



STREET SIGHTS

Shedding light on homelessness in Rhode Island

My Last Days and Nights of Homelessness

By S. QUICKCHANGE

I remember my homelessness as if in a dream. Yet when I was homeless, home felt like a dream. When I was homeless, I lost sight of the fact that having a home was my inalienable right as a person. I walked into the public library one day and the librarian asked me if I found an apartment yet. I said, "No, I haven't!" "Have you looked in the newspaper?" she asked. I said, "No, I haven't!" Then she walked me over to the newspaper rack, spread the local paper open before me, and together we looked at the apartment rental section.

That night I went to look at one of the apartments I found in the newspaper. I was stunned when the landlady offered me the apartment immediately. I had been homeless for five weeks and had not once looked in the want ads. Thinking back, I wonder how it was that in five weeks, I could have become so out of touch with the right to have my own place.

For five weeks (minus a three-day stay in a psych unit and a four-day stay in a homeless shelter), I had stayed in a friend's giant, empty, three-story house with unfinished walls, horse-hair plaster strewn everywhere, substandard plumbing, and virtually no heat. I suppose as a refugee from domestic violence, the crummy surroundings felt secure to me. It seems now that at the time almost any kind of living situation would have seemed better to me than the prospect of continuing to live in an environment of victimization.

"Thank God for that caring librarian!"

I moved in the day after my visit, and for one year I stayed in that tiny, studio apartment that ate up most of my disability income. Living in poverty was just a step out of homelessness. But a step was a step. I gained fifty pounds in body weight that year from eating junk food out of the neighborhood Cumberland Farms store because I did not live near a grocery store and had given up driving a couple of years before. Finally, on January 30, 2006 I moved into the subsidized apartment where I now live. I was one of the "lucky" homeless because as a refugee from domestic violence, I didn't have to maintain my homeless status (by living on the street or in a homeless shelter) to keep my high priority rating on the waiting list.

One year after moving into my subsidized apartment, I finally was able to bring myself to move storage items into the basement.



The writer was homeless for five weeks due to domestic violence

PHOTO COURTESY OF WRITER

Though I had left homelessness behind two years before, I still had to overcome the desire to keep all my things near me.

It took me three years to shed the fifty pounds I gained while living in the studio apartment because it wasn't just the Cumby's donuts (one box at every sitting) that made me overweight. It was the attitude that I didn't deserve good things, and the unhealthy lifestyle that I developed with it. It was an attitude that I still have to be mindful of today, even though I have a home and no longer live in poverty.

Thank God for that caring librarian! I needed her help when I wasn't mindful enough to help myself because I was too preoccupied with the business of survival.

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Our Mission

Street Sights serves as a forum for advocates, homeless and formerly homeless people, students, state officials, and the general public to share accurate and honest information about issues relating to homelessness. Our goal is to shed light on a subject not often addressed and, to some degree, ignored. We aim to provoke discussion and give a voice to voiceless people in our community. We provide a space free of judgment in which we recognize the dignity and worth of each person and in doing so empower the group as a whole.

Editorial:

When is a crisis a CRISIS?

IRWIN BECKER
MANAGING EDITOR

In the four years ending with April, 2010, Deutsche Bank, Wells Fargo and Bank NY Mellon managed to foreclose on 738 properties in Providence. As if that isn't enough damage, they are now in court fighting a new Providence ordinance that requires banks anticipating taking people's homes away to at least go through a professional mediation process.

The case hinges on whether the city can, as the banks argue, take such an action that is supposedly reserved only to the state. So, why isn't the state intervening on the city's behalf, at least as a friend of the court, or more responsibly, in the form of a state law doing what the city supposedly may not be allowed to do.

Even more absurd, there seems to be about a hundred politicians announced as candidates to become the city's new mayor because the current occupant, Mayor Cicilline, is instead running for Congress. And a majority of the foreclosures are happening all over the capital city.

What seems to have slipped the minds of these candidates, some of whom are in the General Assembly, is that the state has a potent weapon to go after

this banking trio, or any other financial institutions that are decimating other cities and towns that cry out for strong counter measures.

