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4-1 HOMER THE HOMELESS GOOSE'S BIRTHDAY

19-26 ANIMAL CRUELTY/HUMAN VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK

SHINER BOCK'S 13TH YEAR VIGIL APRIL 24  
(SEE PAGE 17 )

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



**Director / Editor:**

Valerie Romness  
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Contributors:**

Thom the World Poet  
Timothy Warfield  
Andy Steckel  
Ryan Dowd  
Clifton Pappas  
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Anonymous  
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Julian Reyes

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Morlog-IT  
J.T. - Laptops  
Fred Pettit—Co-Founder  
Spanish Translation: Belinda  
Web Host: DreamHost  
Web Updates: Kanya Lyons

**Our partners:**

Mobile Loaves & Fishes  
Treasure City Thrift  
Austin Public Library  
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](http://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 Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published.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

## 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](mailto:challengernewspaper@yahoo.com)



[peacelovehappinessfoundation.org](http://peacelovehappinessfoundation.org)  
[@plhfoundation](https://twitter.com/plhfoundation)

Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com | 512-560-4735

# LET'S TALK DATA – PART 1

## A GLIMPSE INTO HOMELESS MANAGEMENT IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

INVESTIGATIVE SERIES – THE CHALLENGER BY CASWARM

### ***The day finally arrived — a day that many people living in homelessness rarely see.***

Lease signing day

At the end of February, I signed a lease for an apartment at Gaston Place in Austin. I had been unsheltered for years, and for the first time since 2019, I had a place to call my own. Even now, about a week and a half later, it still feels surreal.

From July 2019 to May 2025, I lived in unsheltered homelessness in Austin. In May 2025, I began staying with my sister, a single mother raising two autistic teenage daughters. I could have moved in earlier, but I refused because I had no job and did not want to become another financial burden on her household.

However, circumstances changed again. In early January, I found myself back in unsheltered homelessness — just as an extreme cold-weather storm approached.

That was when the day finally arrived.

I received an email from the Housing Authority of the City of Austin informing me that my name had finally reached the top of the waiting list and that I could begin the process of being approved for housing.

I had applied in 2023 after seeing that the Housing Authority was opening applications for the waiting list. Out of all the available properties, I applied to only one: Pathways at Gaston Place Apartments.

The process was long and rigorous. But I made it through.

Now that I have gotten this far, I intend to continue advocating for real change in how homelessness is addressed in Austin. That means questioning methods that are not supported by solid data.

No more sweeps.

No more homeless camp abatements that do not lead to housing outcomes.

No more misappropriation of funding.

We need oversight, protections, statewide enforcement standards for HB 1925, and the ability to hold enforcing agencies accountable for unlawful or unconstitutional actions.

ChallengerNewspaper.org

### **The Barrier Many People Never Cross**

While living on the streets, it was nearly impossible for me to navigate Austin's homeless management system.

The biggest barrier was one I could not overcome, no matter how hard I tried. I could not find case management.



Over the years, I repeatedly searched for service providers that could help. People would often tell me to call a certain organization or email another one. I would look up the organization, call the number listed, and send emails asking for help. Each time, I was left just as lost as when I started.

One organization I contacted was Caritas of Austin. According to the City of Austin Homeless Strategy Office Budget Report for FY 2024–2025, Caritas received \$19,009,785 in grants.

However, when I called Caritas seeking help, I was told that because I had already completed a Coordinated Assessment, there was nothing they could do for me.

No case management.  
No outreach.  
Nothing.

I had also sent emails to Caritas over the years and never received a response. This raises an important question: Why does the organization receiving the largest amount of federal homelessness funding appear inaccessible to many people experiencing homelessness?

### **How Homelessness Data Is Collected**

Each year, volunteers and service providers conduct what is called the Point-in-Time Count.

The PIT Count is conducted nationwide through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and helps determine how much federal funding a city is eligible to receive for homelessness services. However, the PIT Count is widely known to be an undercount of the true homeless popula-

tion.

