red River St. Emergency care-911

ARCH Clinic-Community Care
500 E. 7th St. 512-978-9920 Mon-Fri 7-11 am & 12-4 pm. walk-ins and appointments

MAP cards 512-978-8130 1313 Red River Ste. 217A Mon. - Fri. 8am or 1 pm Homeless get right in. Screening and enrollment done on a walk in basis. appts preferred. Full coverage medical services with reduced or no copay. Must meet a set criteria.

CARE CONNECTIONS CLINIC Walk in. 3706 S. First St.
Tuberculosis Elimination Clinic 15 Waller St., TB testing. Also Community Care-Hancock Cntr

BREAST CANCER ADVOCACY AWARENESS CENTER
1704 EAST 12TH ST 78702 512-965-6950
drduncan924@gmail.com

KIND CLINIC Austin-Koenig Suite 200 Free HIV/STI walk-in testing No appt Mon-Fri 9 am-12pm & 1:30-4:30pm 1-833-WE-R-KIND (1-833-937-5463) kindclinic.org

THRA TX Harm Reduction Alliance 512-893-3237
Drop in 1803 E. Cesar Chavez St. Mon-Thurs 11:30-2:30 pm Wed 3-5 pm. We offer support for people who use drugs, including tools, resources, and overdose prevention.

RecoveryATX.org Peer recovery/support 512-553-2683

Manos de Cristo Dental Clinic ([wait in line or appt](http://wait.in.line.or.appt))
4911 Harmon Av 78751 512-477-2319
Emergency **dental care** for people who are working and don't qualify for city, state, or federal programs. Manosdecristo.org

STD Clinic 15 Waller St., 512-972-5430
not anonymous, but confidential STD testing. Must have photo ID.

AIDS Services of Austin 7215 Cameron Rd., 512-458-2437 case management, testing, & a variety of financial services available. The Jack Sansing Dental Clinic is a part of AIDS services of Austin and operates on a sliding scale for all HIV positive clients.

MENTAL HEALTH:

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Call 988 For Police w/mental health training, don't call 911, call 512-472-HELP.

Mental Health Information Helpline
1 (800) 950-NAMI (6264), Mon- Fri, 9-5, CST

Directory continued

Healthcare for Homeless HUB *co-located with Lonestar Circle of Care* 3000 Oak 512-532-9961 for appt.

Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES)
1165 Airport Blvd Walk in M-F 8a-10p and Saturday/Sunday and holidays from 10a-8p.

East 2nd Street Clinic (Central Austin)
1631 E 2nd Walk in M-F 8-5

Stonegate Clinic (So. Austin) 2501 W. William Cannon Dr, Bldg 4 Walk in M-F 8-5

St. John Clinic – (North Austin)
6937 N. IH 35 Walk in M-F 8-5

Www.aayhf.org

African American Youth Harvest Foundation
6633 Hwy 290 E. Ste 307 (512) 428-4480
ContactUs@aayhf.org

H.O.S.T Homeless Outreach Street Team
512-804-3720

We Can Now Street Outreach
Sunrise Navigation Outreach

Suicide Lifeline 800-273-TALK

(8255) IF YOU TEXT 741741 WHEN YOU ARE FEELING DEPRESSED OR SUICIDAL, A CRISIS WORKER WILL TEXT YOU BACK IMMEDIATELY AND CONTINUE TO TEXT WITH YOU!

Integral Care.org Crisis Helpline 512-472-4357 (HELP) 24/7 Immediate emotional support. 24 hr/day, 7 days/week. or you may call them and an outreach worker will come to you.

Austin Mental Health Community (S.H.A.C.) Self Help and Advocacy Center
Drop in. M & Tu 11:30-4:30 W-F 9-4
3205 S 1st St. 512-442-3366

Austin Clubhouse community of mutual support and recovery for adults living with mental health diagnoses
www.austinclubhouse.org

Applicant must: Be 18 yrs, be following a treatment plan (doctor, psychiatrist, therapist, case worker, or peer specialist, etc.). We do not require Doctor's referral letter. To become a member call 512-925-5877 to schedule a tour. 610 E. 45th St (Inside Hyde Park Christian Church)

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
corner of 18th & San Antonio, 1716 San Antonio St. Austin, Tx

LEGAL:

Legal Aid Survivors of Sexual Assault
1-844-303-SAFE free legal assistance to survivors of sexual assault.