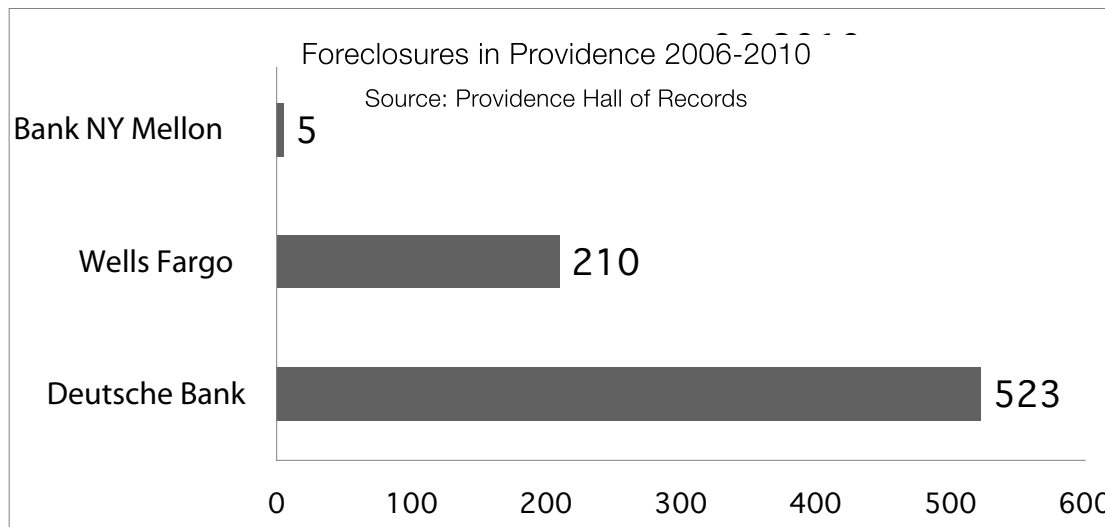
In several states, for example, legislatures are considering removing public deposits from banks that will not compromise on foreclosures or reduce their credit card fees below usurious rates. They argue that these millions, if not billions, of deposits can be moved over to local banks and credit unions for reinvestment locally.

With the 100-year flood and the continued loss of homes, we are in an unprecedented collapse of finance, jobs and the environment. The Governor's close ties to business and his unrelenting assault on the poor, the immigrants, and the homeless,

can do the right thing for a change and declare a state of emergency to protect the public from continuing financial collapse.

How ironic, if not downright insulting, to watch the General Assembly debate on whether to take funds from the rainy day reserve account to fill holes in the massive budget deficit while hoping that the federal government will pay for our current rainy days, if not years, of permitting homes and businesses to build in flood plains and over former swamps and wetlands.

Who knows, maybe the banks, who the Nobel Prize economist Paul Krugman recently called "looters in loafers," should be permitted to ransack the state. Who has the guts to step them?



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Street Sights receives letters and articles in drop boxes at Amos House, McAuley House, Crossroads, and Oasis, via e-mail, and at meetings.

Good Friday Walk Raises Funds for Homeless and Hunger

BY FRANCISCO LUIS GONZALEZ
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

The 32nd Good Friday Walk got off to a good start. The weather was perfect, sunny and warm. This year's theme was 'Hunger and Homelessness', with more than 30 organizations taking part in the event, among these: St. Luke's Church in Barrington, St. Gregory's Church in Warwick, Amos House, McCauley Ministries, Open Doors, and *Street Sights* - and others.

"People from all areas of the state walk, talk and become friends with people who they later find are homeless, and they didn't even realize it": Jill Moniz, Event Organizer