There are several reasons for this:

- Volunteers may not know where all encampments are located
- Many people experiencing homelessness avoid contact due to lack of trust
- The count takes place on a single night and cannot capture the full population

To improve tracking, HUD established the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

HMIS is a centralized database where service providers input data about people experiencing homelessness. This system helps track the scale of homelessness and coordinate services across organizations. In Austin, the HMIS system and Coordinated Entry process are operated by Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), the region's lead Continuum of Care agency.

### **How Austin's Homeless System Works**

Austin's homelessness response system operates through several agencies and organizations, including:

- Austin Homeless Strategy Office
- Austin Public Health
- Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH)

The general process works like this: Outreach teams identify individuals or encampments.

Individuals complete a Coordinated Assessment.

Information is entered into HMIS. Housing priority is determined based on vulnerability and available resources. However, completing an assessment does not guarantee housing, and many people remain on waiting lists indefinitely.

### **What Comes Next**

My story is only one of thousands. Every day, people across Austin try to navigate a system that is supposed to help them exit homelessness. Many never make it through.

But while people struggle to access services, millions of dollars continue to move through the city's homelessness response network.

In Part 2 of this series, we will take a closer look at where that money goes — and whether the system designed to solve homelessness is actually delivering the results it promises.

Email at: [HB1925revision2027@gmail.com](mailto:HB1925revision2027@gmail.com)

ChallengerNewspaper@yahoo.com

Time to spend money on mental health yet?

# GONE HOME

BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

April 2026

*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*

## GUY ON BRAKER LANE

# EVERYTHING

BY THOM THE WORLD POET

ALL THAT IS CRIES OUT FOR MORE

Hunger cries out for shelter  
Compassion for Understanding  
Gentleness for Reception  
Signals for Response  
And all we are must be enough  
We turn towards each other  
Knowing there is no "Other"  
Only ourselves in other's skins  
And we sing ..together.. again..

**NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US! F THE OPPRESSOR**



# Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Serving Goodness.™

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

**WE PROUDLY SUPPORT**

*The Challenger Street Newspaper*



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

PLEASE DONATE TO MLF'S *Community First! Village* PROJECT

# APRIL, THE NEW BEGINNING

BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

Spring into my life so I may blossom into a success  
I have a fertile foundation no matter my address  
Stargazing I do often hoping I catch her eye  
Within a city, I don't need a telescope focusing in the sky

I'm a landscape technician where every day is Earth Day  
Accepting environmental awareness while producing an authentic bouquet  
A new beginning to shed the decay and rust  
Easier seen and heard, pushing for more love and better trust

Even though well known in the month of April, no pranks for me  
I'm trying to revive by ability to grow in any industry  
No distractions, on this course I don't have time to yield  
Forward march to a new beginning I'm trying to build

April showers so my roots may grow  
Blossoming with this new beginning that I too may glow  
In view as if I were a special shooting star  
Approachable whether near or far



## ART

"THE. AEON RETURNED" BY CASWARM



# BIOS FOR A FEW OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & WRITERS

Name	-----	Annette Rebecca	Jesse Greiner	Bob	LK
Age	51	29 forever	48	57	57
How many times have you been homeless?	2	2-3	Off and on	Off & on for yrs	Off and on 20 years & couches
How long?	2 yr & 1 yr	3-6 mo ea time	10 yrs	Various	TLDR
Do you sleep outside?	Yes	I have/did. 3 mos under the 1st tree @ Valero Menchaca across from Sunrise.	Yes	Yes	Sometimes, other times like camping out
Do the cops make you move at night?	Yes	They did to parks nearby.	More of the housed people	No	A few times. APD & St Edwards PD
Who's your favorite Beatle?	Lead singer	Ringo Starr fellow percussionist	I love them all equally	Paul McCartney	Bailey? Dueezle?
How do you get money?	Challenger Street Newspaper	Challenger sales/donations. Sales on Offer Up of artwork & vintage.	Newspaper	Under the table work & the Newspaper	I print LOL J/K
How did you get unhoused?	Divorce & identity theft	Stopped doing conjugal visits w/my Ex. He cut my spouse support.	A long story. I worked 80-100 hrs & still had my electricity shut off. I pay check away.	Moved away from home town	Car accidents, lay offs, poor family support structure.
Favorite food?	---	Unagi sushi, chicken fried steak, matcha green tea, ice cream.	Steak	Meatloaf, potatoes & corn	Pizza
What type of housing would work for you?	Land out-skirts of the city& I'll build	Beach house ha! An apt loft efficiency, pet friendly.	I would like to be alone.	Any kind	Own place in country, small rental w/yard & gardens.
How has the paper helped you?	Identity theft & Challenger was fine with that.	Started writing again, gives a renewed hope. Even the bad I can write about it	Yes 100%	Keeps \$ in my pocket	Helps me show I'm Press to abusive police.

