Challenger Street Newspaper

Austin, Texas

$$ Donation Thank you!

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(178th issue)

www.challengernewspaper.org
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com
512-560-4735

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

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HALLOWEEN





INTERNATIONAL COFFEE DAY - 1ST



MENTAL HEALTH DAY - 10TH



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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.

The material printed reflects the opinions of its authors.



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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.

GUIDESTAR GOLD SEAL OF TRANSPARENCY 2023

insp International Network of Street Papers

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

PayPal

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 Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published.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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****

New navigation center
We Can Now North Lamar & Runberg

****

Sign up for Emergency notices
from COA: (737)980-1321
https://mailchi.mp/austintexas/sms-signup

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 Group

Zoom or in person

Understanding Homelessness and building empathy.

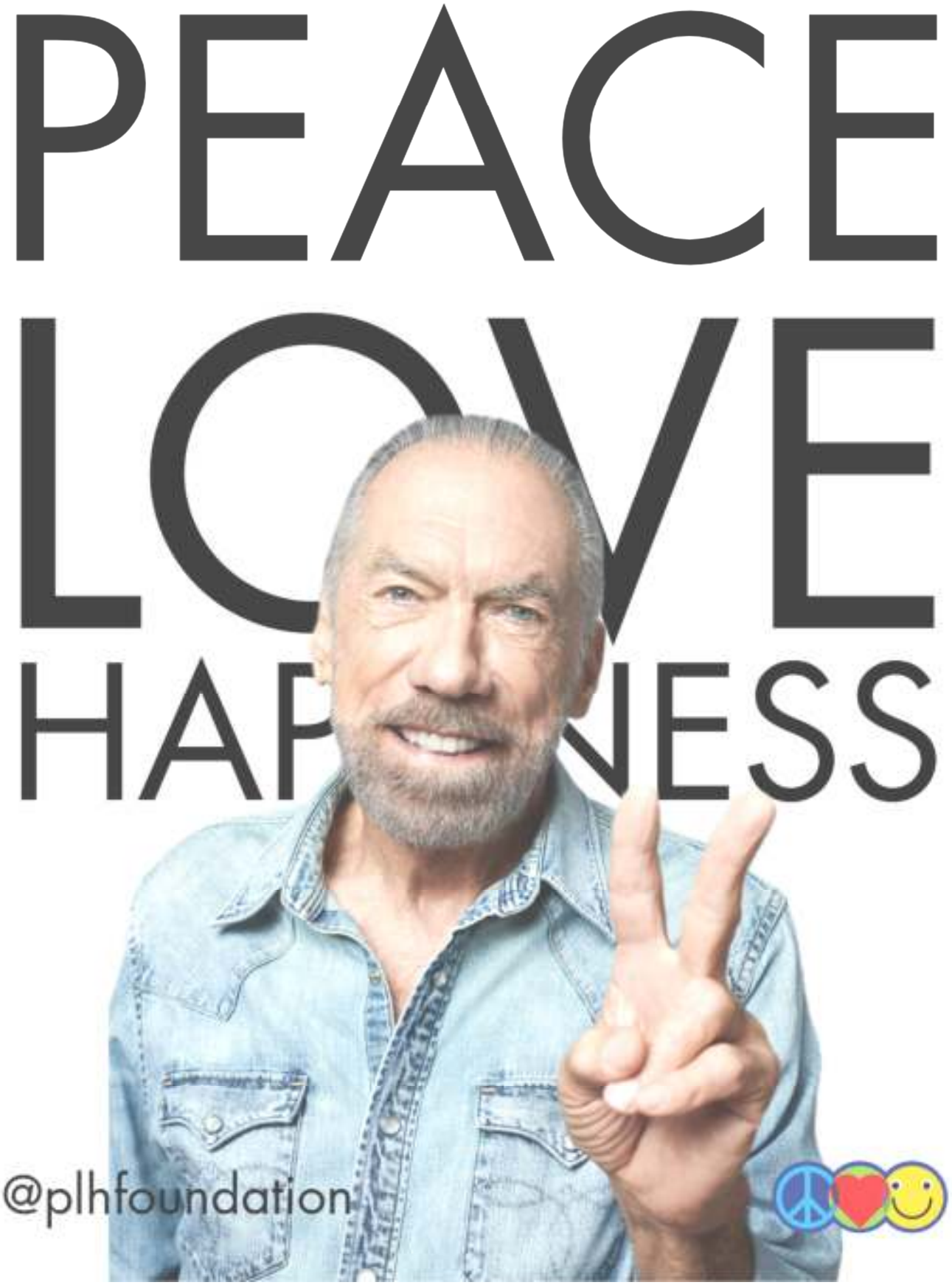


Goals

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

Thru Feb 2021


PEACE
LOVE
HAPPINESS
@plhfoundation

WHAT IS YOUR TIME HORIZON? BY RYAN DOWD

A person's "time horizon" is how far into the future they think about and plan for.

