

www.challengernewspaper.org
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

512-560-4735

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

Contributors:

- John Curran
 - Twinkle Toes
 - Thom the World Poet
 - Timothy Warfield
 - Levon Jones
 - Lizard King
 - Ryan Dowd
 - Andy Steckel
 - Cante Tinza
 - Val Romness
- 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.



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WHAT'S THE SCOOP ON 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. Participants will receive paper passes throughout 2025. (Local fare only) Once paper passes run out, it will move to the **new reloadable passes**; There are enough paper passes for the year, change coming most likely in 2026.



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



THANKS TO ALL OUR

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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 Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published.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 the Homeless Outreach Street Team **(H.O.S.T.)** you can reach them at 512-804-3720

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



Success unshared is failure

John Paul DeJoria



Thru Mar 2024

HOW TO HANDLE POLICE MISCONDUCT

BY RYAN DOWD

Our next live training is about how to handle police misconduct.

There's a twist, though...

To avoid getting bogged down in an unhelpful culture war debate, I interviewed a Sheriff to find out what law enforcement recommends.

In the interview, Sheriff Ron Hain of Kane County, Illinois offers a lot of nuance, but his basic message is this:

- If the officer's behavior is dangerous, call 911 on the officer.
- If the officer's behavior is not dangerous ("merely" rude or unprofessional), ignore it in the moment and

then report the officer to the department. In fact, Sheriff Hain didn't say you **CAN** report the officer.

He said you **SHOULD** report the officer.

"Police leadership can't be everywhere. We can't watch every officer's interaction. We need to know when an officer needs more training or disciplinary action. Please turn in officers who behave badly." – Sheriff Ron Hain



Don't believe the darkest corners of the human spirit:
 Cynicism is not wisdom. Hope is not naïve.
 Cruelty is not strength. Compassion is not weakness.
 Ryan Dowd ryan@homelesslibrary.com



EMPLOYERS THAT HIRE WITH A FELONY

BY ?

Employers that hire individuals with a felony on their record:	Discount Tire	Longhorn Steakhouse	United Airlines
Ace hardware	Dollar Tree	Lowe's	US Foods
Allstate	Domino's	McDonald's	Verizon
American Airlines	Dr. Pepper	Menards	Walgreens
American Express	Dunkin' Donuts	Men's Warehouse	Walmart
Apple	Embassy Suites	Olive Garden	Wendy's
Applebee's	Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Papa John's	*You can get a CDL Truck Driving License
AT&T	Family Dollar	Pepsi Co	*You can go to school and get federal grants
Baxter	Firestone Auto	Red Lobster	There is also Honest Jobs as Theo mentioned
Bed, Bath, and Beyond	Golden Corral	Red Robin	You can also use a fair chance filter on search engines like Indeed or city of austin jobs
Best Western	Goodwill	Salvation Army	Also jobs to careers has a felon friendly search filter
Blue Cross and Blue Shield	Great Clips	Sam's Club	and there is this
Buffalo Wild Wings	HH Gregg	Sears	Jobs @ City of Austin Home
Chik-fil-A	Hilton	Shell Gas Stations	
Chili's	Home Depot	Sprint	
Chipotle	IHOP	Subway	
Dairy Queen	Interstate Batteries	Target	
Delta Airlines	Jiffy Lube	Trader Joe's	
Denny's	Jimmy John's	Tyson Foods	
	KFC	U-Haul	
	Kohl's	U.S. Cellular	

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

R.I.P. THOSE WHO ARE UNCOUNTED

JUAN MARTINEZ

JULY 2, 1944 - NOVEMBER 7, 2024

JUAN WAS A MEMBER OF ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ATTENDED UNDER THE BRIDGE, AND TOOK ESL CLASSES AT ANY BABY CAN AND FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. HE WAS A FAITHFUL FRIEND AND HE WILL BE MISSED.