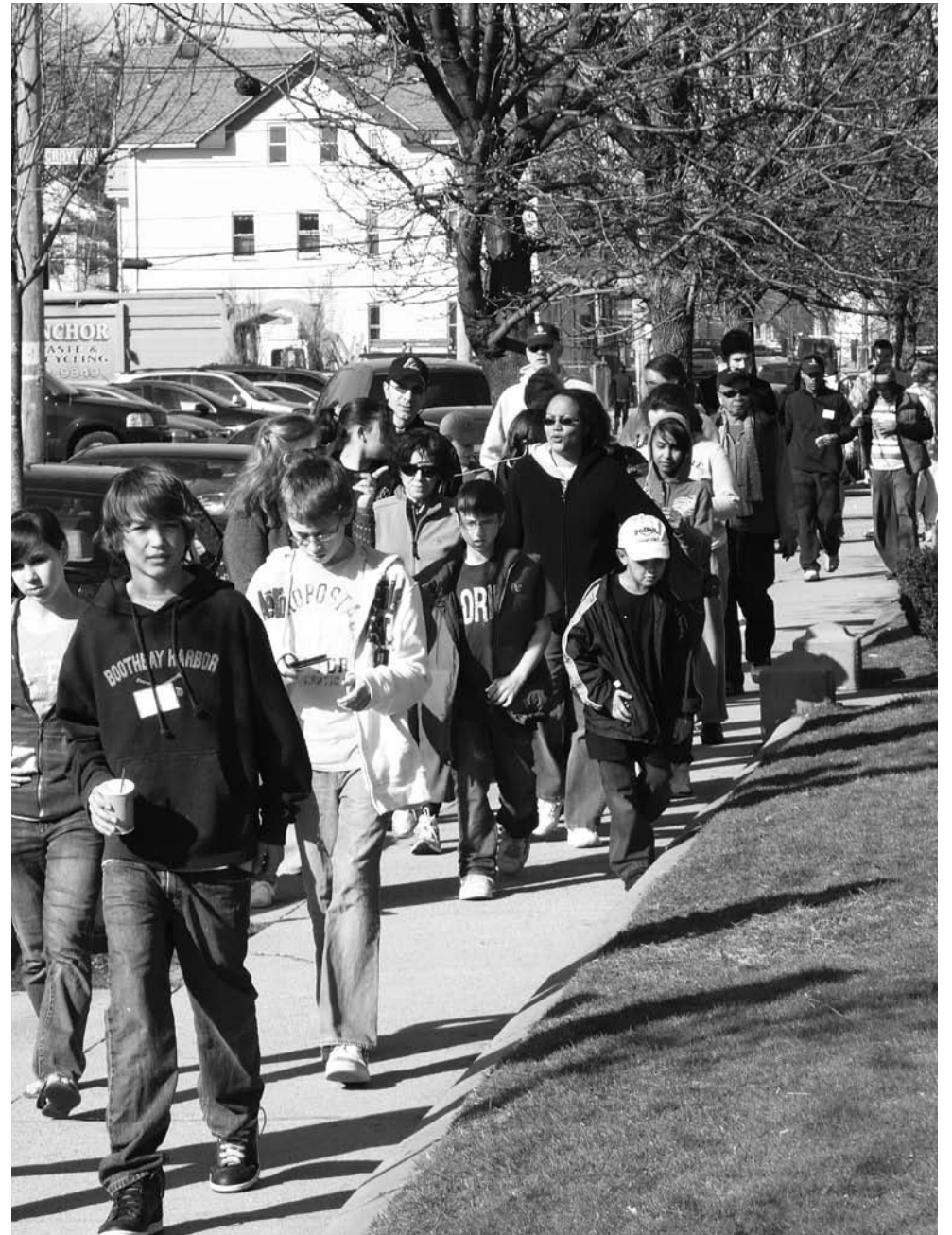
The walk from St. Michael's Church, on the south side of the city, to the capitol building, took approximately 2 hours. City police and fire department personnel assisted the pedestrians whose serpentine line eventually stretched for miles! Approximately 600 people participated in the event. "I was homeless and jobless for five months prior to this event," said a woman. "At the shelter I received a Certificate of Homelessness, which I thought was the funniest thing - but it was what I needed in order to get housing. Now I'm living in the House of Hope. I want to give something back."

A table near PPAC held hundreds of plastic cups full of cool water; it reminded

me of a marathon event. I drank from one and threw it in a garbage bin nearby; I was the only one running -- hoping to get to the beginning of the line in time to take some photographs of crowds arriving at the State House. Every time I took a picture, or slowed to talk to anyone I fell behind -- I didn't make it to the beginning in time. Everyone eventually got there though. We were greeted by the fire department, which had brought a truck specially equipped with built-in coffee makers (the city has

everything!). A few feet away doughnuts were being doled out to a long line of people with the sweet tooth. I would have been among them, but had more photos to take: the doughnuts were the courtesy of the Canteen. Meanwhile folksinger Mary Ellen Casey strummed and sang some beautiful oldies on the marble steps leading to the rotunda, while police officers and firefighters chatted with many participants -- no union or political squabbles this day.

This year's event was well organized by Jill Moniz (from Amos House). Special thanks to the Canteen and Grey Goose bus lines, First Student bus lines, among many others. The event raised close to \$30,000 for homeless and hunger programs statewide.



Walkers on Prairie Ave, Providence

PHOTO J.M. CORRENTE



Lillian Hernandez (right), signing up volunteers.

PHOTO J.M. CORRENTE



Mary Ellen Casey entertains the crowd at the State House celebration.