Austin Tenants Council 512-474-1961 (M-F 9-12 and M-Th 1-4 PM)

Camp Ban Tickets TX Fair Defense Project
512-637-5220 Press 0 Mon 12-5 pm & Thurs 10 am-1pm or if in jail: Austin Lawyers Guild hotline 512-817-4254

Community Court 505 Barton Springs Rd first floor. Bus 1, 3, 7, 10, 20, 801

(1700 Guadalupe St) is the current,

Travis County Civil Law Court House, which gets confused with old courthouse, 11th & Guadalupe & causes tardiness if you're not in the know. At the Current & old Court houses the cops do mag wand & scan your bag, coat, & belt & there's barriers to leaving the *building too*. But, at new courthouse they have a law library on 2nd floor, where law books & computers with internet access, and law clerk librarians can help you research forms & methods for filing legal & business forms. All available for anyone wanting to study law or research what are common civic expectations, not taught or explained in public school.

UTILITIES:

Baptist Community Center Mission
2000 E. 2nd St Elect, water, gas, meds, birth cert, food

CLOTHING:

Mobile Clothing TRUCK:
Thrift-ish.org Contact for your group to have a free shopping experience

Really Really Free Market
Last Sunday 2-5 PM
Treasure City Thrift Camron Rd

FREE HAIRCUTS::

Supercuts Training Academy call ahead 512-481-8900.

Ron King Academy call ahead 512-596-5000. (tip expected)

Foundation for the Homeless- haircuts (every other Thursday). First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St.

FOOD STAMPS, HUMAN SERVICES, MEDICAID:

Texas Dept. of Human Services
Moved to Capital Plaza 512-929-7330
Women, infants & Children (WIC)
Call for closest location, 1-800-942-3678

HOUSING

VA 7901 Metroplis Dr) 78744 (512) 823-4000

Transitional housing for single veterans.

Blackland Community Development Corp. 2005 Salina St., (512) 220-8751
Transitional housing for families and single persons.

American Youth Works 216 E. 4th St.
High School Diploma Program, ages 16-20
Also has a first-time home buyer program.

Green Doors 512-469-9130 1503 So IH35
Housing First-Transitional, affordable, permanent housing.

Project Transitions-Roosevelt Gardens
HIV Housing Complex
5606 Roosevelt Avenue
The 40-unit homeless or unstably housed

Austin Housing Authority 1124 S. IH-35 ATX, 78704. 512-477-4488 6 month to 2 year; waiting list depends heavily on individual circumstance. Wwww.hacanet.org

Travis County Housing Authority
2200 E. MLK Jr. Blvd. 512-480-8245
Similar to Austin Housing Authority.

Foundation Communities

Affordable housing for individuals and families with low to moderate incomes: 512-447-2026

Community First! Village Micro homes, trailers, canvas tents. mlf.org Hogeye Rd. Be prepared after a few years you may consider moving to typical apt.

Victory Homes Austin Greater Austin area as well as the surrounding cities. Lodging, food, and clothing is provided. Majority of people providing assistance are former addicts and gang members who at one time found themselves trapped in the same cycle.

For more info: Director Gus Celaya (512) 920-8708 or Admin office 512-822-9182

Excellence & Advancement Foundation (EAF) provides programs, services and advocacy to break the school-to-prison pipeline by coordinating prevention and intervention programs to support children at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Below are some of the programs. For more info:

<https://breakthepipeline.org/programs/>

Awesome Activist Leadership Program, Black Leadership Academy, SPARK change, The Wrap up, The Excellence Resource Center (this is the advocacy, case management program), Parenting with a purpose

ART FROM THE STREETS STUDIO

"Canopy" 916 Springdale Rd Bldg 2 Rm105
Mon & Tues 10am-1pm Thurs 12-3PM

(Women Only: Wed 12-3 PM)

Art supplies provided for FREE! Participation allows each artist to be in the annual show in October!

