

250 YEARS



4th of July



Minority Mental Health Month

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

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Mobile Loaves & Fishes
Treasure City Thrift
Austin Public Library
JP's P.L.H. Fdn
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.



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 Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published.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

COOLING Centers:

Rec centers & libraries. See their hours, not overnight.

BUS PASSES

By Val Romness

New reloadable passes; June 1st



Sign up for Emergency notices

from COA: (737)980-1321

<https://mailchi.mp/austintexas/sms-signup>

Time for a discussion Challenger Will Visit Your Org/Hood

Zoom or in person

**Understanding Homelessness and
building empathy.**

Goals

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

Contact 512 560 4735 or challengernewspaper@yahoo.com





Success unshared is failure

John Paul DeJoria



Thru Mar 2027

Pyramid of White Supremacy

Genocide

Mass Murder

Violence

Unjust Police Shootings

Lynching Hate Crimes

Calls for Violence

Police Brutality

Neo-Nazis KKK The N-Word

Confederate Flags Burning Crosses

Discrimination

Mass Incarceration Swastikas

Racial Profiling

School-to-prison Pipeline

Hiring Discrimination Stop and Frisk

Fearing People of Color

Redlining

Racial Slurs

Anti-Immigration Policies

Funding Schools Locally

Predatory Lending

Veiled Racism

Paternalism

Victim Blaming

Racist Jokes

English-only Initiatives Euro-Centric Curriculum

Racist Mascots

Tokenism

Bootstrap Theory

Tone Policing

Claiming Reverse Racism

Cultural Appropriation

Minimization

"We all belong to the human race"

Denial of White Privilege

White Savior Complex

"Post-Racial Society"

"Why can't we all just get along?"

"It doesn't matter who you vote for"

White Ally Speaking over POC

"It's just a joke!"

"Get over slavery"

False Equivocation

"But my Black friend said..."

Not Believing Experiences of POC

Indifference

Two Sides to Every Story

Prioritizing Intentions over Impact

"Politics doesn't affect me"

Not Challenging Racist Jokes

Avoiding Confrontation with Racist Family Members

Remaining Apolitical

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

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

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*

DOUGHBOY

WORKED FIREWORK
STAND

CYSCO

STANLEY K. PRUETT
1959-OCT 2025

STACK'S FRIENDS SPEAK

9-3-1959 TO 2-24-2026

He liked the water. Thought it was crazy to hang in a park where no water.

Stack & Billy Mack had a band called "Stack Attack" for a spell, they played well together. Stack wrote alot of original music.

He and Bill definitely affected & influenced the music scene around Zilker Park.

I remember at first when I got here Stack looking me in the eye and propped his arm over my shoulder said "OK kid I'm gonna tell you 2 things: One- you are a good kid and two: You don't belong here with us:

Might he 'ment that I had something to do...not I don't belong.

Later he told me in front of people where were unsure why I even had a say, "Boy, don't sell yourself short. You are smarter than almost everyone here: Be the you only you, are an asshole enough to be.

I am proud to know you!

I wouldn't trade meeting you for shit Bryant"

I didn't realize he even knew my name.

Uncle Stack helped shape the peoples & street family I know.

He'll be a legend in my heart and remembered by me till I can no longer even remember myself...

Love you Uncle Marshall Stack!



NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US! F THE OPPRESSOR



Mobile Loaves & Fishes
Serving Goodness.™

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

WE PROUDLY SUPPORT

The Challenger Street Newspaper



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

PLEASE DONATE TO MLF'S Community First! Village PROJECT

2026, HAPPY JULY

BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

To me Dog Days of Summer had a head start
My back is getting attention not just my heart
As I try to be the best gardener known to be
I often pause as well to give thanks to drink water freely

I'm glad the flag flies high while my head is the opposite
Sadden at times what many scarified that allow me today to make a profit
I hope my own blood, sweat, and tears can make a difference to a stranger
In this game of life, I dwell trying to be a game changer

The Dog Days of Summer has in forecast for me many showers
I just hope they are spaced out at least 24 hours
America maybe beautiful, don't forget about the heat
I hope at least one day out of this month, I can celebrate joy in the streets

Hopefully the fireworks will ignite the position of my head
Watching the celebrations should uplift me to step better as well
Happiness in the month my of July I will try to spread
A headstart to Dog Days of Summer can't stop the scent of flowers I smell



IT SHAKES THE DUST OF DEFEAT

Evaporates ennui. Disturbs despair

Alienates alienation. Empowers energies.