# 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**

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 meet

**Sundays 1-3 pm**

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

We're a 501C-3 non-profit

Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com  
www.Challengernewspaper.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. Writing, art or drawings send by email. Yes, we will publish you! Please write neatly.

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

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



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

**Opening soon**  
**5201 Cameron Rd**



**Treasure City Thrift**

Clothes, Housewares,  
Books and more!

**5201 Cameron Rd.**  
www.TreasureCityThrift.org

Solidarity  
not  
Charity

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

# Challenger Directory of Resources

Updated 4/2026

## Please notify

[Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.safeaustin.org)

VINE 512-936-1200 [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)

Kind Clinic .833.937.5463 [www.kindclinic.org](http://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 TRAFFICKING 1 (888) 373-7888

or text "BE FREE" TO 233733

## NAT'L HUMAN TRAFFICKING Resource Center Text

"HELP" or "INFO" to 233733 English, Spanish and

200 more, [traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://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](http://sunrisenavigationcenter.org)

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

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

**First Austin Baptist**— Case management, Resource navigation, Call for appt. 512-476-2635, 901 Trinity St. [fbcaustin.org](http://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  
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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://micah6austin.org)

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

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

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

Resource Directory con't

Updated 4/2026

**STORAGE/LOCKERS:**

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

**EMPLOYMENT:**

**Challenger Street Newspaper**

Sign up 1-3 pm on Sundays Rm 471 Central Library.. If closed—City Hall outside near Guadalupe/ Cesar Chavez. 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](http://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](mailto:brian@toofound.org)

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

**Fair Living Wage Calculator:** enter zip code [www.universallivingwage.org](http://www.universallivingwage.org)

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

**REFERRALS:**

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

**Arcilinc.org**  
CASE MANAGEMENT 512-832-6349

**VETERANS**

▲ **VETERANS▼**

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

**Texas Veterans Commission**  
[www.tvc.texas.gov](http://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](http://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

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

**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 welcome.

**YOUTH:**

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

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

**Street Youth Ministry** 2008 Justin Ln

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

**SENIORS/ELDERS:**

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

Call for locations, 512-450-0844

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

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

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

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

**MEDICAL, DENTAL:**

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

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

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

**CARE CONNECTIONS CLINIC** Walk in. 3706 S. First St.

**C.D. DOYLE CLINIC** operates at Esperanza Community,, we do see non-Esperanza residents with permission from The Other Ones Foundation. Acute, safety-net care rather than longitudinal medical home services. Sundays, 2:00-5:00PM.; 780 S Hwy 183, Austin, TX 78741 (409) 571-9362 <http://www.cddoyleclinic.com/>.

**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](mailto: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](http://kindclinic.org)

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

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

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

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

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

**MENTAL HEALTH:**

**MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES**

## Directory continued

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

**Mental Health Information Help Line**  
1 (800) 950-NAMI (6264), M- F, 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

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

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

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

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

**We Can Now** Street Outreach  
**Sunrise Navigation** Outreach

**Suicide Lifeline** 800-273-TALK  
(8255) IF YOU TEXT 741741 WHEN YOU ARE FEELING DEPRESSED OR SUICIDAL, A CRISIS WORKER WILL TEXT YOU BACK IMMEDIATELY AND CONTINUE TO TEXT WITH YOU!