Quick quiz:

1.Have you already thought about what you want to do **this weekend?**

If you have, then your time horizon is at least a week.

2. Have you already thought about where you want to take your **next vacation?**

If you have, then your time horizon is at least several months.

3.Have you already thought about where you might want to **retire**?

If you have, then your time horizon is years or decades.

<u>You have experienced a "shortened" time horizon</u>

Have you ever thought there might be an intruder in your home?

Maybe the door was open when you got home.
Maybe the dog was barking in the middle of the night.
Maybe there was a loud noise when no one else was home.

When that happened, did you immediately rush over to your computer to check the balance on your retirement account?

Of course not!

You either called someone (maybe the police), hid somewhere or went to investigate the issue.

You instinctively knew that your retirement account didn't matter if your life was potentially at risk in the next two minutes.

No matter what you did, the source of the danger dominated your thinking to the exclusion of everything else.

<u>Poverty tends to "shorten" a person's time horizon</u>

Any time basic needs (food, shelter, security) are threatened, the brain shortens the person's time horizon.

That makes sense:

- If you have no idea how you will **feed yourself** tonight, how can you care about next week?
- If you aren't sure **where you are going to sleep** tonight, how can you care next month?
- If you have **stabbing pains** but don't have the money or insurance to go see a doctor, how can you care about retirement?

With imminent danger, the human brain focuses on immediate survival. Long-term planning is postponed.

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



<u>Poverty can cause behavior that looks irrational or irresponsible, but isn't either</u>

If someone is unemployed, taking a class to improve their job skills "makes sense" <u>from a long-term perspective</u>.
If a person needs help, missing their appointment with a social worker is "irresponsible" <u>from a long-term perspective</u>.
Here's the thing…
When you have a full belly, a warm bed and safe walls, it is easy to judge the actions of people who lack these essentials.

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



Time to spend money on mental health yet?

Gone Home

But not forgotten

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

R.I.P. THOSE WHO ARE UNCOUNTED

SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL MEMORIAL
SUNDAY NOV 15

MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH

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

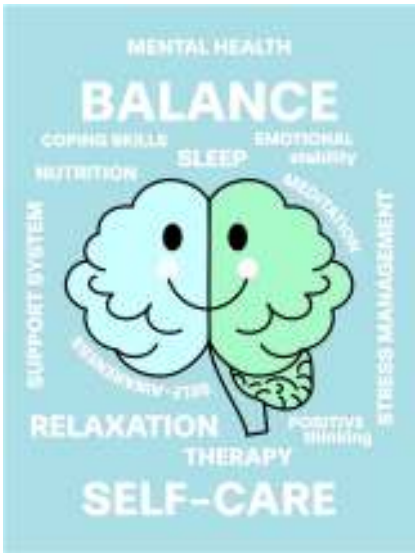


mlf.org | @mobileloaves | #ServingGoodness

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

Cheers to Recovering

By Timothy Warfield



I don't need October 10th to remind me of mental health I don't need October 10th to remind me of mental health I don't need October 10th to remind me of mental health
Each look into the mirror, or each day of my life I know
Not only have I lost my mind once or twice, but also my wealth
Both are difficult to recover from; picture a wildflower not able to grow

Thankful to ease the pain there is Oktoberfest
During this time, I drown out both pain and misery
With a good support system, I often stick out my chest
Food and fun help overcome my mental catastrophe

I now have a good reason to celebrate October 1st
Before I even clock-in or even begin my weekend, it's coffee first
International Coffee Day suits me better than a birthday cheer
Oktoberfest, I'm proud to say dark roast coffee will replace beer

Mental health may overshadow my little month of celebration
I'm so happy to know that International Coffee Day can be enjoyed across the nation
With coffee and candy spread throughout the month
I'm thankful for plumbing as if I am thankful for any cold front