PET CARE: www.emancipet.org offers free days for pet care

WARMING CENTERS:

Regular hours at Rec Centers & Public Libraries. Sorry, no pets.

NO FREEZE SHELTER:

35' Dry, wet or windy. . HOT meal! Call for status 512-972-5055 Free bus

Single men and women, **pets welcome**, Register at 505 Barton Springs Rd f 6-8 PM or till flow stops. Rides to locations. Families with children, arrive by 6pm.

City Resources App:

<https://opennow.maps.austintexas.gov/>

Government phones:

<https://lifewireless.com/>

Want text alerts from City Homeless Strategy Office? Text to 737-980-1321

Notify Challengernewspaper @yahoo.com if you notice changes to the directory

CODE OF CONDUCT

Challenger Newspaper

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7. Stepping off the curb may get you a ticket.

8. Stay back 20 ft from marked crosswalks.

Distributors who violate our code will be warned and suspended if it continues.

We need to police ourselves or the police will.



Homer The Homeless Goose's Demands

By Challenger Newspaper

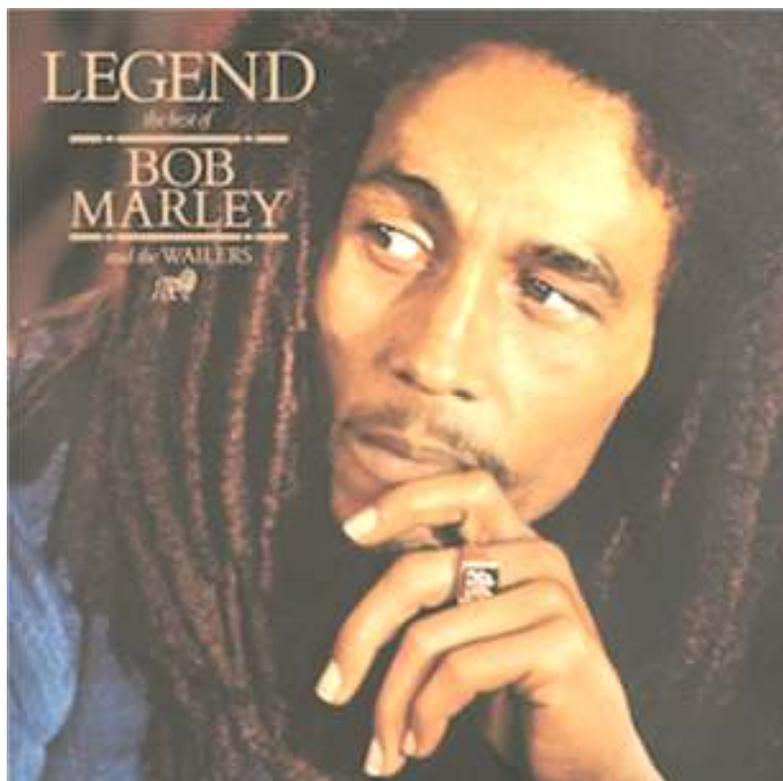
- More mental health care. TX is 47th in spending on mental health.
- Stop scraping camps and stop throwing all of ppl's things away!
- Pay social workers a living wage!
- Women's shelter: Current one has appointments only. Must be able to walk in for safety.
- Phones easier to get
- *End oppressive ordinances. No more criminalizing the poor!*
- *Increase funding for homeless services*
- *Austin Living Wage*
- *Pets must be allowed at shelters—better mental and physical health (get brief orientation for socialization of pets)*
- *Get past Moral Bankruptcy and be fiscally responsible. It can cost 17 to 35 thousand/year/person to ticket, court, jail, police, hospitalize, ER, ambulance rides. When a person is housed (w/a social workers guidance) they stand up and walk back into society.*
- *Take the boards off vacant homes.*
- *Cooling/heat Center: behind ARCH—Oasis has shade, water and bathrooms*
- *Find me! Get me on public display!*