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

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

**Austin Clubhouse** community of mutual support and recovery for adults living with mental health diagnoses  
[www.austinclubhouse.org](http://www.austinclubhouse.org)

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

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

**LEGAL:**

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

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

**Camp Ban Tickets** TX Fair Defense Project

512-637-5220 Press 0 Mon 12-5 pm & Thurs 10 am-1pm or if in jail: Austin Lawyers Guild hotline 512-817-4254

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

(1700 Guadalupe St) is the current, Travis County Civil Law Court House, which gets confused with old courthouse, 11th & Guadalupe & causes tardiness if you're not in the know. At the Current & old Court houses the cops do mag wand & scan your bag, coat, & belt & there's barriers to leaving the *building too. But, at new courthouse they have a law library* on 2nd floor, where law books & computers with internet access, and law clerk librarians can help you research forms & methods for filing legal & business forms. All available for anyone wanting to study law or research what are common civic expectations, not taught or explained in public school.

**UTILITIES:**

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

**CLOTHING:**

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

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

**FREE HAIRCUTS:**  
Supercuts Training Academy call ahead 512-481-8900.

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

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

**FOOD STAMPS, HUMAN SERVICES, MEDICAID:**

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

**HOUSING**

**VA** 7901 Metroplis Dr 78744 (512) 823-4000  
Transitional housing for single veterans.

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

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

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

**Project Transitions-Roosevelt Gardens**  
HIV Housing Complex  
5606 Roosevelt Avenue

The 40-unit homeless or unstably housed

**Austin Housing Authority** 1124 S. IH-35 ATX, 78704. 512-477-4488 6 month to 2 year; waiting list depends heavily on individual circumstance. [Www.hacanet.org](http://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. [mif.org](http://mif.org) Hogeye Rd. Be prepared after a few years you may consider moving to typical apt.

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

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

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

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

**ART FROM THE STREETS STUDIO**  
"Canopy" 916 Springdale Rd Bldg 2 Rm105  
Mon & Tues 10am-1pm Thurs 12-3PM  
(Women Only: Wed 12-3 PM) Art supplies provided for FREE! Participation allows each artist to be in the annual show in October!

**PET CARE:** [www.emancipet.org](http://www.emancipet.org) offers free days for pet care

**NO FREEZE SHELTER:**

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

Men and women, leashed pets welcome & will stay in a crate near you. Register at 505 Barton Springs Rd 6-8 PM or till flow stops. Rides to locations. Or go directly to location after 8 pm. Families with children, arrive by 6pm.

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

**Government phones:**  
<https://lifewireless.com/>

Want text alerts from City Homeless Strategy Office? Text to 512-972-5055 or 737-980-1321

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

## CODE OF CONDUCT

**Challenger Newspaper**

1. Distributors must wear their badges in a clear and visible way when pitching the paper.

2. Distributors must be sober and drug free when they pitch the paper.

3. Distributors are responsible for their papers once they purchase them.

4. Distributors are not permitted to fight over territory, use abusive language, or exhibit aggressive behavior.

5. Distributors can't pitch in doorways, directly in front of businesses, or near ATM machines.

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 No Longer 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! It's illegal & immoral.
- Pay social workers a living wage!
- 8th St. Women's shelter: Current one has appointments only. Must be able to walk in for safety.
- Make phones easier to get
- *End oppressive ordinances. No more criminalizing the poor!*
- *Increase funding for homeless services (increase private sector funding.*
- *Austin Living Wage \$24/hr*
- *Get past Moral Bankruptcy and be fiscally responsible. It can cost 35 to 80 thousand/year/person to ticket, court, jail, police, hospitalize, ER, ambulance rides. When a person is housed \$18,000 (w/a social workers guidance) they stand up and walk back into society and possibly go back to work.*
- *Take the boards off vacant homes.*
- *Cold weather shelter Now allows pets; must be leashed and will stay in a crate near you.*

# ART

By ANNETTE R. KOVAC

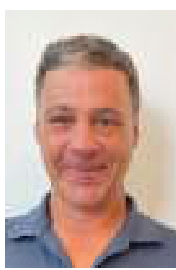


# OUR TEAM

## SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



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



Clifton Pappas  
Badge # 497  
Photo by Val Romness



Lorenzo  
Badge # 414  
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Brianna Arrendondo  
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Julian Reyes  
Badge #117  
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Leslie Cochran  
Badge #110  
Honorary  
Distributor/ writer