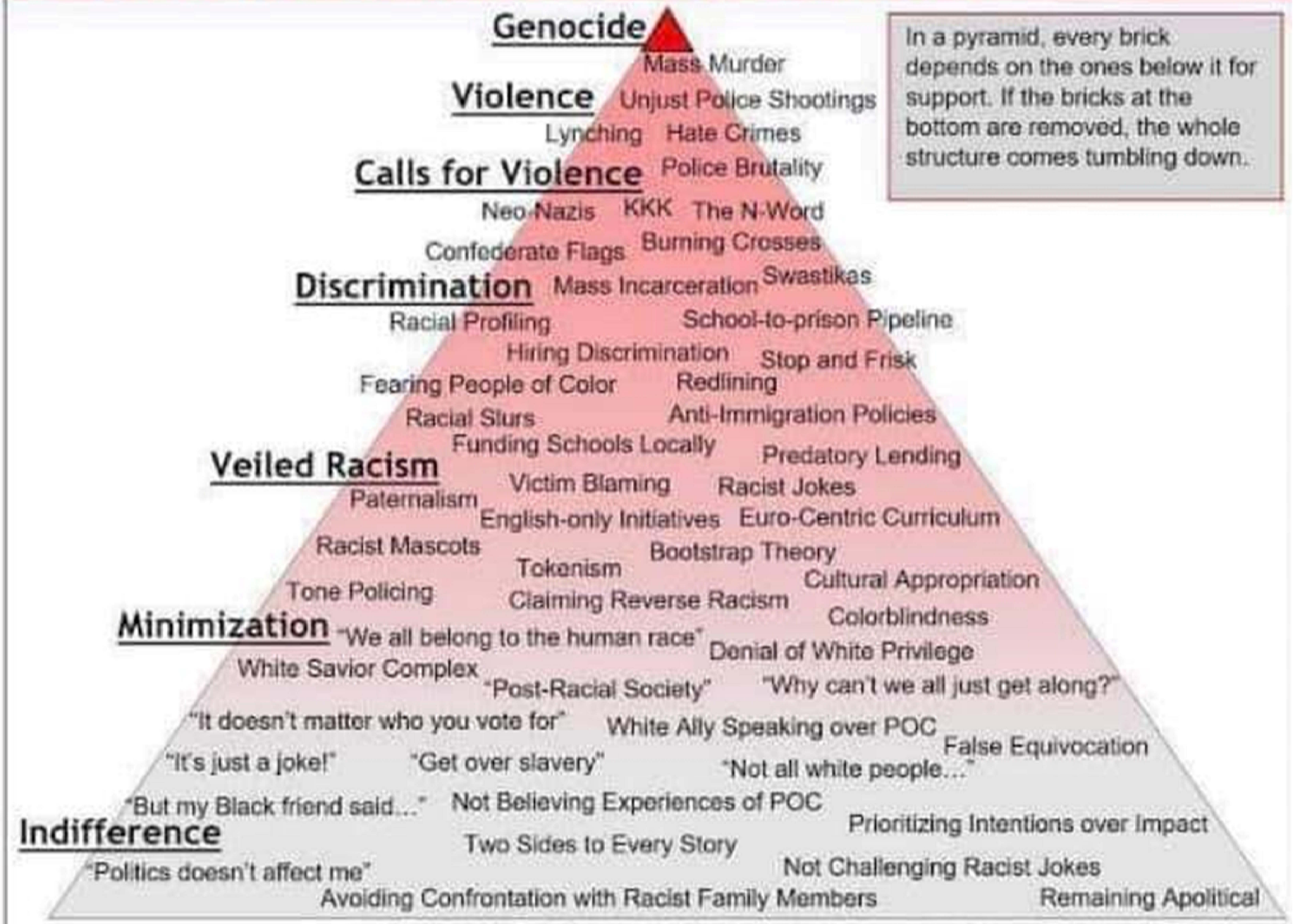
Everywhere, To The Core

By Thom the World Poet

PEOPLE ARE LISTENING-
To each other in the crying caves
To themselves in meditations
Ripples in the teardrop pool
Circles of Light emanate out
From the he/art of each,every,all
Diverse cultures call-ARE YOU THERE?
Voices sing back-YES! WE ARE!
And truths-Singular,Plural,All-
Are allowed out to be both SPOKEN AND HEARD
Energy connections revive -
ARE YOU ALIVE?YES!WE ARE!
Dance of sounds and words and songs
Revitalise and revive,resuscitate and re-invent
Our innate reasons for continuance-
Simply because we are..
We can go FURTHER..



