

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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October 10

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CONTINUES

MON, SEP 15, 2025 – WED, OCT 15, 2025

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.



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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 it uses least amount of ink.



2023



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



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 Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published.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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is a good time to get rid of old koozies, freeze a bottle of water and stuff it in a koozie or carry water in a small cooler. Hand them out the window at corners.

World Mental Health Day, Oct. 10, shines a spotlight on the importance of mental wellbeing. It's a moment to raise awareness, challenge stigma and advocate for stronger policies and services to support mental health for all. The day also invites us to share inspiring stories, practical resources and hope.

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.



Thank you Hogg Foundation for thinking of our mental health through cooling kits!

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





**Thanks so much to
Amber, Allen and all our
friends in Austin
working to help our
unhoused neighbors.**

John Paul DeJoria



WHAT A STUDY ON THE UNHOUSED CAN TELL US

BY DYLAN RICHTER

In December 2024, I conducted an exploratory study in Austin as part of my thesis exploring how people who are living unhoused conceptualize their sense of community. As part of the study, I interviewed 15 people with various backgrounds and got their perspective on how they viewed their community: who is included in that community, their place within that community, and how the camping ban affected their sense of community. The findings from that study highlighted several needs within the community, as well as the shortcomings of the larger Austin community applying one-size-fits-all policies, like the camping ban (Proposition B) passed in 2021, and the use of terms like “homeless community,” which ignores the largely isolating and alienating experiences of being unhoused.

In this article, I am going to highlight some of the findings and points of discussion from the study. I changed the names of people interviewed for the study to protect their identity. For those interested in reading the thesis, you can visit <https://digital.library.txst.edu>, and search “Community in the Face of Exclusion.”

Sense of Community

People living unhoused have various opinions about their community and how that community is defined. Most of the unhoused people I spoke to did not feel as though they are part of a unified community, which means the monolithic term “homeless community” serves very little purpose except for the larger society to have a catch-all term for people at the lowest rung of the socioeconomic ladder. It’s a term that ignores the truly isolating aspects of homelessness that most people in the unhoused community feel. It also ignores the fact that we exclude the unhoused from our larger community and put them in a situation where they victimize one another as a survival strategy, because it is easier to victimize someone whose protection is not a high priority for society. When we see that most unhoused people do not trust one another, victimize each other, and isolate themselves, we begin to understand why most people living unhoused do not engage in collective efforts to better their situation.

Alienation

A great number of participants expressed a sense of alienation that comes from three main sources: 1) the people of Austin acting coldly towards the unhoused, 2) the city passing propositions like the camping ban that actively excludes the unhoused from certain areas, and 3) not feeling connected with other people living unhoused. Alice and Bill talked about how people in Austin view them with cold contempt and actively avoid interactions to the point of moving over to the other extreme side of the sidewalk. King also felt that he did not feel as though the people of Austin really cared about him, “You can get just tell by the look like, hey, they don’t really care about you or whatever. They just see you as a nuisance. You’re taking up space.”

Feelings of alienation also come from the message sent by the city of Austin when it passed the camping ban in 2021. Most of the participants expressed how the proposition sent the message that they are not welcome in the city, which ultimately impacts their sense of community. How can one be a community member if everyone tells you to stay out of sight? Like Bill said, “It kind of makes you feel like you’re not part of it or they don’t want you to be part of it.”

Some participants felt alienated from other people living unhoused due to trust issues stemming from past encounters, or from a sense of moral hierarchy that positions themselves above other people living unhoused who use substances like methamphetamines. Robby didn’t associate with other unhoused people for both reasons. Having recently been robbed, he expressed strong opinions about people who used heavier drugs, talking down on them regularly throughout our interview.

Needs of the Community

One thing that stuck out is that of the fifteen participants, only three mentioned housing as a need that was not being met. Everyone else mentioned a wide array of needs: restroom access, lockers to store their belongings, access to clean water, access to IDs, needing medication, and access to medical services in general. The reason why most seemed focused on things like access to restrooms and water is because these are immediate needs, where housing may be an unattainable goal in their current situation. It also highlights that a one-size-fits-all approach to aiding the unhoused simply does not work, and future programs should meet the individualized needs of those they are trying to serve.

Final Thoughts

To recap, people living unhoused do not often consider themselves as part of community, the term “homeless community” is a term given to them by larger society. It’s a catch-all term that might suggest a sense of permanency and desirability in being unhoused in spite of the term being used to create wider awareness of the social issues affecting those living unhoused. Many researchers have stopped using the term “homeless” in favor of the term “unhoused,” because many individuals will say they have a “home” and community without having a physical address.