PHOTO FRANCISCO GONZALEZ

RI. Housing HelpCenter Provides for Struggling Owners

By **JOSHUA-MICHAEL CORRENTE**
NEWS EDITOR

Struggling in a national crisis, Rhode Island is considered one of the states hardest hit by housing foreclosures. Over 6000 families have lost their homes due to foreclosure over the past year, mostly in Providence, Cranston and Warwick and 3397 houses were foreclosed in Providence since 2006. The secondary effects of foreclosures are great: boarded up houses, lost family equity and blighted neighborhoods that attract crime.

Rhode Island homeowners in trouble with their mortgages can get help at the RI Housing HelpCenter, an independent, HUD-approved counseling agency. Upon appointment, one of 15 HelpCenter counselors will serve as the homeowner's advocate to help them reach a solution with their lender so they do not lose their home.

The specific assistance is determined by a financial assessment of the homeowner's overall debt, as well as their mortgage. The staff is experienced and professional, able to advocate by renegotiating with the lender: moving a loan from a variable to a fixed interest rate, payment plans or payment forbearances and/or providing educational resources and referrals to help homeowners financially strategize to best cope with a foreclosure.

RI Housing partners with RI Legal Services, Money Management International and Housing Network of Rhode Island to provide services such as free legal counseling, debit budget management and foreclosure counseling.

Of the 2,500 homeowners counseled during the past year, 800 were able to save their homes with assistance from the free service.

A recent Realty Trac study said 900,000 foreclosure notices were issued nationally during the first quarter of 2010, which means one in every 138 homes. This represents a 35% increase from the number of foreclosures during the same period last year, and a 7% increase from the last three months of 2009.

Nationally, the number of households that are "underwater" (the homeowner's mortgage debt is greater than the house value) is over 11 million or nearly 25% of all properties that carry a mortgage.

According to the Congressional Oversight Panel, a Washington watchdog group, only one in six homeowners who are underwater are getting the help they need. Bank executives recently testified before Congress that providing additional help to troubled homeowners would be unfair to the mortgage holders not behind on their payments.



Richard Godfrey, Executive Director of Rhode Island Housing, listens while Congressman Jim Langevin addresses the crowd at a RI Housing Foreclosure clinic held at the Liston Campus of CCRI in Providence.

PHOTO J.M. CORRENTE

Regardless of the banking executives concerns, the Obama administration recently increased its foreclosure relief program and pledged \$600 million to several states seen as the hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis. In April, Rhode Island was selected (in the second round) due to its high unemployment rate (third highest in the nation). Rhode Island is expected to receive \$43 million in foreclosure aid some-

time during 2010. The additional funds will be administered by Rhode Island Housing, although a specific program to distribute the funds is not in place. Homeowners can learn more by contacting the RI Housing HelpCenter.

RI Housing is located at 44 Washington Street in Providence: 401 457-1130 or helpcenter@rhodeislandhousing.org.



RI Housing Communications Director (JoAnn Ryan-left) and Director of Homeownership (Cathleen Paniccia-right) work to organize the RI Housing HelpCenter clinics. Hundreds of Rhode Islanders facing foreclosure have benefited from the HelpCenter's services.

PHOTO J.M. CORRENTE

"If people should remember one thing, they should remember to get help as soon as possible. Sometimes people wait until their housing payments are out of control. The sooner you call the RI Housing Help Clinic, the more options you'll have, and the more ways we will have to help you." Cathleen Paniccia - Rhode Island Housing

Microfinance in Rhode Island: Capital Good Fund Offers First DoubleGreen Loan in the US

ARLINE BOLVIN
STAFF WRITER

After reading his blogs from Bangladesh, meeting with Andy Posner on Angell Street in Providence seems a little ho-hum, but like many things involving Posner, it just appears understated. He “lives, eats and breathes” his work as co-founder and executive director of the Capital Good Fund (CGF), an innovative new lending non-profit that has as one of its initial products a loan that is the first of its kind offered in the United States. CGF’s DoubleGreen Credit Building loan is designed to simultaneously increase a borrower’s credit score while at the same time reducing their energy bills.

The DoubleGreen Credit Building loan enables borrowers to buy a programmable thermostat that saves consumers on average 5% - 15% in energy costs the first year. As people repay the small loan, they establish credit which is an important first step to building the financial well-being of the low to moderate income folks who take advantage of the program.

Begun as a dream in a social entrepreneurship class at Brown University by Posner and other students, CGF has as its model Grameen Bank of India, who with its founder, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, was jointly awarded the 2006 Nobel Peace prize “for their efforts to create economic and social development from below.” Yunus has been credited with saying that microfinance could “relegate poverty to museums.”