WILLIAM KERBY

MARCH 13, 2025

WITH THE KERBY'S CLOTHING MINISTRY HE IS WELL KNOWN AMONG THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY FOR DELIVERING CLOTHES, SHOES, ETC. HE WAS SELFLESS, COMPASSIONATE, AND WOULD GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO HELP THOSE IN NEED. HE WAS LOVED BY ALL.



Lizzardo Giganticus

Great source for vids of APD harassing Street People

<https://www.youtube.com/@LizzardoGiganticus>

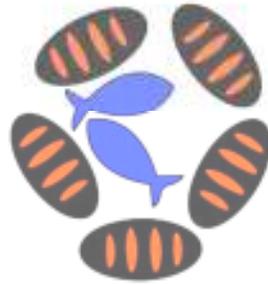
Austin Police and TxDoT steal from the poor, and hide their crimes

Austin Police commit crimes against the poor for TxDOT and with Easter Seals cheap labor

Human Kindness / House the Poor on Facebook;

Patron: Julian Reyes

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!



Mobile Loaves & Fishes

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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

NO FOOLING ME

BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

There are 12 months in a year
 Only one of them I so graciously fear
 April; prank or rainfall is definitely near
 No fooling me, I just don't want to catch it in the rear

Good luck, that was what the previous month was for
 I hope I have a sense of humor for every day of April
 Come the first of the month I'm watching everything from the door
 As the clock approaches midnight may the upcoming ones be less painful

I'm thinking the worst trying to get ahead of the game
 I hope I'm a stranger to all so no one knows my name
 Maybe I can escape a temporary or permanent scar
 Treat me like any other day, a forgotten star

No fooling me appears on my shirt
 Not a challenge, but more like a threat
 Give me three feet so no one will get hurt
 My volume is up so I can both read and hear an alert



MASLOW 2025

BY THOM THE WORLD POET

SHELTERLESS, ELDERS, ALONE

Sleeping in their cars with their dogs
 Finally finding space away from their home base
 Always wanting to return home
 Home is a parking meter, creating refugees
 Thin line Volunteers adding Sweat Equity
 Who pick up USE BY DATE EXPIRED foods
 Drive to distribution points
 So lines of hungry Buddhas might eat again

Each morning, thin lines gather
 From Green Belt and threatened encampments
 There are enough shelters to meet their needs
 Not enough love nor compassion to share those keys
 So they Pilgrimage to spaces where each may feed
 Upon their own shared and precious company..
 Hear? Those conversations rising like smiles
 Shared food thin reassurance of continuance
 When homes are needed for these long dark nights

THIS IS NOT NORMAL

BY JOHN CURRAN

So, my buddies down at the Pole Dance Club bet me I'd never do it n that was all it took. They know me better than that. They sure thought I'd never get elected to Congress either n here I am here tonight to take on the fight, as best a little 'ol ex stripper can do. And yeah, I was even warned about what they might do, if I did, based on whatever but c,mon, they don't really torture do they... no fear will not be an issue and the opportunity is just too perfect. See, I'm new and they don't know me yet. They just figure I'm gonna just do my small part as a "placeholder" so called. I'm sposed to just stand there and act as a balance to the makeup of the receiving line for Big D. I'm young, female, white of course, and over there is old, male white as white is n we like balance it. That's the idea.



somehow the smell of it was just the same, kinda smell of excitement mixed with a vigilant tension like something could surely happen at any moment and must not mixed with a heavy sort of testosterone like overlay as if the damn guns could be drawn any second. A heavy vibe, meanwhile D's coming down the aisle all shit faced n grinning, shaking them hands like crazy and let me tell you this next little step was the easiest that I have ever pulled stunt of this damn magnitude. And no one got it , for the longest. I just followed along behind him like I was sposed to be there, I am so close I coulda' touched him 'n he's not seeing me at all. Finally this little old bald head white guy catches on and yanks my sign and it goes up in the air in