Additionally, policies that ban camping and resting in public spaces only send the message that people are unwelcome in the larger community. This only contributes to people feeling alienated from society, even though they are our neighbors, friends, and loved ones who just happen to be having a hard time. At times it causes more harm by driving people further away from resources.

We also need to be aware that while structural forces contribute to the conditions that cause people to lose their housing, many people have individual needs, like getting an ID, or having a place to leave their belongings, which are issues we can address without large structural changes. While some one-size-fits-all policies can be beneficial, most will do little to help those in need. Policies and interventions need to serve the individual’s needs.

While this study highlighted the need for more studies on the unhoused to gain a better understanding of their struggle for community and resources, it really highlights the need for policy makers to take the time to have conversations with those living unhoused to better understand their predicament, so they can better serve their needs. By helping those without housing, we ultimately help the city at large, and we can do so in a more humane way that brings people together rather than pushing the most vulnerable away.



Photo credit Julian Reyes

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

RIP

R.I.P. THOSE WHO ARE UNCOUNTED

Indoor/Outdoor Code of Conduct

For Businesses & Housed People

- ◇ Choose to practice empathy over fear
- ◇ Give compassion
- ◇ Don't hate
- ◇ **Safety:** Don't provoke street people, you will cause them to behave like you. You get back how you treat people.
- ◇ Smile, but say, "sorry, no cash"
- ◇ Give cold water, burgers, protein snacks, socks or a Challenger
- ◇ Donate to a charity of your choice, ie. Challenger Newspaper, Community First! Village, Foundation Communities.
- ◇ Don't quawk as you drive by
- ◇ Give a blanket or tent out your car window
- ◇ Don't call their stuff trash, just becuz it's in a trash bag: It may have family photos, meds, import papers, etc.
- ◇ Stop worrying about their pets; they are well cared for. Puppies learn early how to behave. They have more dog food than people food! Everyone deserves unconditional love!



For Campers

- ⇒ Respect the rules. No troublemakers.
- ⇒ Each is responsible for their own belongings
- ⇒ No display of products or substances that are socially unacceptable. (If you come back in a socially unacceptable state - Go to bed or leave! No talking!)
- ⇒ No display of weapons. Watch out for children!
- ⇒ Self-monitor behavior or you get probation or 24 hrs out or 1 week out. (can be left up to group)
- ⇒ Pets if allowed must be controlled (with or without leash)
- ⇒ Volunteer 10 hours/week or what group consensus.
- ⇒ No bad isms (sexism, classism, racism, religiousism, ageism)
- ⇒ Prevent frenzy (rushing) (No monopolizing)
- ⇒ Use composting toilets or cardboard (Don't shit where you sleep)
- ⇒ No fires. Cook with a small campstove
- ⇒ Clean up after yourself! Take your trash out
- ⇒ Listen to each other. Respect quiet time.
- ⇒ Use consensus to be fair; do a gather in to deal with baggage.
- ⇒ Check your ego at the street!

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.

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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

DO ME WELL OCTOBER

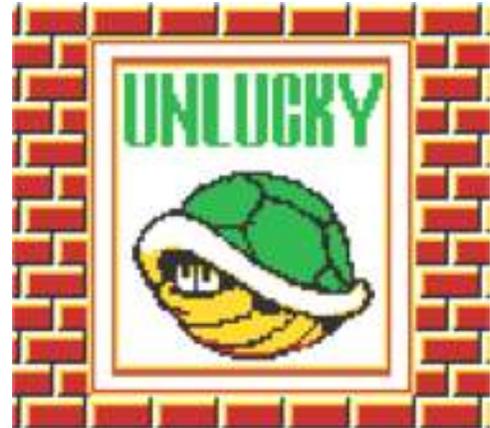
BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

Winter maybe close by; so is my cave
 Dormient I live based on how I used to behave
 Ever since middle school I have been aware of breast cancer
 As if a disease, failure, I too want an answer

I don't have to wait for October 31st to wear a mask
 In disguise I go out each day trying to multitask
 Scary to me, maybe cheerful to others
 Sad because in life I can go further

Drunken by failure; not success
 Intoxicated by a horrible taste called stress
 Easy or not, I'm an unread book
 Overweight or not I constantly get overlooked

Djarum, I am often known as when I write
 I'm in desperate need of the Festival of Light
 May I achieve light over darkness
 So I can enjoy life peacefully without a harness



ALL WE HAVE TO DO

BY THOM THE WORLD POET

TECHNIQUES FOR SURVIVAL

in a Technopolis..with all the warnings from peers and Ancestors..