Affirms affirmations. Adds to positive possibilities.

Creates circles, spirals, Mandelbrots endlessly and Aum

Opens up windows and closed doors-releasing sunlight

That spills like Sacred Waters into minds rusted needing repAIR.

Opens up hearts bruised by neglect and fear.

Opens up Shakras shut down since Long Term Covid

Morphed into Ebola and epidemics became Pan-

Now we can be New again, Renewed Again

Healthy .Hale. Hearty. Ready to :Link and Connect

"Small is Beautiful" for Bonsai and Haiku

We need more Imax ODYSSEYS, ILIADS, EPICS OF GILGAMESH

BEOWULF can return, like the pale ghosts of King Arthurs (and Merlins)

We meet, Resurrect, Return within our Sacred Skin..

EVERYTHING CAN BEGIN. EVERYONE BECOME MORE THAN ONE.

As Walt Whitman opined "I embrace multitudes!"

AND WE DO, TOO!

WHY WE GATHER

BY THOM THE WORLD POET

HOMELESSNESS IS MORE PREDICTABLE THAN YOU THINK

BY RYAN DOWD

Gary did not become homeless all at once.

First, he got a divorce.

Paying for an apartment by himself was expensive, but Gary managed to squeak by each month.

Until his car broke down and he could not afford to fix it.

Unable to get to work reliably, he got fired.

Without a job, Gary got evicted.

Afraid to stay at a shelter, Gary tried to find places outside to sleep at night. It was summer, so he wouldn't freeze, at least.

One night Gary got jumped by a couple of guys. In the melee, he got hit in the head with a baseball bat. Lying unconscious, his attackers rifled through his pockets and found nothing worth taking.

Gary woke up in a hospital bed with blurry vision, the worst headache of his life and a few stitches.

Gary also had something that made all of his prior problems look small: a traumatic brain injury.

That injury changed what Gary could do. A hit to the frontal lobe can make memory, judgment, impulse control and social filters much harder. Gary started saying things he never would have said before ("disinhibition") because he didn't know they were offensive. He also struggled remembering anything but the simplest instructions.

Those two things made steady work impossible.

Gary has not been able to hold down a job for more than a few days since his injury.

Gary will never get back on his feet again without intensive support... EVER.

Homelessness has Patterns

Homelessness has many patterns that shape it.

One is what I'll call the "*Domino Effect*."

The basic idea is simple: One bad thing does not guarantee the next bad thing, but it does increase the odds.

Most people who get a divorce will not end up homeless, but it increases the risk.

Studies have shown that it is one of the leading drivers of homelessness.

Most people who become homeless will not take a baseball bat to the head, but it makes it more likely.

When someone becomes homeless the risk of violence against them is increased by a factor of 9,000. (*No, you're not reading that wrong*).

Not surprisingly, 53% of individuals who have been homeless for over a year have a traumatic brain injury. (*No, you're not reading that wrong either*.)

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.
RyanDowd@homelesslibrary.com



The Domino Effect takes people who could have been helped cheaply and turns their lives into something much more harder, much more expensive, to repair.

A few hundred dollars would have fixed Gary's car.

Now he will either be homeless or need a fully subsidized apartment for the rest of his life.

So, what do we do?

There are a few lessons in here:

1) Small problems ignored early, cause big problems later.

One-by-one, the people living on your streets are becoming permanently unemployable if your community doesn't have adequate shelter and services.

2) Once a person reaches a certain point, there is no coming back.

Someone with a bad enough brain injury is unemployable. Calling them lazy and threatening to take away their subsidized housing if they don't get a job doesn't change that.

3) Homelessness is not as hopeless as it seems.

We need to stop treating homelessness like a random collection of bad choices.

It has patterns... and patterns can be interrupted.

The "Science of Homelessness" is a new endeavor, but in a few decades we have already learned a lot, and we learn more every day.