Just this past January, Posner visited Bangladesh for an intensive training by Grameen in micro lending. “It was exciting to see what can be done here in Rhode Island with what they’ve developed at Grameen,” Posner recalled.

Investments in a clean energy economy can significantly drive down the unemployment rate and provide job opportunities to Americans across all skills and educational levels. Through increased employment and lower energy bills and transportation costs, the standard of living for low-income people, in particular, would rise according to a report, “Green Prosperity” from the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (PERI)

“Green Prosperity” focuses on job creation and the economic impact of clean-energy investments on lower-income families nationally, as well as in forty-one metropolitan statistical areas, creating pathways to prosperity for millions of Americans, especially in low-income and communities of color. “Green-collar, career-path

jobs that are accessible to Americans from a broad range of educational backgrounds are a win for our economy, a win for our environment, and a win for our workers,” according to Phaendra Ellis-Lamkins, Chief Executive Officer of Green for All, a national organization working to build an inclusive green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty.

The establishment of CGF resulted from discussions with community leaders and organizations, all of whom identified the need to connect low and moderate-income people with affordable capital and technical support such as financial literacy training. CGF recently concluded their

“We are also working to develop small loans for those who are homeless so they can, through entrepreneurship, get off the streets.”

first ten-week financial literacy training program—which teaches business basics such as profit and loss, budgeting and marketing—with a final class focusing on how to go green, both at home and through entrepreneurship.

Fifteen Providence residents attended the course, nine of whom attended all five classes and received certificates. Students learned the essential skills needed for business, but were also taught basic financial literacy, including how to create a personal budget, understanding credit and how to calculate and compare interest rates. Additionally, students learned how going green presents opportunities for saving and making money at home and in their businesses. Elizabeth Lopez of Providence

who at first borrowed to become a US citizen said, “I like the way they treat me and pay attention to my needs. I am very happy with the service CGF provides.”

“We are also working to develop small loans for those who are homeless so they can, through entrepreneurship get off the streets. For example, we’ve given presentations to Amos House culinary arts and carpentry school students,” said Posner. CGF targets low-income individuals, people of color, immigrants, ex-offenders, women, and owners of informal and small businesses to serve with both loans and technical expertise that will benefit both the environment and the borrower. “The environment is central to our mission it’s not something we just do on the side.” explains Posner. “What’s unique about our approach is that we work with our borrowers to make their businesses more energy, water and resource efficient.”

Many of CGF’s first clients have been from the Latino community but “it just happened that way it wasn’t planned,” relates Posner. Currently, clients are from the Greater Providence area, including Olneyville, Johnston, and South Providence, and also from Middletown and Portsmouth. The Providence community borrowers come from diverse backgrounds; 89% were born abroad— from Mexico to Bolivia to the Dominican Republic. The Funds’ clientele are relatively young with a median age of 40 and the youngest 19 years old. The median income for business borrowers is \$30,036; 45% have at least one dependent to provide for.

Throughout 2009, the Fund made nine loans, investing \$22,675 into the local economy. Seven business loans were made, each allowing the borrower to begin and grow an independently run business in daycare, cleaning, tailoring and carpentry, each employing at least one person and as many as ten people. Two-thirds of the business borrowers are single women, half of whom care for at least one child.

CGF’s mission is to create a poverty-free, inclusive green economy by providing innovative loans, workshops and consulting services to individuals unable to access capital through traditional sources. These products and services go to entrepreneurs seeking capital for income-generating activities and to immigrants to apply for citizenship. Two out of three recipients of citizenship loans have been sworn in as citizens of the United States. The \$875 loan covers the cost of application and associated legal fees. The median income of these borrowers is \$18k with a 66.6% employment rate.

The partners CGF has developed in the community have broadened and strengthened its reach and the Fund’s ability to succeed. Successful loan issuance and repayment is based on human relations or social collateral which is often outside the experience of commercial banks. Community partners include English in Action, the International Institute, the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, as well as Oficina D.E.L.I.A., an organization that empowers Latinos and immigrants through information and education. D.E.L.I.A. has provided essential connections by helping CGF advertise its products on local Spanish radio station Poder 1110, and helping organize focus groups, client referral and providing feedback on products and services.

Other community partners essential to CGF’s continued success are The John Hope Settlement House, a Providence based organization dedicated to community capacity building. John Hope provides CGF with expert insight into the needs of low to moderate-income families. The Fund has many other community partners like Washington Trust, Providence Housing Authority, Olneyville Housing Corporation, the Environmental Justice League, the Diocese of Providence and are continually working to add more partners from the community.