Pyramid of White Supremacy



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

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

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!



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



Challenger Directory of Resources

Updated 10/2026

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 require referral via Coordinated Entry system. Daily Lunch 11a. CENTRAL: 611 Neches NORTH: 9027 Northgate Blvd. Lobby hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-11AM & 1-4:45PM. Tuesday 8-11AM & 1-6:45PM. Friday 8-11:45AM *caritasofaustin.org*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Westover Hills Church of Christ *Providing food (non-perishable groceries) for everyone Saturdays 9-11 am. Drive-thru style. Located at 8332*

Resource Directory con't

Updated 10/2026

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 unhoused. 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 con't next pg

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

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

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

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

H.O.S.T Homeless Outreach Street Team
512-804-3720
We Can Now Street Outreach
Sunrise Navigation Outreach

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

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

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

Austin Clubhouse community of mutual support and recovery for adults living with mental health diagnoses
www.austinclubhouse.org
Applicant must: Be 18 yrs, be following a treatment plan (doctor, psychiatrist, therapist, case worker, or peer specialist, etc.). We do not require Doctor's referral letter. To become a member call 512-925-5877 to schedule a tour. 610 E. 45th St (Inside Hyde Park Christian Church)

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

LEGAL:

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

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

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

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

(1700 Guadalupe St) is the current, Travis County Civil Law Court House, which gets confused with old courthouse, 11th & Guadalupe & causes tardiness if you're not in the know. At the Current & old Court houses the cops do mag wand & scan your bag, coat, & belt & there's barriers to leaving the *building too. But, at new courthouse they have a law lib*rary 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 Hogeye Rd. Be prepared after a few years you may consider moving to typical apt.

Victory Homes Austin Greater Austin area as well as the surrounding cities. Lodging, food, and clothing is provided. Majority of people providing assistance are former addicts and gang members who at one time found themselves trapped in the same cycle.
For more info: Director Gus Celaya (512) 920-8708 or Admin office 512-822-9182

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

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

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

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

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.

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 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!*

Kindness isn't working

By Ryan Dowd



De-escalation isn't working.

Empathy isn't working.

Kindness isn't working.

Listening isn't working.

Caring about other people isn't working.

Forgiveness isn't working.

Education isn't working.

Acting ethically isn't working.

Advocacy isn't working.

Democracy isn't working.

Be careful of diagnosing the problem too early.

Many problems require patient persistence.

Be careful of thinking that trying something with 50% effort will get you 50% of the results.

Some actions require total commitment to have any impact.

Be careful of throwing in the towel because a single attempt to solve a problem did not solve it "once and for all."

Many problems cannot be solved, but they can be successfully managed.

Be careful of thinking a problem can be solved without any personal sacrifice.

EVERY major problem our species has ever faced was made better because some people put the well-being of others ahead of their own.

The world is a beautiful, broken, glorious, tragic, blissful, miserable and magical place. It is worth the struggle. We are worth the struggle.

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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.

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

Our Team
Some of our Distributors & Contributors



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Door to Door
Photo by Val Romness



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Badge # 497
Photo by Val Romness



Annette Kovac
Badge #508
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Brianna Arrendondo
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Badge # 414
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Annal Nyulund
Badge #515
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Timothy Warfield
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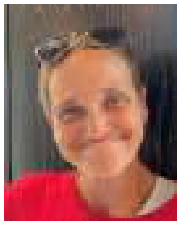
Photo By Val Romness



Amanda Daler
Badge #516
Photo By Val Romness



Candice Swarm
Badge #513



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



Kaye Lee
Badge # 434
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Ardeth Lewis Jr.
Badge # 499
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Mary W.
Badge # 415
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Twinkle Toes
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Cordell Dawson
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Gilberto Beltran
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DeAntonio L. Brown
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Michelle Kleber
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Chrystal
Badge #289
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Sabrina Oberg
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Photo By Val Romness