D won't be shaking my hand, actually I wouldn't let him, but he'll be busy with everybody else's so... how perfect is this. The sign is small innocuous but the printing is large enough and quite clear and... the door is opening and here they come. If you've ever done the running of the bulls in Pamplona well this is like that a bit, only it's a lot slower and there's only one bull and he doesn't have any horns but

pieces. And later it was obvious all the media was trying to kill it, like it never happened, but it did, all my girlfriends down there at The Pole Dance Club assured me that "Yes Girl, and it was the funniest thing ever, and you can have your old job back here too, anytime, 'cause we's just so proud of ya, Tiger"

Living Wage Calculation for Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX

The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an **individual** in a household must earn to support themselves and/or their family, working full-time, or 2080 hours per year. The tables below provide living wage estimates for individuals and households with one or two working adults and zero to three children. In households with two working adults, all hourly values reflect what one working adult requires to earn to meet their families' basic needs, assuming the other adult also earns the same.

The poverty wage and state minimum wage are for reference purposes. Poverty wage estimates come from the Department of Health and Human Services' [Poverty Guidelines](#) for 2025 and have been converted from an annual value to an hourly wage for ease of comparison. The state minimum wage data is sourced from the [Labor Law Center](#) and includes the minimum wage in a given state as of January of that year.

For further detail, please reference the [Methodology](#) page. The data on this page was last updated on February 10, 2025.

MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning

	1 ADULT				2 ADULTS (1 WORKING)				2 ADULTS (BOTH WORKING)		
	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children
Living Wage	\$24.55	\$40.94	\$51.00	\$64.65	\$33.14	\$39.46	\$42.96	\$49.51	\$16.57	\$22.92	\$27.78
Poverty Wage	\$7.52	\$10.17	\$12.81	\$15.46	\$10.17	\$12.81	\$15.46	\$18.10	\$5.08	\$6.41	\$7.73
Minimum Wage	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25

Pullout—Directory of Resources

See inside

Distributors Wanted!

BE YOUR OWN BOSS * CHOOSE YOUR HOURS!

It Works!



We're a quick, no barrier income

get paid the same day

Strike up a conversation & offer our paper for a donation. Each one costs \$1 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.

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

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,

**Start with a free paper, sell it to get a \$1.00 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

If it's too hot or too cold-Central Library Rm 471

We're a 501C-3 non-profit

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www.Challengenewspaper.org

Challenger Newspaper

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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



Sun-Thurs 1-7 PM

Fri-Sat 11am-7pm

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Books and more!
2142 e 7th st
www.TreasureCityThrift.org

**REALLY REALLY
FREE MARKET**

**LAST SUNDAY
2-5 PM**

Challenger Directory of Resources

Updated 4/2024

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 ctr, meals, case mgmt, 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

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/Bath House being remodeled.

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. Ea 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.

Good Apple is providing FREE food assistance to folks 55+ and/or immuno-compromised, people can sign up on behalf of others who meet those criteria. Turnaround time varies but as of right now appears to be within 48 hours; may be one-time rather than on-going; one person reported getting 3 veggie farm-share bags and 3 bags of non-perishables.

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

Meals on Wheels and More [Main Office]
3227 E. 5th Street, Austin, TX 78702

Resource Directory con't

Updated 4/2024

STORAGE/LOCKERS:

Violet Storage 700 E 7th St. 96 gal barrel with lock. 7 days 7 am - 7 pm. To apply for a storage bin, show up at the facility. If you have a Photo ID, that will help. 512-974-4879

EMPLOYMENT:

Challenger Street Newspaper

Sign up 1-3 pm on Sundays 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

blueappleexpress@gmail.com \$1600 per month rental assistance pilot program" and "bruisedapples.org" mentoring info without charging ad fees to founder.

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

Shelter App: Connecting People In Need to Services.

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

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

Texas Veterans Commission www.tvc.texas.gov

V.A. 512-823-4100 7901 Metropolis 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 Monday-Friday 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.

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)

MEDICAL, DENTAL, MENTAL HEALTH:

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)
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.

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.