According to the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), micro lending has spread worldwide, with “some 500 million people . . . currently served by socially-oriented financial institutions” and “225 commercial banks and other formal financial institutions that are engaged in microfinance.”



Andy Posner, Executive Director & Co Founder with Sara Azout, loan officer of the Capital Goods Fund

PHOTO J.M. CORRENTE

NEW FEDERAL HEALTH LAW CAN HELP THIS CLINIC

The passage of the new federal health law is something that Lisa Roy and her staff have waited for, for four years.

Roy is the manager of the Providence Health Center's only facility devoted exclusively to the homeless, located in the basement of the Crossroads shelter in downtown Providence.

"Most people don't know we are here," Roy said, but about 1,000 more patients than the previous year were treated.

Most of the center's budget, as of last November, was slightly under \$500,000, nearly all from the federal government.

When the new federal health money starts to arrive, the center expects to use it to make its medical records electronic and to reduce costs and have them more available to other medical personnel and agencies.

Gregory Young, chief financial officer of the eight community health centers that serve some 35,000 patients in the city, said Providence was one of some 1,400 federally-qualified health centers in the nation that is eligible for the expected new funding.

The current shortage of assistance, Roy said, means that its newly equipped four-room dental clinic can only remain open one day a week. And a former respite center started

by Traveler's Aid is also closed. Previously, the center served as a place for injured homeless who could not travel for medical care outside the shelter. "It is a problem," Roy agreed.

Efforts are underway with Crossroads, the Health Department and homeless activists to obtain financial support for a new respite section, according to those involved in the process.

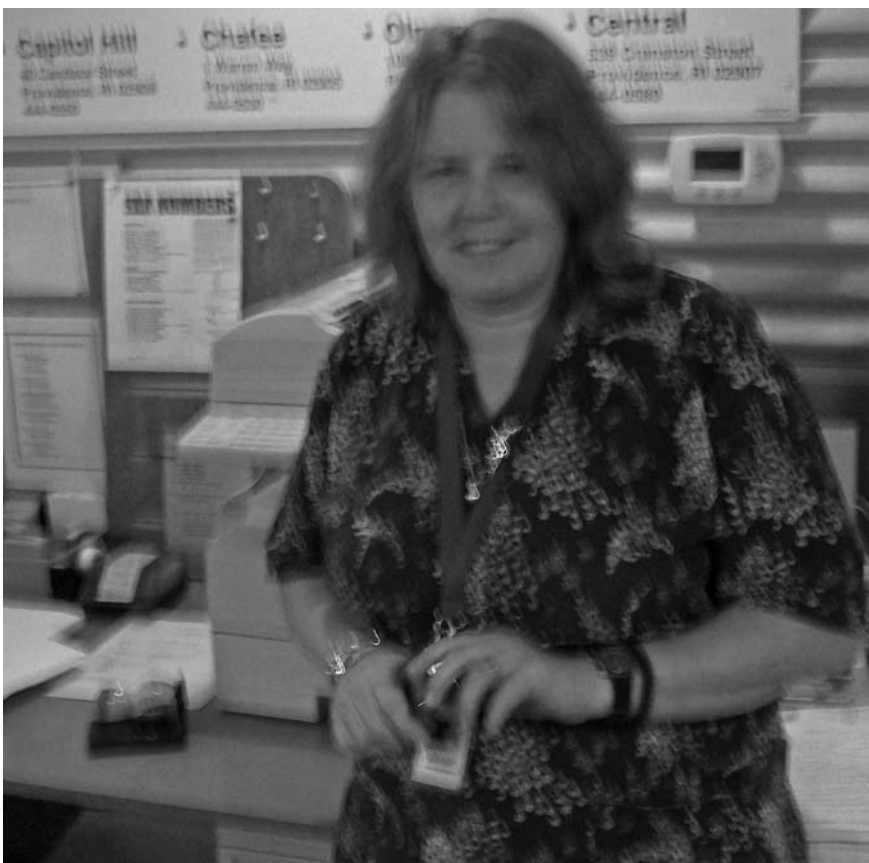
Meanwhile, the center has been dealing with more homeless patients who are "not traditional," Roy noted. "They mostly have lost their jobs or homes, and have no idea what to do."

Most of the patients are single adults who have issues with substance abuse, depression and post traumatic symptoms. The center does not treat children. All treatment is free. The center, with a staff of 12 to 15, also serves as a depository for nearly one million dollars worth of patients' medications.