Keith Hammack .
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Around town
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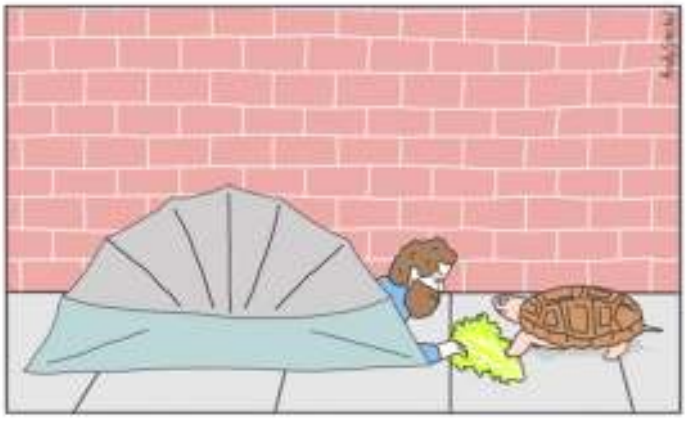
Pearlie Blue &
Debra Miller
Badge #474
Photo By Val Romness

Nihil de nobis, sine nobis.

Nothing about us without us







CARTOONS

BY ANDY STECKEL



What Is A Racist?

By Ryan Dowd

Do you have "that friend" who always wants to talk about serious stuff at parties?

You know, everyone else is singing "Sweet Caroline" in a bar and there is that one guy trying to start a conversation about science or philosophy.

Yeah, I'm that guy.

I'm sure my friends find me a bit obnoxious.

I promise I mean well.

I recently asked a bunch of friends and acquaintances to answer the question "What is a racist?"

To be clear, the question is "What is a racist?" not "What is racism?"

The Answers

Before you read on, I recommend taking a few seconds and answering the question for yourself. It is harder than it sounds.

Here are three of the conversations I had:

Conversation #1:

- **Person 1**: A racist is someone who believes their race is superior to other races.
- **Ryan**: That's clean. Do they have to act on that belief or just hold it?
- **Person 1**: Ummm… Maybe… Ummm… No. They just need to believe it.

Conversation #2:

- **Person 2**: A racist is someone who says racist things like telling racist jokes.
- **Ryan**: That makes sense. I wonder, though, does telling one racist joke qualify?
- **Person 2**: No, they need to tell more than one.
- **Ryan**: Maybe two or three is the line?
- **Person 2**: Maybe.
- **Ryan**: What if they haven't told a racist joke in a year? Are they still a racist?
- **Person 2**: Yes. That's pretty recent.
- **Ryan**: What if they haven't told a racist joke in like 20 years? Are they still a racist now?
- **Person 2**: Probably not. I don't think that would make them still a racist.
- **Ryan**: How much time do you think has to pass for the person not to be racist anymore?
- **Person 2**: I have no idea.

Conversation #3:

- **Person 3**: A racist is someone who treats people of other races poorly.
- **Ryan**: So, it is 100% about how they act?

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



- **Person 3**: Yes.
- **Ryan**: What if a person believes their race is superior, but treats everyone well? Is that person a racist?
- **Person 3**: No.

So, what is a racist?

The conversations raise a few possibilities:

- It is about what someone **BELIEVES** - Conversation 1
- It is about what someone **SAYS** - Conversation 2
- It is about how someone **ACTS** - Conversation 3

Conversation 2 adds the additional question of whether it is a permanent label or whether people can change.

Honestly, I'm still wrestling with the question myself.

This isn't just a clever exercise in semantics.

We often use the single word *racist* to describe someone's beliefs, words, actions, history and identity—and then argue without realizing we might mean different things.

Those differences affect what—or who—we condemn, whether we recognize change, and how we respond to harmful conduct.

We need to learn to talk to each other

The most important topics of our time are hard to talk about.

They are a little bit easier, though, if:

- You enter the conversation from a position of respect.
- You make sure you are talking about the same thing.

Try this with a friend:

> *"I get an email newsletter from this weird guy who asked his friends the question 'What is a racist?' The answers were all over the place. I would love to hear what you think."*

We need to learn to have difficult, respectful conversations. We can't put the world back together by avoiding the hard stuff… and the world is worth our effort.