S.H.A.C. Self Help and Advocacy Center 3205 S 1st St. Drop in. 512-442-3366

Austin Clubhouse community of mutual support and recovery for adults living with mental health diagnoses www.austinclubhouse.org An applicant must: Be at least 18 yrs, have a mental health diagnosis, be following a treatment plan (doctor, psychiatrist, therapist, case worker, peer specialist, etc.). We do not require a referral letter from a health professional. To become a member call 512-925-5877 to schedule a tour. 610 E. 45th Street, Austin, TX 78751 (Inside Hyde Park Christian Church)

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

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

Directory continued

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 CanNow 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!

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is at the 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 2242 E. 7th St

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. www.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. mfv.org Hogeys Rd

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

COOLING CENTERS:

OASIS: behind ARCH, shade, bathrooms & water.

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

NO FREEZE SHELTER:

NEW THRESHOLD: 35' Dry, wet or windy. 24 hr notice. HOT meal! Call for status 512-972-5055 Free bus

Single adult men and women, pets welcome, please arrive at 505 Barton Springs Rd for registration, 6-8 PM or till flow stops. Rides to locations. Families with children, arrive by 6pm. **Pets now welcome!! They'll stay in a crate near you.**

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

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6. Distributors must not give the "hard sell" to customers.

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 ppls 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!*

Classism by Valerie Romness

Who's better than who?

Billionairs

wealthy

Middle class

Working class

live in shelter

live in car campers

Lateral Totem Pole of Poverty

\$\$\$

\$\$

no \$

OUR TEAM

SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



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Photo by Val Romness



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Twinkle Toes
Badge # 490
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Dan Goff
Badge # 493
Photo by Selfie



Kaye Lee
Badge # 434
Photo by Val Romness

Watch our documentary!

<https://vimeo.com/176352813>

“Challenger: Voices from the Street”



**LIFT FROM THE
BOTTOM
EVERYBODY
RISES**

Nihil de nobis,
sine nobis.
Nothing about us
without us

DEMENTIA ACQUIRED RACISM

BY RYAN DOWD

I have a confession: I made up the term "Dementia Acquired Racism."

The term may not exist, but the concept is very real. Many people think of Alzheimer's and dementia in terms of "forgetful old people."

Reality can be far more challenging. Dementia generally—and Alzheimer's specifically—can cause a person to behave in ways that are very problematic, including:

- **Confabulation** – Unknowingly inventing stories.
- **Kleptomania** – Stealing things (often very low value).
- **Prejudicial comments** – Racist, sexist, homophobic, etc.
- **Psychosis** – Dementia can cause delusions and hallucinations.
- **Aggression** – 30-50% of individuals suffering from dementia will show increased aggression.
- **Sexualized behavior** – 1.8%-25% (depending on the study) of individuals will have increased sexualized behavior.
- **Violence** – Up to 40% of individuals will show violence (usually towards caretakers).

Unfortunately, with the coming "Silver Tsunami," there are

about to be a LOT more people suffering from dementia.

The reason is that there are a LOT of baby boomers coming into the age where Alzheimer's and dementia become more likely.

I am sorry to offer another reason for existential terror and general dread. I know the news is already doing that...

Let me try to make it up with a quick tip for working with individuals suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's:

Choose Your Battles

With the more severe issues listed above (e.g. violence and sexualized behavior) you cannot ignore them. You will have to set boundaries of acceptable behavior as best as you can.

For many issues, though, it is actually appropriate to avoid confronting the problem directly.