1.CLING TO THOSE WITH WHOM YOU SHARE YOUR TRUST

Sing with those who understand the lyrics

Stand with those pedestrians and cyclists,astrologers ,gardeners,librarians,poets

Create with those who understand the necessity

Smile with those who may not smile back.Confucius did-

Love who you can-to the extent possible-in ways beneficial

Yesterday,i was shared another survival technique-

When confronted with irrational rage/anger/hatred-grow softer

Ask the storm how best to achieve what they want

Humbly annul opposition in search of commonness

Zen Circles.Venn Diagrams.Even parallel lines

Meet in Infinity...



LIVING, COLOUR AND CUT

BY JOHN CURRAN

I love a lovely lady with real style. Her own born in instinct for what it is, a gift that not everyone has, to really rock it, to present herself as a walking breathing expression of real beauty, transcended even, to an art.

I saw her today, again, and she looked so great. I wish I knew her. She was wearing black, skirt, leggings, , the whole picture just so cool casual distinctive and totally her own. She kinda keeps to herself at least when I see her, around and in the library. She focuses on the computer hookups, spends some time.

It's just a little small town library. Anything besides the computers is pretty much just an in and out, like browsing the shelves, finding something to check out or a magazine to read at a table, in your wooden chair. As such, it's not a place that has a real sit down area, a reading room or



that sort of thing. But it's ok, it's what it is, and here what with local yokel politics also being what that is, we're actually fighting for what we do have. We got this little library in this little building that we're still in after 66 years and Thank God for it.

So I see her there. I don't know her name or nothing. She looks fabulous, has that sense of style I speak of, that I know real well when I see it. So cool, the coolest thing, she can really bring it with threads. I just love that. Some guys, you know, go for this, some that. I ain't interested in most of standard attraction I guess. Naw, this girl has a very special look and I just gotta say, damn, whoever you are, name 'n story, I don't know but today, you were beautiful in black.

HOT TIME BY JOHN CURRAN

My favorite is the one where they're in the Big office, the two of them, Him and the ex Big Boss guy, who He really hates, especially if He sees a threat of any sort that this ex Big Boss could conceivably present. It should be said that this here video you are about to view is one of the newfangled AI things supposedly and yeah you can definitely see that. It's fake as hell, they are getting better at this but in this instance who cares, that ain't even the point, it's the degradation that gets through, all that matters, and so who gives a f/*^*. He's our man, Big H. Yeah, he got it like this.

They're in the two chairs, foreground. Background you can see the Oval, the hallowed ground. You can see the big desk, the one John John crawled under, one time long ago. Not to get too sentimental here but yeah, it's the whole nine yards. And it's just them two simplified, in simple chairs. You don't see nothing else nor

nobody.

And so it looks like 'ol ex Big Boss is being made up like kinda stupid, sheepish and servile. While He, Lord you know the One, is like puffing up and all, moving in, probing like or something, you can tell I should add that this is a silent, but you can see where this is maybe heading when suddenly, no maybes about it, two big goony guys enter in from offscreen and proceed to immediately manhandle the unfortunate Mr. X as they shuffle him on and out. And the poor fellas face the very picture of object hang dog depression.



But didn't that tickle the funny bone of our heroic Big H, Master from Hell, was on with a whooping 'n a kneeslapping that only a real good wham bam thank ya' ma'am can do. Next? And oh yeah it was just fake AI, whatever that is.

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



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Books and more!
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www.TreasureCityThrift.org

**REALLY REALLY
FREE MARKET
LAST SUNDAY
2-5 PM**

Challenger Directory of Resources Updated 10/2025

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 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 will finish this summer.

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

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

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

Resource Directory con't

Updated 10/2025

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 unhoued. Call 512-568-7557 or email brian@toofound.org

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

Hungry Hill Foundation.org

Jobs, clothing, meals 2xday. East Austin-12th & Springdale Rd

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 ▼

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 will finish this summer.
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, 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 test-ing. 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.

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 **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,

Directory continued

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

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. Wwww.hac.net.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

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:

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.

City Resources App:

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

Government phones:

<https://lifewireless.com/>

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!*

A TRICK FOR A GROUP OF ORNERY TEENS

BY RYAN DOWD

Homeless teenager:
“How old are you?”