Bob Shrey  
Badge # 507  
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Annette Kovac  
Badge #508  
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Mary W.  
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Timothy Warfield  
Badge #460  
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Keith Hammack .  
Badge # 511  
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Cordell Dawson  
Badge # 512  
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John Hopkins .  
Badge # 510  
Photo By Val Romness



Erick The Dream  
Giver on Youtube  
Badge # 489  
Photo by Val Romness



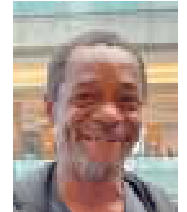
Gregory Bordelon  
Badge # 492  
Photo by Val Romness



Joe Nichols  
Badge # 267  
Around town  
Photo by Val Romness



John Robbins  
Badge # 498  
Photo by Val Romness



Ardeh Lewis Jr.  
Badge # 499  
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Joel Robert Dixon  
Badge # 509  
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Twinkle Toes  
Badge # 490  
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Gilberto Beltran  
Badge # 500  
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Badge #467  
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Michelle Kleber



Chrystal  
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Sabrina Oberg  
Badge #443  
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Kaye Lee  
Badge # 434  
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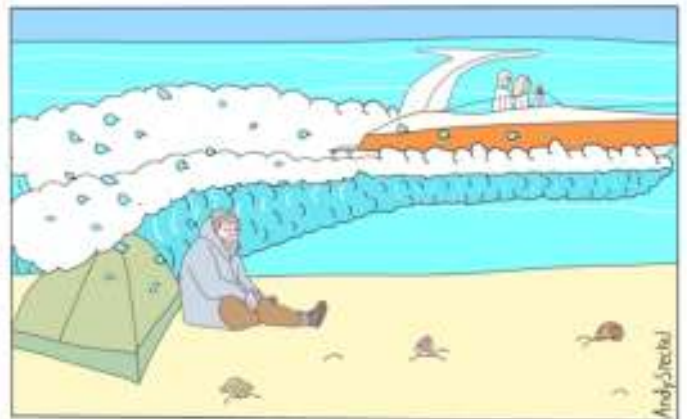
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Badge # 358  
Around town  
Photo by Val Romness



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Pearlle Blue &  
Debra Miller  
Badge #474  
Photo By Val Romness



# CARTOONS

BY ANDY STECKEL

# P O E M

BY ANONYMOUS

SUBMITTED BY  
BOB SHREY

The humming bird embraces the flower  
 The bell embraces it's ring  
 Minutes embrace the hour  
 Feathers embrace early spring  
 Embraced to the sea  
 The river gently flows  
 The soul cries  
 as tears embrace the cheeks  
 The heart longs  
 for the embrace with sleep  
 as the stars embrace  
 the heavens  
 The grass embraces the sod  
 We're on our knees praying  
 To be embraced by God

# A RULE THAT IS NOT ENFORCED IS NOT A RULE.

BY RYAN DOWD

A decade ago, I taught a college class on social policy.

The students were brilliant... and chronically late.

I tried “everything:”

- I made announcements.
- I pointed to the attendance policy in the student handbook.
- I posted a notice on the door.
- I even had them sign a pledge.

They were still late.

I had tried everything *except* enforcing the rule.

## **A Rule That is Not Enforced, is Not a Rule**

The ONLY thing that makes something a rule is enforcement.

- Writing something down does not make it a rule.
- Announcing something does not make it a rule.
- Posting something on a wall does not make it a rule.

## **The Solution**

At the end of a class session, I made a simple announcement: “Starting next week, anyone arriving late for class will need to stand next to their chair for 10 minutes.”

The next session, two students walked in late.

When the first one sat down, I asked him to stand. He gave me a look, but he stood. I glanced at the clock and told him when he could sit. He said, “Oh, you were serious?” I just nodded.

A few minutes later the second student arrived. She walked in, saw her classmate standing, and her face went white. I smiled. “You can sit down in 10

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



minutes.”

No one was ever late again.

## **A Note About Enforcement**

I didn’t send anyone to the Dean. I didn’t dock grades. I didn’t need to.