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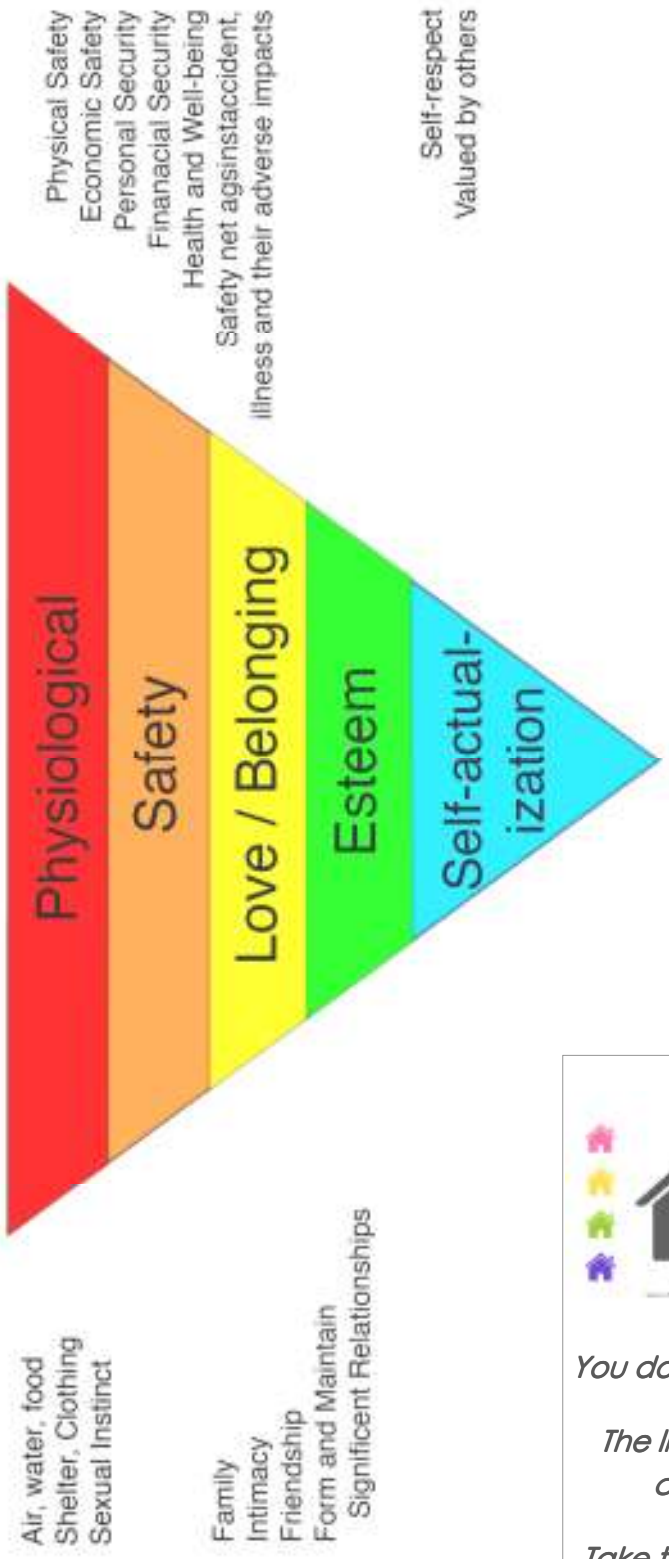
Upside Down Pyramid of Mental Health

By Cante Tinza



Need Housing?



Take the Coordinated Assessment

Online at http://austinecho.org/ca

You don't need a case manager to sign up for housing.

The libraries have wifi; most of the navigation centers can help with doing an in person assessment.

Take this assessment every 6 months to prove you're still interested. Request to be on the wait list for Foundation Communities -30 apartment buildings around town or Community First! Village or Esperanza

You also need to get on the housing list:
Housing Authority & Section 8: 512-477-1314 &
Travis County Housing Authority: 512-480-8245

Moving Forward

By Clifton Pappas Badge #497



Hello everybody just wanted to take a peek back while moving forward. It's been about a year and a half that I've been a distributor and writer for the Challenger Street Newspaper and wow how time flies by right?

I got my Identity back that I was after but someone or people that took my wallet and bag in my sleep have been using my information still. I got an electric bill past due for almost 400 dollars and other things on my credit including a receipt for a subsidy for over 6 thousand dollars. Wow could have really used that right? And I have yet to get an apartment or a house but yet an electric bill for almost 400 dollars. Unbelievable but time marches on as they say.

As far as employment goes, since my move here Ive come to realize how far my arthritis has gone with the humid climate and I have the beginnings of a carpal tunnel with 30 plus years of construction so i'm retiring from something I've always enjoyed doing.

This isn't a sob story. I always adapt to my surroundings, so moving forward i'm looking into journalism and anything that I can use my brain. Work smarter not harder as they say.

The Challenger is a great paper and has been helping people get back up and or onto the next chapter of their lives. The Challenger works so well that most major cities today have a similar paper and the Challenger has had calls and or inquies from people in other cities on advice to start and format a paper of their own.