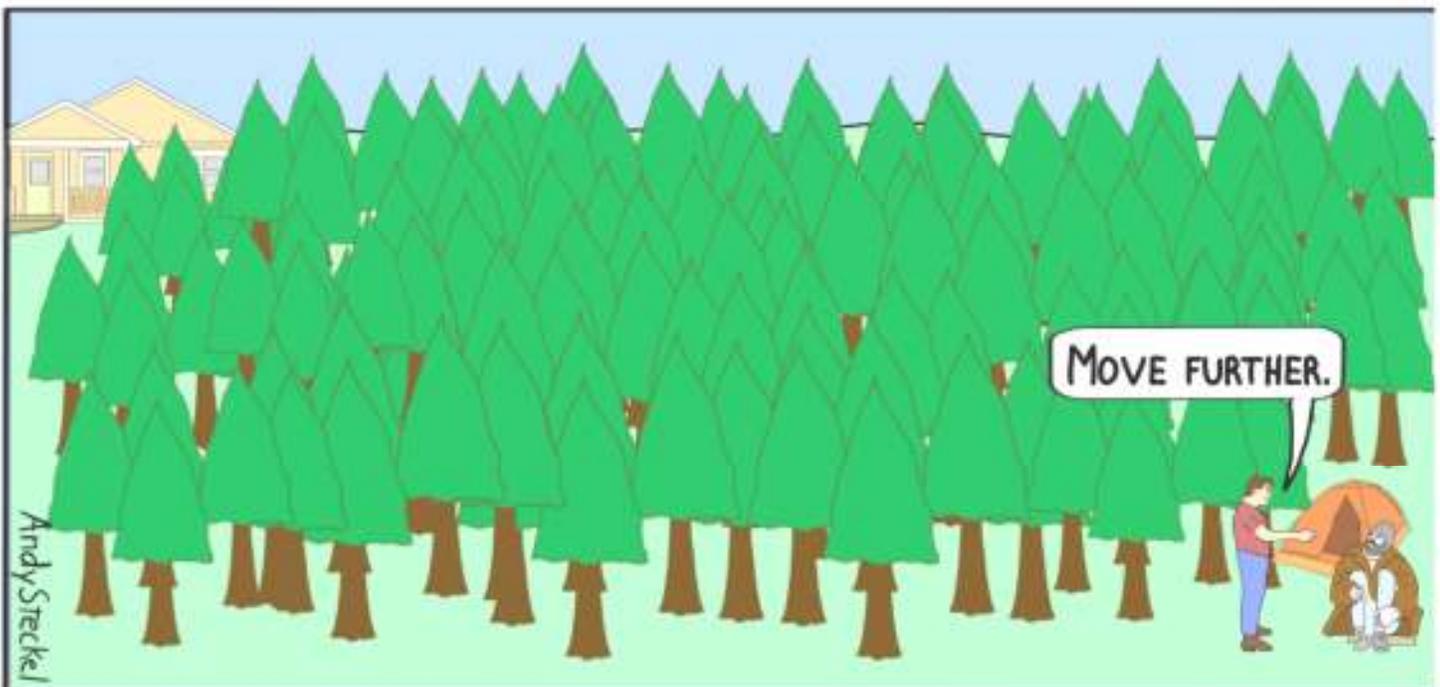
For example, if someone is confabulating (inventing stories) or suffering from a delusion, experts recommend NOT correcting or arguing with them about it (unless it is dangerous).

This can be really hard, especially for people in helping professions. We are hard-wired to want to help people find reality.