Ryan Dowd
2114 W. Galena Blvd., Suite 8-284,
Aurora, IL 60506
ryan@homelesslibrary.com

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

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. 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

**NEW
HOURS**

**NEW LOCATION:
5201 CAMERON RD**



**THURSDAY/JUEVES 12-6 PM
FRIDAY/VIERNES 12-6 PM
SATURDAY/SÁBADO 11 AM-6 PM
SUNDAY/DOMINGO 12-6 PM**

WWW.TREASURECITYTHRIFT.ORG

512.582.0000

Challenger Directory of Resources

Updated 7/2026

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

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://stopthetrafficking.org>

NAVIGATIONS CENTERS:

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

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

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

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

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

BATHROOMS:

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

Shower and bathroom:

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

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

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)

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 re-

quire 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

Resource Directory con't

Updated 7/2026

Mesa Dr., Austin, TX 78759. Food for Seniors

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

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

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

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

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

REFERRALS:

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

Arcilinc.org
CASE MANAGEMENT 512-832-6349

VETERANS

▲ VETERANS ▼

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

Texas Veterans Commission
www.tvc.texas.gov

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

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

info on community resources. Lobby hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-11AM & 1-4:45PM. Tuesday 8-11AM & 1-6:45PM. Friday 8-11AM

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

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

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

Barton Springs Pool

VETERANS are always in free
Shwrs available
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

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.

MENTAL HEALTH:

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Call 988 For Police w/mental health training,

Directory continued

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

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

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

www.aayhf.org

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

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

We Can Now Street Outreach
Sunrise Navigation Outreach

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

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

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

Austin Clubhouse community of mutual support and recovery for adults living with mental health diagnoses

www.austinclubhouse.org

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

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

LEGAL:

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

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

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

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

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

UTILITIES:

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

CLOTHING:

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

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

FREE HAIRCUTS:.

Supercuts Training Academy call ahead 512-481-8900.

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

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

FOOD STAMPS, HUMAN SERVICES, MEDICAID:

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

HOUSING

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

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

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

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

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

Austin Housing Authority 1124 S. IH-35 ATX, 78704. 512-477-4488 6 month to 2

year; waiting list depends heavily on individual circumstance. 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. mlf.org Hoge Rd. Be prepared after a few years you may consider moving to typical apt.

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

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

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

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

ART FROM THE STREETS STUDIO

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

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

COOLING CENTERS:

Rec centers & libraries See their hours, not overnight.

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 shelter 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.

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8. Stay back 20 ft from marked crosswalks.

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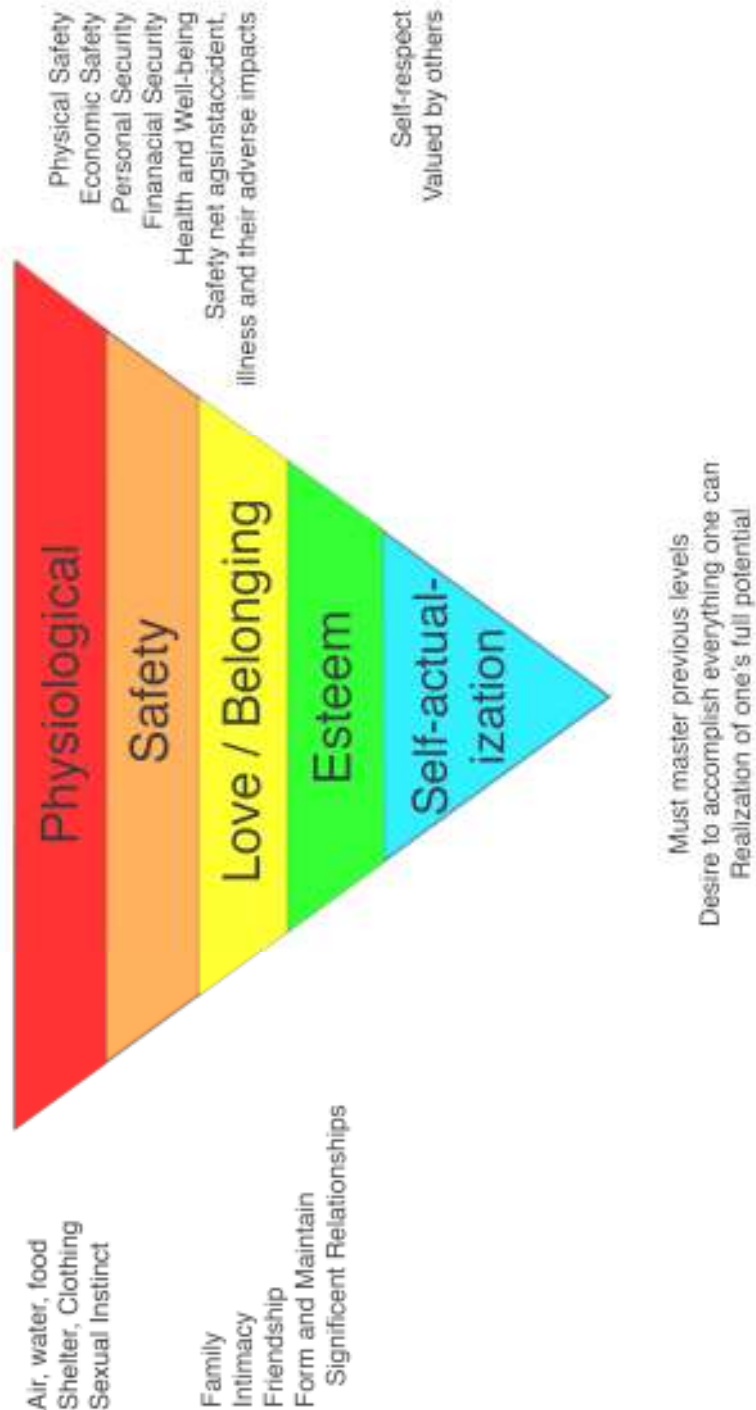
We need to police ourselves or the police will.