I found the Challenger Street Newspaper on a table in a library one day and didn't know what I was going to do next as an opportunity came to an end that didn't require id.

I read the paper several times that very day and committed myself to be at the next meeting that happens every Sunday at the Central Library from 1 to 3 on the fourth floor room 471. The rest as they say is history. Ive met alot of great people here in Austin and I plan on staying. Despite the humid climate and the negative things that happen on the streets.

No matter what city you go to today there's the same issues just some more than others is all, But yes I'm sold on Austin and yes higher cost of living being the Capital of texas and a very eventful city with a lot of great history and a Music town. A Lot of famous artists have been raised in this city from nothing to well known.

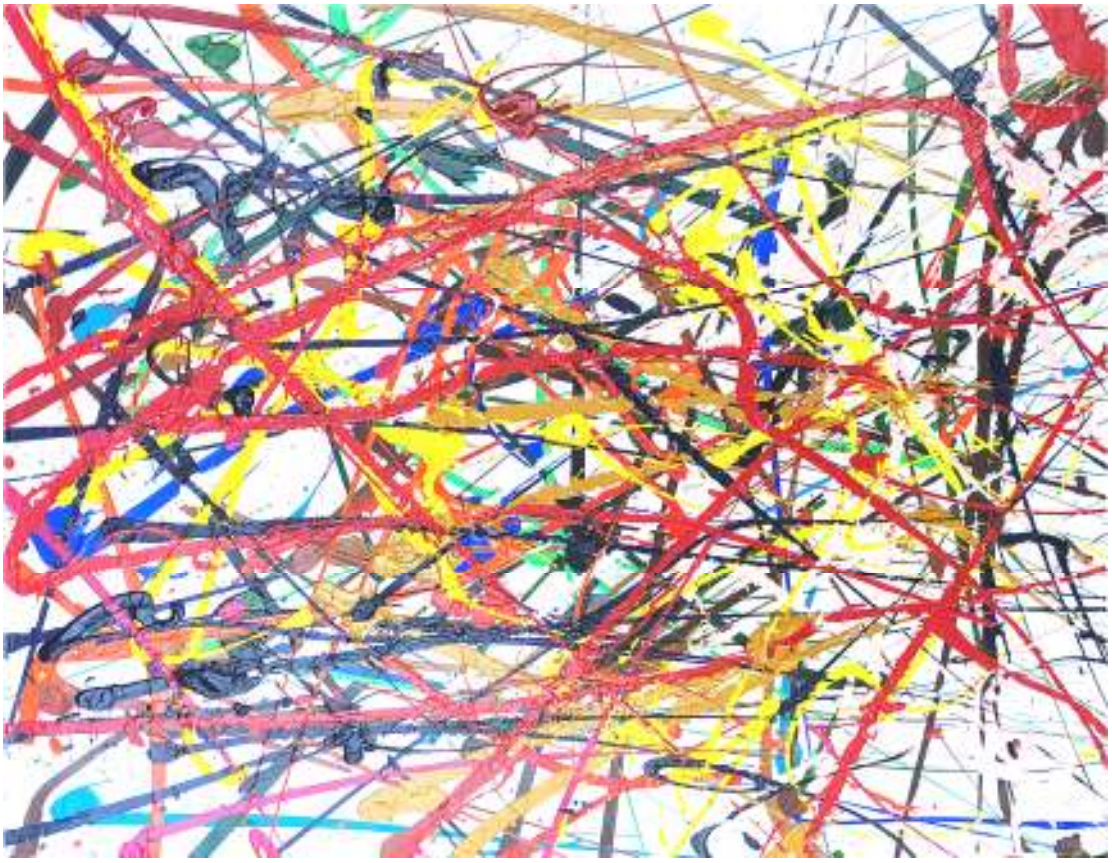
Willie Nelson for an example has a ranch and recording studio and the richest man on earth also lives here just to mention a couple. I enjoy meeting people selling the Challenger Street Newspaper on a donation basis, always meeting new people and you get a great feel for the city when you are always all over the city on a regular basis.

Just a recap and a thank you to all of our readers and thanks again for taking the challenge to help end poverty with the Challenger Street Newspaper. Wish everyone a great month in October.



ART

By Michael Alan Kurtz



Challenger Newspaper

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GUIDESTAR GOLD SEAL OF TRANSPARENCY 2020

"It's alright to say people lift yourselves 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!

venmo

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