Ryan: “How old do you think I am?”

Teenager: “Ummm... 35?”

Ryan: “Close. I’m 28.”

Teenager: “Oh sh*t! I only said 35 to be polite. I really thought you are in your late 40’s!!!!”

This conversation was 19 years ago.

I was talking to a group of teens in our family shelter.

Like a shiver of sharks, they tasted blood in the water. (*“Shiver” is the technical name for a group of sharks*).

The other teens piled on.

“It is probably because you’re bald,” one said.

“Or because your beard is already turning white,” added another.

I felt my body tense up.

I wanted to call them “snot nosed kids.”

I wanted to remind them they too would be “old” someday.

I wanted to strike back for mocking me.

Instead, I took a deep breath and said as blandly as I could, “Yup. Or it could be that I dress like my grandfather.”

The teens had strange looks on their faces.

They were expecting me to fight back.

They were expecting me to get angry.

They were not expecting me to be indifferent to their teasing.

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



Their expressions turned to boredom, and they moved on to another topic.

Tool for groups of teens: BE BORING

My favorite tool for handling mocking teens is to “be boring.”

It ruins the game.

Teasing you is only fun as long as they can get under your skin and get a reaction.

Remove your reaction and you remove their fun.

The easiest way to do this is to be indifferent to their taunts.

In a monotone voice (and with no facial expression), say “Yup” and move the conversation onto something else.

If you want to take it a step further, you can add a pinch of self-deprecating humor.

It proves that they aren’t getting under your skin.

Note: With teens, humor should always be self-deprecating. Trying to be funny at their expense backfires when they feel humiliated in front of their friends.



OUR TEAM

SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



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Photo by Val Romness



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Giver on Youtube
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Bob Moone
Badge # 501
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Michelle Kleber
Badge # 505
Photo by Val Romness



Kaye Lee
Badge # 434
Photo by Val Romness



**LIFT FROM THE
BOTTOM
EVERYBODY
RISES**

Nihil de nobis,
sine nobis.

Nothing about us
without us

CARTOONS

BY ANDY STECKEL



TURNING A NEGATIVE SITUATION INTO A POSITIVE

BY CLIFTON PAPPAS BADGE # 497

So I was in sales when I was 23-24 and a part of a team that traveled all over the United States to wholesale a product called Sun Gold out of Boise, Idaho. I really enjoyed it for almost 5 years but as I was getting closer to 30 I was thinking that I should find a wife and have a family like most people. So a woman from Reno came on the crew and we liked each other but the company RULE was, "no dipping your pen in the company ink". Well I couldn't leave her alone and we handed letters back and forth for months.

Mind you I was now management and trainer now as well as working in the field. Boss catches us and pulls us aside and says to us that we must get engaged to be accepted by the crew and we did. Now the story goes that the woman cries to me after work every night about going back home. So I would go to my boss and ask her to let us go. But me being valuable to her as management and trainer didn't want to let me go and every time it was a two or three hour meeting of why I needed to stay on crew. Finally my boss snaps at me and says to me, "the only way you're leaving is if you get her pregnant".

I then went back to our room and my woman was laying on the bed watching tv and I laid next to her looking at the tv and she asked, "well what did she say". I told her and we both looked at each other thinking it's us forever and at the same time said, "LET'S GET PREGNANT!"

HA and we did and two months later we were in Kansas City, Missouri when we went to our boss with the news. My boss was furious and not only fired us but put 11 bags of luggage and my pregnant wife to be at a Greyhound bus station but kept five grand of my only savings and left us there three days before Thanksgiving!

My wife called her family and asked them for a bus ticket back to Reno/Sparks Nevada and of course they said yes and "put Clifton on the phone please". Her great grandfather asks me, "Do you want me to buy you a ticket as well?" And I said, "thank you but no I won't meet my future wife's family with my hand out and that I would find my way back to her,

but if you would pay for my luggage and I'll pay you back as soon as I can?" Her grandfather did so and my fiancé in tears said to me, "how will you get there?" And I said cheerfully, "don't worry Love I'll get there and it'll be ok". (I was in name brand dress clothes with Doc Martin shoes and a Nautica trench coat with a dollar something and four cigarettes left.)