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 ppl's 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 Federal, State, County, City funding for homeless services (increase private sector funding, also)*
- *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 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.
- *Couples can now stay together at some shelters!*



GET READY FOR HEAT & HOW TO STAY COOL

Summer Info
Due to extreme heat, all Parks and Library facilities will serve as Cooling Centers during normal operating hours. They have AC, water, and bathrooms. Included is a list of locations.

**CAP METRO IS OFFERING
FREE BUS RIDES
TO COOLING CENTERS!**

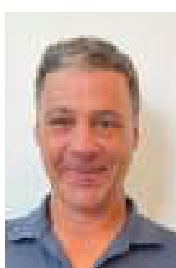
Heat Exhaustion		Heat Stroke	
ACT FAST • Move to a cooler area • Loosen clothing • Sip cool water • Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve	Dizziness Thirst Heavy Sweating Nausea Weakness	Confusion Dizziness Becomes Unconscious	ACT FAST CALL 911 • Move person to a cooler area • Loosen clothing and remove extra layers • Cool with water or ice
Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke. Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.		Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.	
CDC NOSH		Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!	

OUR TEAM

SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



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Photo by Val Romness



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Photo by Val Romness



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Around town
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Around town
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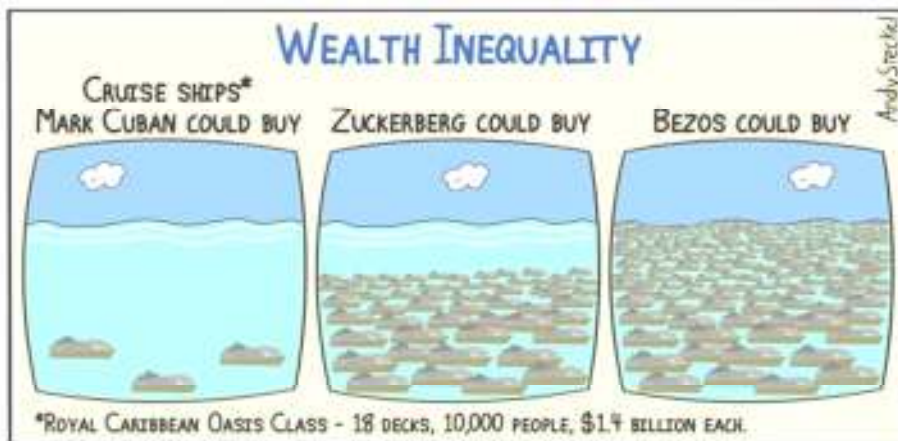


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CARTOONS

BY ANDY STECKEL



WE WILL LEARN TO HOPE AGAIN BY RYAN DOWD

Everything I know about hope, I learned from individuals living in a homeless shelter.

I have seen countless individuals lose all hope. They accept that they will be homeless for their entire lives.