GHOSTS

BY JOHN CURRAN

So we retired afterwards to the Par-
lour, for brandy and cigars. Old gen-
tlemen, old best friends, all ghosts of
my past, in old chairs of wood and
velvet. I wanted to tell them how I
believed I'd finally figured out the
reason I was here, still, walking these
crazy miles, covering terrain we
would call it in the old Army days,
walking walking walking along. And I
would tell my old friends that I was
walking my way to Redemption. I
knew it now. There, at the Farmers
Market. The guitar guy. He's there just
about every time on the Saturday
playing kinda your old favorites. Got
his cowboy hat and knows his
chords. And this day just as I
was passing he goes into Redemption
Song, the Bob Marley classic. And he
played it good, simple and straight,
his guitar does it fine. And right then
ya know, it hit me more than ever,

that song. I really heard them
words. Great words, the most ringing
and true. It hit home to me in my pre-
sent slightly confused situation in a
real way. And one thing I could may-
be figure, at least one blessing of old
age, is that if that is what it takes to
have finally given me the time, time,
to unravel, to exorcize certain tragic
pathways that I have been on in my
life. Terrible wasted nonsense, the
stuff that really only leads in one di-
rection, down. And to set out anew,
on a fresh new direction, and to be
tested still in this, and to finally under-
stand that the road is not easy, well I
say, hue to it brothers, sisters. For it is
the Redemption road. So I put a dol-
lar in the guitar case 'n got on my
way. I said to guitar guy "Man them
words never rang more true" And for
sure they did not. Ever. At least not
yet.



OUR TEAM

SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



Jesse G.
Badge # 165
Door to Door
Photo by Val Romness



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Photo by selfie



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Kaye Lee
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Pearlle Blue &
Debra Miller
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Photo By Val Romness

Nihil de nobis,
sine nobis.

Nothing about us
without us



CARTOONS

BY ANDY STECKEL



DRONES IN THE SKY

BY CLIFTON PAPPAS BADGE # 497

Hello everyone, just thought I'd put this out there about my drone experience. So about two months or so ago I was staying by some railroad tracks for more than four months with very little issues with people.

I would and do take any trash with me when I left in the morning and it was usually before daybreak. So, the residents across from me always new of me and new I was very, clean and gone early and usually get there at dusk.

Well people (drug addicts) would visit there when I was gone and smoke and shoot their drugs and leave needles and trash behind that I would clean up when I got back at dusk.

So, the local residents kept calling the cops on them and one Sunday morning I slept in and woke up to a BEEP BEEP noise. And me being from the land of UFOS (Nevada) in the sky and knew it was a cop drone wanting my picture. I kept telling myself, "Nope not looking", and it did it again BEEP BEEP.

So, I turned and looked, and the drone was about seven feet from my head and snapped a picture then shot up and away like a bullet almost! Minutes later a police unit rolls up on the street, the resident live on across from me.

One of the resident's came running up to his car and asked, "what's going on officer"? And the officer says, "we've been getting calls about people smoking drugs over here under that tree". And the resident explains, "yes, I've seen them doing that but the big man with the black hat is clean. Takes his trash and doesn't

smoke those drugs and he leaves early". And the officer says, "well I guess I'll be going then".

I was very grateful and took my pack and never went back. If that resident wouldn't of did what he did I would of went to jail that day. I'm country living in the city and remember there's people always watching.

Me I always leave the area better than I found it and of course people notice and since then I've noticed

their drones sweeping the woods, and the tracks. There really efficient I gotta say. They have info red and listening devices as well as cameras. You can tell them apart from planes and personal drones because of the



way their marker lights sit and blink and their flight patterns.

Remember that one movie Tom Cruise redid about the alien invasion? That one part were that thing stuck its head and neck inside that building looking for people. Well, that's the future and the now folks.

Happy Holidays and Happy new year if I don't see you before January first!

ART WORN & BY ANDRE



Photos By Val Romness

IT'S BAD

BY RYAN DOWD

The United States policy on homelessness just changed.