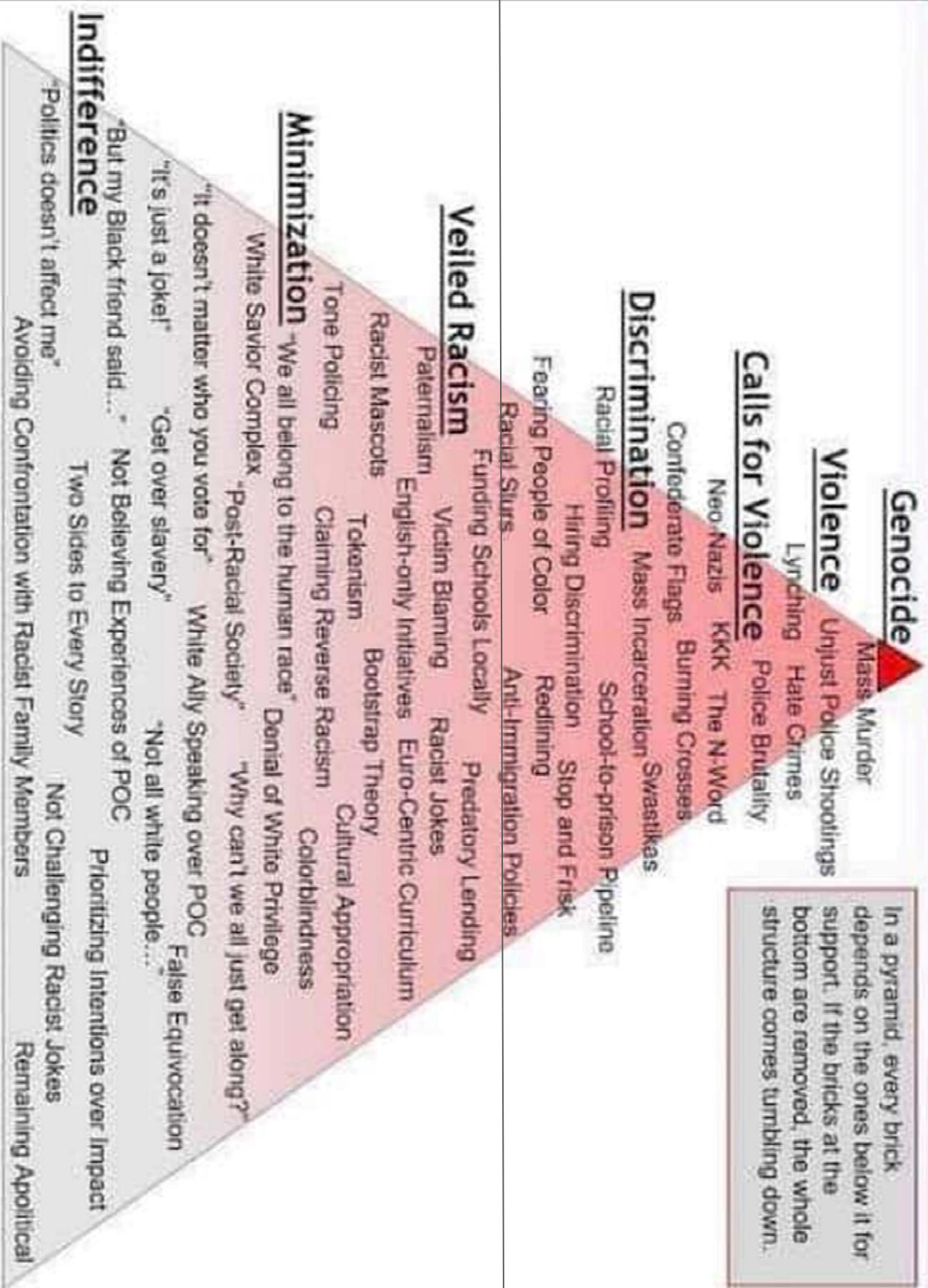
The easiest way to avoid an argument is actually pretty simple: change the subject!