There is a predictable pattern:

- **First, they lose faith in others.** They accept that the world is a hostile place and that they are the only one that can look out for their own interests.
- **Next, they lose faith in themselves.** They accept that they have no ability to change a cold harsh world.
- **Finally, cynicism becomes a form of "wisdom."** In the face of insurmountable odds, hope seems irrational and naïve.

I have also seen countless individuals discover hope again. They find the courage to see a different future for themselves and their families. Here, too, there is a pattern:

- **It starts in the dark.** It begins deep in the human soul for no apparent reason other than the miracle that is the human spirit. Against all odds, a coal from a long-dead fire begins to glow and give off heat.
- **At first it looks foolish.** When an alcoholic with slurred speech declares that he will get sober, it can sound absurd. When hope is in its infancy, people mock it.
- **As it grows, hope comes under attack by cynics with an agenda.** Friends, family or strangers try to undermine recovery for their own selfish ends. Misery loves company.
- **Finally, hope wins.** In retrospect, what had looked inconceivable appears inevitable.

My friends, I don't offer my observations on hope as mere intellectual curiosity. Our country—our world—is losing hope.

We have lost faith in others. We have accepted that our country is a hostile divided place, and we must each look out for our own interests.

We have lost faith in ourselves. We have resigned ourselves to the fact that we are unable to effect change.

We have mistaken cynicism for wisdom. Internet pundits compete to sell the bleakest vision of our

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.
RyanDowd@homelesslibrary.com



future.

Fortunately, we have experts in our midst.

Perhaps we can all learn how to hope from our homeless neighbors.

Just maybe, the most vulnerable can show the way forward.

Our country's healing will begin in darkness. When our collective spirit can no longer tolerate division and fear we will begin to change.

At first, it will look foolish. Even writing this, it feels silly to even think about a country without deep partisan divide.

Before hope wins, cynics will attack it. We must learn to ignore pundits and politicians who profit from our fear of one another.

Hope will win; it seems inconceivable now, but it always does...

My friends, we find greatness together, or not at all.

Ryan Dowd
2114 W. Galena Blvd., Suite 8-284,
Aurora, IL 60506
ryan@homelesslibrary.com





ART

By ARKOVAC

"BLACK BIRDS AT MOONRISE"

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

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

The poverty wage and state minimum wage are for reference purposes. Poverty wage estimates come from the Department of Health and Human Services' [Poverty Guidelines](#) for 2025 and have been converted from an annual value to an hourly wage for ease of comparison. The state minimum wage data is sourced from the [Labor Law Center](#) and includes the minimum wage in a given state as of January of that year. For further detail, please reference the [Methodology](#) page. The data on this page was last updated on February 10, 2025.

	1 ADULT				2 ADULTS (1 WORKING)				2 ADULTS (BOTH WORKING)		
	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children
Living Wage	\$24.55	\$40.94	\$51.08	\$64.65	\$33.14	\$39.46	\$42.96	\$49.51	\$16.57	\$22.92	\$27.78
Poverty Wage	\$7.52	\$10.17	\$12.81	\$15.46	\$10.17	\$12.81	\$15.46	\$18.10	\$5.08	\$6.41	\$7.73
Minimum Wage	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25

THE FUTURE AND THE NOW

BY CLIFTON PAPPAS BADGE #497

For the last 6 months I have been searching and following technology and statistics about AI and humanoid robots. And all our readers know that I write articles about real things that go on the streets.

So as you read on you will see how this is very important. Thousands of jobs have already been taken by AI and humanoid robots, I mean literally and China already has robots working as surgeons performing medical procedures to running kitchens in restaurants.

They have robots that can do any chore in the house for 20k and only 500 per a month. That there goes the hotel industry. There really isn't hardly anyone talking about this and it blows me away.

They already said that everyone in college right now by the time they graduate, AI will have their jobs. And still the trusted news channels are not warning people about this or saying much at all about this? This is really happening and I'm not paranoid or a "conspiracy theorist" because these are facts.

They're turning war into a video game and I'm actually all for that because then no more lost or maimed Americans. But that does say a lot about

war and what it's really about today. Anyway back to the point, homelessness. There will be millions more if you haven't put it together yet.

Millions of people with mortgages and car payments, insurance, utilities, FOOD. They're pushing this tech as a great thing but no absolutely not. America, Americans started this country as banding together against the enemy or anything infringing upon the Constitution of the United States of America.