Enforcement does not have to be a formal punishment.

In most cases, making someone feel mildly awkward—or mildly inconvenienced—is enough.

If it isn’t, *then* you can use more formal consequences.

But start there.

Ryan Dowd

2114 W. Galena Blvd., Suite 8-284,  
Aurora, IL 60506

ryan@homelesslibrary.com



# CALLING ALL DOG LOVERS

BY JULIAN REYES

EVENT: FRI, APRIL 24 5 PM @ APD HQ 8TH & IH-35

It's been 13 long, lonely years that I've had to suffer without my beloved Son, Shiner Bock.

Bad cop Daniel Walsh shot my dog in cold blood for speaking.

It was murder by the numbers.

Shiner Bock was barking at a coward cop that was creeping up on us with his gun out, ready to kill us.

Bad cop Daniel Walsh admitted in Court deposition that he had already grabbed his 9mm gun and was going to kill either me or my dog.

So he just decided to kill Shiner Bock.

Do dog's have the right to speak up about killer clown cops trying to kill us? Yes let them speak!

Trained Killer Cop Daniel Walsh shot Shiner Bock as my dog was running away from him, like a shooting gallery, multiple shots into my sweet Shiner Bock, until he was let to bleed out on the ground by police. Placing me in handcuffs on the ground to watch. No aid was rendered. 11 cops including an APD Lieutenant Nisula made excuses for murdering Shiner Bock and false arrest of me in handcuffs. They said that they are trained to shoot our dogs and that officers have the right to murder our Family dogs. I disagreed with them.

After 30 minutes or so of the police watching my dog bleed out and die. The police finally let me out of the handcuffs and off the ground where they had me lie down and watch. And they told me it was their right to kill us and our dogs. And that it's all ok and legal. And that I was free to leave. I informed them that they needed to treat me with grace and respect in the future and that they were free to go. As I was on my rental property, they were trespassing. I belonged there.

In APD's investigation Daniel Walsh lied and said that he only



Friday, April 24, 2026 at 5 PM  
**For the dogs, cops  
 don't shoot! Shiner  
 Bock's 13th year vigil,  
 memorial, live music.**  
 Public - Event by Support for Shiner  
 Bock

 **Austin Police Department**  
 715 E 8th St, Austin, TX 78701

shot Shiner Bock once. Even though I watched him shoot multiple times as Shiner Bock ran away, crying for his life. APD lies, like the psychopaths that they are. APD = Always Promotes Deception.

This all happened in South Austin near South Congress and Stassney Ln.

I still fight for Shiner Bock and all our dogs. And for people and our protections and our rights. I am Shiner Bock's voice now. I sued in Federal Court for our Civil Rights. And I settled with the City which made it safer for dogs in several non-monetized ways. Including new training and a new fear of backlash for the shooting of any of our family dogs and case law. Or even stray dogs. I did that hard work and I won. For the Dogs! Since then APD has refused to come clean with public data on dog shootings. I am looking for an attorney to help create that

transparency that APD is afraid of. How many more dogs has Austin Police shot and killed? We have much work to do. Join us on April 24th, 2026 at APD HQ Virtual and in person event. We will try and live-stream on this channel:

[youtube8LizzardoGiganticus](#)

Subscribe to get a notification in the youtube (Google) registered email.

All dog lovers are invited to come show support for our Family dogs and tell the Police in Austin to stop shooting our furry family. And as a memorial to the 13th year without my beloved Son, my dog, Shiner Bock, that was murdered by APD officer Daniel Walsh, and which was covered up by the City leaders and APD leadership. Rest in Power, Shiner Bock.

Come show support for our dogs! See you there!

# TURNING A NEGATIVE SITUATION INTO A POSITIVE

BY CLIFTON PAPPAS BADGE #497 (REPRINTED FROM OCTOBER 2025)

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."



**POSITIVE** cont

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 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!

Today my son is 20 and has his own place, job, car, girlfriend and weight training.

**Challenger Newspaper**

PO Box 151574  
Austin, TX 78715

512-560-4735  
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

**Subscribe**  
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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!



Pls note Badge \_\_\_\_\_

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