Crying, she got on the bus and left. I started walking soon, finding out that there was a series of train tracks and fences blocking my way that I had to go. So I literally had to walk the huge spaghetti bowl of the highway downtown to get to the highway that I needed to go. That was one of the weirdest moments of my life being there with not one car nor police the entire time. It was like an end time movie, walking all through and up and then over to the highway I'll never forget. And when I started walking I saw a park with a porta John and the weather was very cold. The pod was clean with no smell and it was 2 in the morning. I decided to sleep till dawn and did. That morning I started my journey towards Reno/Sparks, NV and not even a thousand feet a Highway Patrol flips their lights behind me, stops and gets out. "sir you're not allowed to walk along the highways in Kansas and where are you headed." "I'm going to Reno/Sparks NV." The officer says "and how do you expect to get there?" "walk of course because I have no money," And I tell him what happened and he stops my words. "You can not walk on the highways of Kansas but I will give you a ride to the next off ramp and people usually write signs on cardboard asking truckers and travelers for a ride."

We get to the off ramp and there's a gas station, he let me out and I go inside where there's two ladies behind the counter and I introduced myself and told them my situation and that I was trying to get to my pregnant fiancé.

Their hearts melted and gave me a black sharpie to write with. As I was writing the two ladies told a traveler of my situation. I didn't even get to finish my sign and they got me a ride from a guy going west through Kansas. I spent the last of my money on two six packs of crackers and got in the car

Positive cont on next page

Positive cont from pg 6

and off we went.

The traveler and I talk for hours. He gets me a great distance across Kansas but Kansas is big still having a few hundred miles of it to go. He drops me off where he needs to continue north and I'm walking on the highway again. Not even a thousand yards and a state trooper flips his lights on me and I stop of course.

The Trooper asking the same question and me giving the same answers he was loud with his answer, "You cant walk to Nevada on the side of the highways in any state to get to Nevada." And I said, "So how do you expect me to get to my pregnant fiancé sir?"

He said, "I don't care just not on any highways period". He takes me and drops me at a truck stop slash gas station. I go inside hungry, broke, it's getting dark and cold again and I see two more ladies behind the counter. I tell them my story and they give me two prayer cards with bible scriptures of God and tell me that I can have all that's left in their rotating hot case having brauts and hot dogs.

Thankful and full I left and started walking and two more times the same thing about a thousand yards and State Trooper once and then a Sheriff the next go through the same words telling them my story. The Sheriff of that country tells me "The entire state of Kansas Law enforcement is aware of you and if we catch you one more time walking on the highways of Kansas you will be arrested!"

Man I said, "so how sir am I then to get to Nevada"? He tells me not to walk and takes me to the next truck stop after giving me a tour of his patrol that he does. I get out and go inside the truck putting my gloves on and getting ready to start walking again when all the sudden I hear a truck driver telling the attendant, "Well I better be heading out, I need to get to Denver". I immediately walked over to him and introduced myself and told him my story. The trucker tells me that he'll take me as far as Denver and that I can sleep in the back. His payload was 40 feet of meat, about 4 feet tall, all the way back and tells me that he'll give me 150 bucks if I unload it, and to tell anyone at the warehouse that I'm his nephew helping out.

Wow so this happens and I get the job done by myself in 2 hours. Getting to the last pallet with my entire body was shaking. It was so overworked. Not having a physical job in years I was fatigued to say the least and he helps with the last of it then takes me to a TA Truck stop, gives me the 150 and I take a bus to downtown Denver to the Greyhound bus station. When I got downtown I then bought 4 packs of Camel 99s and smoke at the park, Then a one way Greyhound ticket to Reno/Sparks, Nevada.

The next day I called my wife to be from the Greyhound Bus station in Reno and she and her grandparents came to pick me up. They get to the bus station and of course she jumps out of the car screaming and happy, "HOW DID YOU DO THAT!?" I SAID to her, "I told you not to worry."

The next day I went to the DMV (being robbed at gunpoint in a motel just months prior). and went in with no proof of who I was and sat in front of an older lady behind glass with a computer. And after I tell her my situation she asks, "so you have no proof of who you are whatsoever?" I look down towards the ground all sad(knowing she's looking at my drivers license on the computer). And I said well and looked up real happy and with enthusiasm and said, "Wait, yes I have something"! And I pulled out those two prayer cards and said "Here I have two prayers from God".

Immediately the lady stamps my paperwork and tells me to go across the way to get my drivers license. Then two days later we got a car for a 1 at an auction and next day I had a job and then two weeks after that an apartment. Wow, we said to each other, what a trip! And that's how my son came to be!
Hope you all enjoyed!