One reason for holding meds is that the center does not ask patients their legal status. "We get them medicines," Roy said, "because some drug companies won't allow it" without proof of citizenship.

The center has established an outreach program with URI students and nurses and with a social worker's club at CCRI.

-Irwin Becker



Lisa Roy, Manager of Providence Community Health at 160 Broad Street.

PHOTO IRWIN BECKER

Where Do You Live? Is This Second Grader Homeless?

WILLIAM K. HARTER
STAFF WRITER

Have *you* been counted in the census? It is important that you fill out the form so you can be counted. Federal and state fund allocations depend on where people live. I will take an example which has presented problems in Rhode Island and in Cranston.

There are about 4,000 prisoners, give or take a few hundred any given month in the seven prisons in Cranston. Cranston counts them as Cranston residents. The Federal census lists them in Cranston. The State uses their home addresses during arrest. Cranston Schools claim they are not residents.

In Cranston, each ward is supposed to have 13,212 people. Ward 6 has 3,300 inmates at a recent count. Are they Cranston residents? Again, Rhode Island law says NO. So does the Cranston school department.

But this gives Cranston 3,300 more people diluting the voting power of the people in other voting districts. Prisoners, unrepresented and not able to vote, add weight to Cranston's city council's 6th ward. So what's the big deal? Well, ask the Correa family.

On Monday, March 29, Jolina Correa, a

second grader, was told she could not return to the Cranston school system for her third grade. She is not a Cranston resident. Her mom is not a Cranston resident. Her dad, Joey is, and will continue to be, guaranteed, for the next few years. He is a prisoner. He has joint custody of his daughter. Both her parents want Jolina in the Cranston school system. The Cranston school department claims Jolina's parents do not live in Cranston. However, Cranston City Hall is willing to accept the family as counted as a living in Cranston for voting purposes!

On April 12, Maryland was the first state to pass a bill to require adjusting the census to the home address of prisoners. Seven other states, including RI, are considering similar bills.

Senator Harold Metts and Representative J. Almeida sponsored the bills. DARE, ACLU, Common Cause, Urban League and the House Majority leader, who is from Cranston support the legislation. The City of Cranston is opposing it, as it may cause them to lose federal funding.

So what about Jolina? As of this writing, her parents are fighting to keep her in Cranston. Meanwhile, Jolina reminds me of the book: *A Man Without a Country*. Is she a girl without a city?

CLOSING WINTER SHELTERS LEADS TO OVERCROWDING

Several shelters reported overcrowding in April as most of the temporary winter shelters were closed.

The Providence Mission, for example, said it was full with 20 to 27 sleeping on the floor.

Even Crossroads, the state's largest, said its community room was averaging from 16 to 22, up from 8 to 14. And the women's shelter had 5 in overflow. Harrington Hall in Cranston and Access RI in Pawtucket disclosed they were full or very close to it.

The historic flood in early April also took a toll, especially in Westerly where the WARM shelter was closed three days and motels in the area had 36 families who could not return home immediately.

And at least 99 households in the state

were staying in hotels, according to Noreen Shawcross, director of the state's office of homelessness.

The information was reported at the monthly meeting on April 13 of the Emergency Shelter Task Force.

Some of the community advocates at the meeting indicated that as the weather improves, it is not unusual for some former users of the shelters to remain outdoors for extended periods.

In addition, the ability to meet the homeless demand may not improve soon. Access RI in Pawtucket may be able to remain open only until May 14 and the Mathewson Street shelter, which is full every night with over 40 homeless, may not be able to extend beyond April 30.

-Irwin Becker

Celebration or Funeral for Housing Funds?

NOP IS CELEBRATED AT THE STATE HOUSE

By MELISSA HOWARD

On Thursday, April 8, more than 100 advocates and other concerned citizens filled the ornate State Room, across from Governor Carcieri's office to celebrate the 10th Birthday of Neighborhood Opportunities Program, the state's oldest housing production program.

NOP has opened up 1188 housing units around the state. But Governor Carcieri has suggested to the lawmakers to do away with the funding for the program in 2011.

"The state has already invested \$44. Million in NOP," Dr. Eric Hirsch of Providence College, said. "Are we now saying to those people that we just can't afford it, so we're evicting you?"