TOO CLOSE

BY ANDY STECKEL

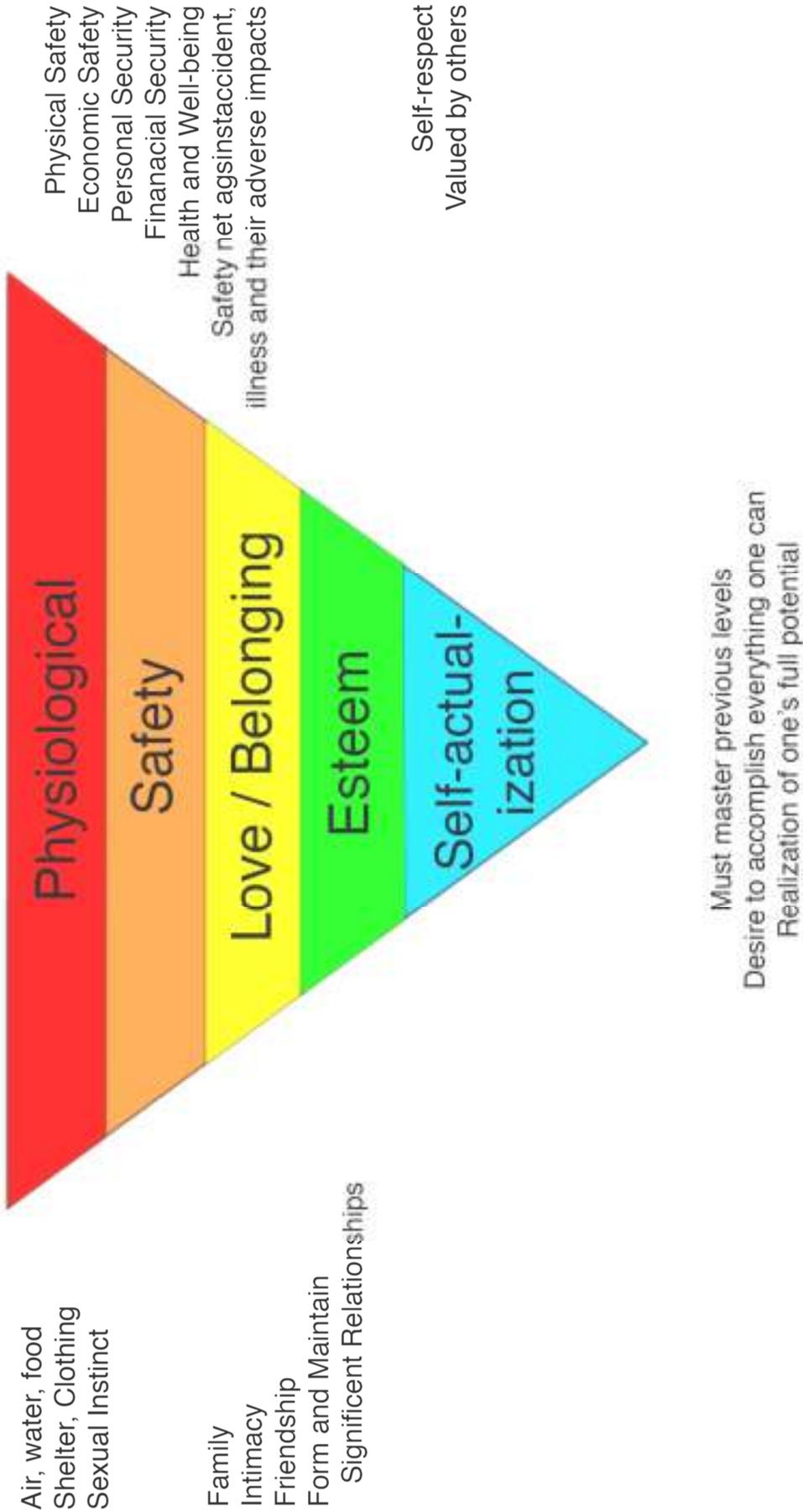


Pyramid of White Supremacy



In a pyramid, every brick depends on the ones below it for support. If the bricks at the bottom are removed, the whole structure comes tumbling down.

Adapted from Elen Tuzzolo and Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence's diagram



DEALING WITH DILEMMAS

BY TWINKLE TOES 1ST BADGE #490

wakeupalice@gmail.com



Hey y'all this month I want to talk about approaching all of your dilemmas with love, instead of fear hate or anger.

Just the other day, I was visiting a friend. He was standing in the doorway of Dooby's smoke shop on South Lamar. He was swatting away bee's. That's when all of a sudden his swatting, it turned into something akin to karate chops. Laughing, I turned to him and said: those bees really have you worked up don't they? He said. "Man you don't understand these bees, they are evil." I laughed.

A few days later I was at the smoke shop again. I was wearing a long sleeve button up shirt when a Bee landed on my hand and started to walk around. Before I could shake my hands let him fly away, he made a bee line straight for my sleeve. I could feel his little bee feet as he crawled up to my shoulder. I just kept thinking to myself stay calm. He has no reason to sting you. So calm I did stay. Soon, I felt the bee travel back down my arm and exit out of the cuff on my sleeve and fly away.