Please do this right now.

It is bad.

Really bad.

No, I mean REALLY REALLY REALLY bad.

It will absolutely cause homelessness (especially street homelessness) to skyrocket in 1-2 years. (Federal policy changes take a couple years to be felt.)

The basics:

Beginning in 2004, federal homelessness policy started being guided by research.

The impact was clear and immediate. I can tell you from first-hand knowledge, everything changed for the better!

HUD just released a new funding plan that reverts to the failed policies of the 1990's.

There is still a little time to fix this before it goes into effect. (Not much, but a little).

The National Alliance to End Homelessness made it REALLY easy. **It literally only takes two minutes.**

Go here: <https://endhomelessness.org/action/stophudnofo/>

If clicking on the link doesn't work, copy and paste it into your browser.

Fill out your contact information so it knows who your Senators and Representative are.

It autofills a message. You can add your own comments or not.

Scroll down to the bottom and click "Send all messages" and it will automatically send a message to your two senators and one representative.

Don't believe the darkest corners of the human spirit:

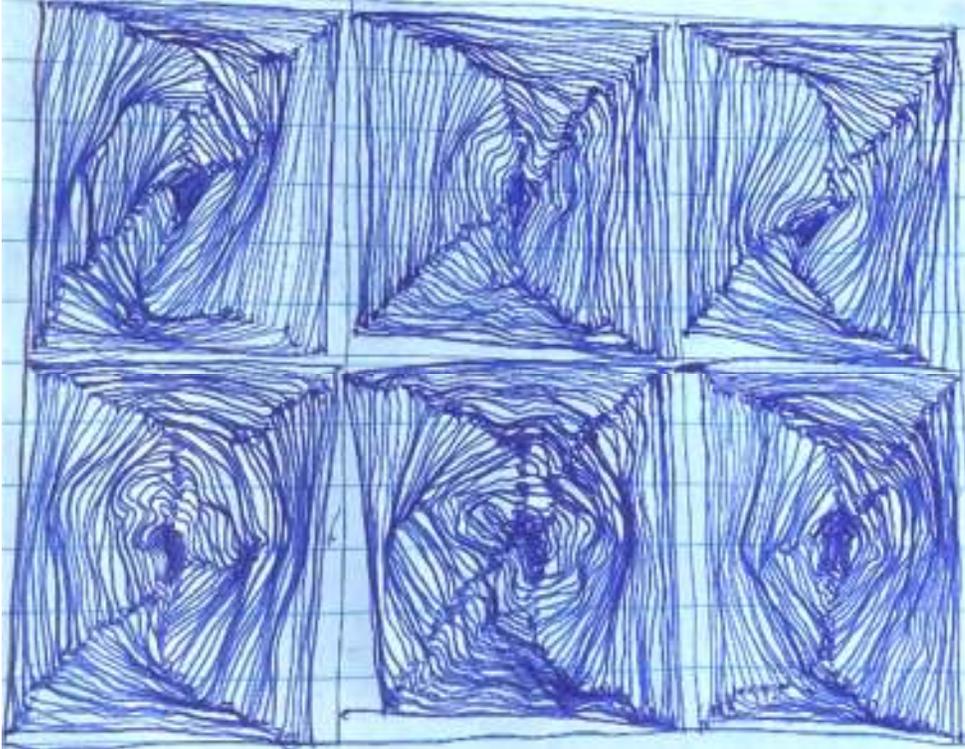
Cynicism is not wisdom. Hope is not naive.

Cruelty is not strength. Compassion is not



ryan@homelesslibrary.com





ART

By Annette R. Kovac

ART

By Zebra

They tried to make me go
to Rehab but I said no, no,
no. Yes I've been black,
but when I come back,
you'll know, know, know I
ain't got the time.



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“It’s alright to say people lift themselves up by your own boot straps. But, it’s cruel to say to a bootless man that he must lift himself up by his own boot straps.”
Martin Luther King Jr.
August 13, 1967



At the newspaper we’re mending bootstraps & lending a hand up, not giving a hand out!



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