Today the majority just lives in their boxes of reality and as long as they're ok then they don't care about anything else. This is going to change and is changing now. Remember the movie Terminator? And the control station called Sky Net? Well isn't it coincidence that China's main information center there name translates into Sky Net.?

Wow. Remember I said in an article past, that the majority of this country is just two checks from being outside? At least I'm speaking up about this and hopefully this article will shake some people awake.

Hope everyone has a great month!



FINCH

By Annette R. Kovac



One of my favorite birds is the little finch, widely diverse in every imaginable palette, pastiche and perimeter. Who knew there was a variety of finch for my depressed, anxiety-ridden, born to die, dumb ass... and that in this fast, futuristic forestry, I'd find a funny little self-care pet virtually chirp-full of hallelujahs > all in The Finch App.

The Finch app was created by two friends, **Stephanie Yuan** and **Thomas "Nino" Aquinas Nugraha Budi**, according to *Paste Magazine*.

Officially, the self-care virtual pet app launched in May 2021 through their company, Finch Care Public Benefit Corporation. They founders shared that the inspiration behind the app is deeply personal:

- **The "Why":** Both founders had struggled with anxiety and depression in the past. They found that while people usually *know what they need to do for their mental health (like drinking water, tidying up, or breathing exercises), finding the daily motivation to actually do it is the hardest part.*
- **The Solution:** They wanted to make self-care fun, accessible, and completely pressure-free. They designed the app around the concept of a "self-care pet"—inspired partly by game designer Jane McGonigal's work on gamified resilience—where the only way to take care of your virtual bird and send it on adventures is by taking care of yourself first. (from AI, *Paste Magazine* and *Wildcats Wired*)

I'm elated by this app and my finchie because it encourages you to care for yourself first with your pet bird in mind congruently, straying (thank Christ!) from the I,I,me,me modern times we shamefully live in. Like a parent who must be healthy and strong themselves to care for their child, though they might not care to live at all, had they not been blessed with their child to care for and love. Circle of love and selflessness, simply put...I think. I'm damaged so idk simplicity all too well. My little Song (my finchie's name) also trills me because he's helping me through my intense misery in missing CindyLou ... my blue heel-er of 14 yrs, who I incessantly write about because I hate life without her and am unpretty joyless, infinitely as it is. Having a fucking adorable virtual finch bird to care about is helping me immensely. Song Kovac chirps, cheeps, travels and tweets. His

remarkable personality is amazingly sweet, smart & sassy. Something to look forward to each day. If I miss a day, I'm disappointed. What's changed? I no longer awkwardly gush over my friend's or mere stranger's dogs and cats, or at least not as much. Thank Christ I haven't relapsed. Eventuality has come about and after 6 years, now just after my 56th bday in June, I feel not too anxious in saying that I'm considering adopting a smaller dog this summer. If this is in God's will, of course... dog-ma if you will.



Why do birds suddenly appear, every time I drink beer?" - my Uncle Josh jokingly sang in parody of the Carpenters' *Close to You* beloved, melancholy 70's song. There are several *Finch*-similar sites available to suit your character, requirements, life-style, emotions, faith, and personal pet preference over-all. Whatever your tangles, tango, tech level, tumble or trade... whether the wise owl type, the gaming sort, the journalist/writer, artist, creative type, motley fool, faith filled, reborn, newly dead, desperate housewife, loner, stoner, workaholic, addict in recovery,... etc. or simply in need of companionship that isn't whore-ish social media wherein you bare your life to the entire globe, I can assuredly say there is most likely a virtual pet birdie or creature that will inspire your livelihood. Here are some suggestions a'la Finchie:

Kinder World

Self-compassion & emotional naming. Relearning how to be kind to yourself and others.

Anonymous & structured message sharing.

Sweepy

Managing physical environment. Escaping the "depression room" paralysis.

Shared household chore tracking & point splitting.

Habitica

Gamified milestones & group accountability, for those who need structured social duty to stay motivated. Co-op boss battles and shared group health pools.

Challenger Newspaper

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"It's alright to say people lift themselves up by your own boot straps. But, it's cruel to say to a bootless man that he must lift himself up by his own boot straps."



Martin Luther King Jr.
August 13, 1967



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



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