That sure could have ended drastically different for the bee and I!

I sure am glad I was able to stay calm because if I had done anything to the bee he sure woulda done something to me. And that is like most of our problems. We make them so much worse than they really are.



Twinkle Toes

Randy Armstr...
@Randy-Armstron...



venmo



Randy Armstrong
Scan to pay \$TWINKLETOES

ChallengerNewspaper.org

ROCHESTER MAN’S QUEST FOR JUSTICE MEETS SILENCE:

CORPORATIONS IGNORE \$4.3M DEMAND FOR STOLEN CHILDHOOD DESIGN

BY LEVON JONES

Levon Jones' 53-year fight for credit and compensation hits wall as Burger King, Panasonic, and Reynolds 2 LP refuse to respond.

ROCHESTER, NY — Levon Jones, a 60-year-old Rochester native, has spent decades seeking justice for what he calls one of the city's oldest unresolved injustices: the theft of an architectural design he created at **9 years old** in 1972. Now, his formal demands for restitution and recognition have been met with silence from the corporations and property owners he alleges profited from his work.



Jones sent demand letters in late 2024 to **Burger King Corporation**, **Panasonic North America**, and property owner **Reynolds 2 LP**, seeking \$4.3 million in restitution and public acknowledgment as the original designer of **Federal Plaza**, a downtown Rochester landmark. To date, none have responded.

The Silence Speaks Volumes
Jones' claims center on a design he created for a school project at number 20 school located on Oak Street in 1972, which he says was stolen by Stratford Development William E Scheu and used to construct Federal Plaza (formerly

Changing Scene Restaurant). His letters outline how:



Burger King was the carrot, a fast-food meal as a "prize" for his work, which he refused.



Panasonic currently rents space in the building, benefiting from its infrastructure.

- **Reynolds 2 LP**, the property's owner, continues to profit from the allegedly stolen design.



"Their silence says everything," Jones said. "They'd rather ignore a Black man's trauma than admit their role in this theft. But I won't stop until they answer."

A Pattern of Erasure
Jones' fight mirrors broader systemic issues. Historians note that Black creators, from enslaved architects to modern artists, have long been denied credit for their contributions.

"This isn't just about Levon—it's about how America treats Black genius," said Reverend Markeisha Jackson, an activist and historian.

"When corporations ignore these claims, they perpetuate a legacy of exploitation."

Chad Snowden A fellow man said "Jones' case, while complex, has merit under **common law principles of unjust enrichment**. Yet without cooperation from the Rochester court system his legal options are limited.

Corporate Non-Response
- **Burger King**: No reply to demands for compensation tied to the 1972 "prize."

- **Panasonic**: Ignored requests to investigate the building's history or suspend rent.

- **Reynolds 2 LP**: Declined to credit Jones or halt commercial activities. "Their refusal to engage is a tactic," "They're betting I Levon the man will give up. But public pressure can force accountability."

"Rochester can't call itself progressive if it lets corporations steal from Black children," says Reverend Markisha Jackson

What's Next?

Jones plans to escalate with:
- **Legal Action**: Filing lawsuits in New York courts.

- **Public Shaming**: Projecting his story onto the Federal Plaza building.

- **Documentary Release**: A film detailing who, how, where he design the building

"This building is my life's work," Jones said. "If they won't credit me, I'll make sure the world knows their shame."

How to Support

- **Boycott**: Avoid Burger King and Panasonic until they respond.
- **Donate**: Fund Jones' battle at rebel-flalways@gmail.com 585 333 2215
- **Amplify**: Share his story using **#JusticeForLevon** and **#StolenGenius**.

- **Watch & Share**: Jones' documentary trailer [https://youtu.be/GZehXpExOic].

Interview Of Jones in Dallas
http://youtu.be/e-92DHwqJ6M



Challenger Newspaper

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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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