INSURGENT SURVIVAL

Reprinted from January 2025

REFLECTIONS ON THE FIGHT AGAINST SWEEPS TARGETING THE HOMELESS IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

In 2019, militants in Austin, Texas started an organization with the aim of defending homeless camps against sweeps—forced removals disguised as “cleanups” carried out by cops and work crews. This organization, **Stop the Sweeps**, intervened in a cycle of struggles that included the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the George Floyd uprising, and the winter storm of 2021 while attempting to consolidate a pole for confrontational activity and strategic thinking. Here, we explore the history of this movement in detail, seeking to distill lessons about autonomous organization that can aid revolutionaries in future struggles against dispossession.



In June 2019, Austin City Council passed a reform legalizing “camping,” taking away the tool of misdemeanor ticketing from the Austin Police Department, which had used it for two decades to push homeless encampments into the deep woods and routinely dispossess the residents. The NGO left promoted this as a dramatic advance in the civil rights of houseless people, while NextDoor reactionaries decried it as a sign of the debasement of the once great city of Austin. In the news and on Twitter, Texas’s Republican Governor Greg Abbott exchanged barbs with Democratic Austin Mayor Steve Adler, each taking one of these sides.

The following November, friends and comrades formed Stop the Sweeps Austin (STS), a political intervention intended to undermine both of those positions. The core aim of STS was to show that both the progressive city and the reactionary state used similar techniques, rationales, and low-wage contractors guarded by police to systematically dispossess the poorest and most marginalized people in Austin—and that in doing so, they were continuing policies of displacement that had begun more than a century earlier with colonization and the policing of enslaved and formerly enslaved populations. Confronting the sweeps was both materi-

ally and discursively strategic. The idea was to cut away at the foundation of the post-decriminalization strategy for displacement, heightening antagonism towards both of the political factions that depended upon it.

To do this, Stop the Sweeps Austin rallied sympathizers to intervene against weekly encampment sweeps by city and state forces while building parallel networks of mutual aid and political support. STS drew on existing solidarity networks descended from decades-running projects, informed by the living memory of the social movements of the homeless in the 1980s. We also benefitted from historical research and movement elder storytelling to extend our understanding of local history to the founding of Austin.



The sweeps are intended to destroy what little stability and sense of home the houseless are able to establish.

We now recognize that we were a part of a national movement against sweeps that peaked early in the COVID-19 pandemic, drawing on the momentum of the George Floyd Uprising. Autonomous groups in California, including the Sacramento Homeless Union and Where Do We Go in Berkeley, had been organizing against sweeps through 2019. In an early phase of STS organizing, we were roped into coalition building and national legal work by the Western Regional Advocacy Project; yet these projects did not offer meaningful coordination between groups to advance an autonomous vision grounded in direct action. There were efforts in Los Angeles to build out anti-sweep programs that seemed similar to ours from afar, though they started from a stronger orientation towards social democratic city politics. Fiercer resistance in Minneapolis built to flashpoints in

2020 including the occupation of an empty hotel and militant encampment defense. The circulation of the insurrectionary framework “You Sweep, We Strike” saw attacks on contractors and city infrastructure in Seattle, Santa Cruz, and Minneapolis. It was difficult to connect with these projects to learn from them directly, but easy to boost each other’s content from afar.

Five years after the founding of Stop the Sweeps Austin and two years after its quiet dissolution, we are writing this piece in hopes of refining the lessons of this recent high point of movement activity. We will begin by painting a picture of the moment in 2019 when Stop the Sweeps emerged, then situate that moment in a longer history of colonization, development, and homeless resistance. Having done so, we will distill the strategic frameworks that guided our organizing, then follow the trajectory of the movement to the limits it encountered. In each section, we will present our hypotheses and the lessons we learned along the way, illustrated via specific practical experiences.

We offer these as reflections both for the local movement—to remind it of its history, its victories and defeats—and for revolutionaries everywhere seeking to think through crucial questions about autonomous organization. Today, we are preparing to confront a new phase of camp repression in the wake of the Supreme Court’s “Grants Pass” decision, which greenlights criminalization and displacement in California and elsewhere.



A sign on a tent in downtown Austin.

Read the whole article here

<https://crimethinc.com/StoptheSweeps>

ART

By Zebra



RED BLEND PLANETARY- RED HAND OF LOVE

BY MICHAEL ALAN KURTZ BADGE #150
ASD-RED BLEND GOLUM -X....GIFX ACRYLIC

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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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