In March of this year, 1,283 men, women, and children used the shelters. Homelessness has risen 15% since this time last year. "Job losses and foreclosures are pushing more people out onto the streets. We're in the middle of a housing crisis and a bad economy," said Hirsch. "But those num-

bers do not include those who are doubling up with relatives or people who are sleeping on the streets or in cars."

The increased homelessness comes as the state's winter shelters are closing for the year. On March 31 two shelters closed forcing about 65 people back on the streets. Shelter closings in April and June will affect 40 people.

Besides the birthday celebration, there were speakers trying to get the Governor to listen to the pleas of the people to try to get him to change his mind about the budget cut.

Professor Hirsch reiterated: "Shelters were never designed to be permanent housing. They're not for people to live in their whole lives. People need to move into permanent housing, and NOP is an absolutely critical piece of the puzzle. There is no other program that is able to make an apartment affordable for someone who has low income. Right now, the shelters have more people living in them than at any time in state history. Last month there were 1300 people who used the shelters and transitional housing. So it was really important for this

program to be started. It received funds every year since 2001 and right now, at this moment, it was zeroed out in the Governor's budget. So we're saying 'Save the NOP.' This is something we absolutely have to have for the future of our state. The NOP is about the 1000 people who have been able to get off the streets and out of the shelter systems into permanent housing."

Other speakers were: Raymond Goodman - NOP resident in Pawtucket, Lisa Girardi - NOP resident in Woonsocket, Sharon Conard-Wells - of West Elmwood Housing Development and Reverend Anne Grant- retired United Methodist minister.

Lisa Girardi said, "Save NOP because it saves lives. It has not just given me a home, it saved my life. It let me see a light at the end of the tunnel and made it possible for me to gain a support system that has made a difference in my life every day."

Raymond Goodman said, "Save NOP because I'm a worthwhile person, just like you. I'm a human being, just like you. I've accomplished a lot since becoming *not homeless*. Now I am able to help other homeless veterans. I give them guidance and give them referrals to places that can help them. 99% of homeless people are looking for help. 99% of the homeless people do not want to be homeless."

Saving this program means a lot to many people. Homeless advocates and many more are hoping to bring much awareness to NOP to help people understand its importance. If the funding for the program is lost, there will be a great increase in the homeless population. More men, women and families will be on the streets.

ADVOCATES WORRY ABOUT NOP'S FUTURE

By KAREN JEFFREYS

"For the past ten years NOP funding has allowed the CDCs (Community Development Corporations) and other affordable housing developers to provide high quality, affordable housing to residents of our state," explained Chris Hannifan, Executive Director of the Housing Network, the state's association of CDCs. "NOP is a crucial component that ensures the continuum of affordable housing that is needed in our state."



Former Street Sights editor, Elizabeth Ochs, shows her support for NOP.

PHOTO STREET SIGHTS

Advocates find the decision to eliminate NOP particularly troubling as it comes at a time when the state has seen an overflow in the emergency shelter system along with the erection of Tent Cities in the streets of Providence. They argue that taking away resources from this program in the midst of a foreclosure, employment and economic crisis will only worsen the affordable housing crisis the state faces.

Additionally, advocates and constituents also point to newly released shelter numbers for the first three months of 2010 which indicate the highest numbers accessing the shelter system since the shelter numbers began being collected.

In the fall of 2009, the Coalition and other homeless prevention and affordable housing advocates worked to secure additional funding for the winter emergency shelters when they discovered a shortfall of 79 + emergency shelter beds for those who were homeless in Rhode Island.

Advocates contend that emergency shelters are only short-term band-aids and that

the state needs to focus on the long-term solutions of homelessness prevention and affordable housing. NOP is important because it is the only state funded-program that subsidizes the cost of affordable rental housing for very low-income families and individuals with disabilities. The program provides funds to cover the difference between the rental cost affordable to very low-income Rhode Islanders (generally 30% of their income) and the actual operating cost to owners.

The creation of the program was the result of a white-hot housing market during the last decade and the resulting steady increase in homelessness, which brought new attention to the issue of housing affordability for Rhode Island's low-wage families and those with disabilities. The General Assembly authorized \$5 million in initial funding for NOP during the 2001 legislative session. NOP funding remained level until FY2006 when state funding increased to \$7.5 million. By FY2008, NOP funding had been reduced to \$2.5 million and remained at that level in FY2009 and FY2010.



Lisa Girardi, formerly homeless, has found stable housing, a NOP success story.

PHOTO MELISSA HOWARD

National Study: Renting and Buying a Home in Rhode Island Remains a Struggle for Many

By CENTER FOR HOUSING POLICY
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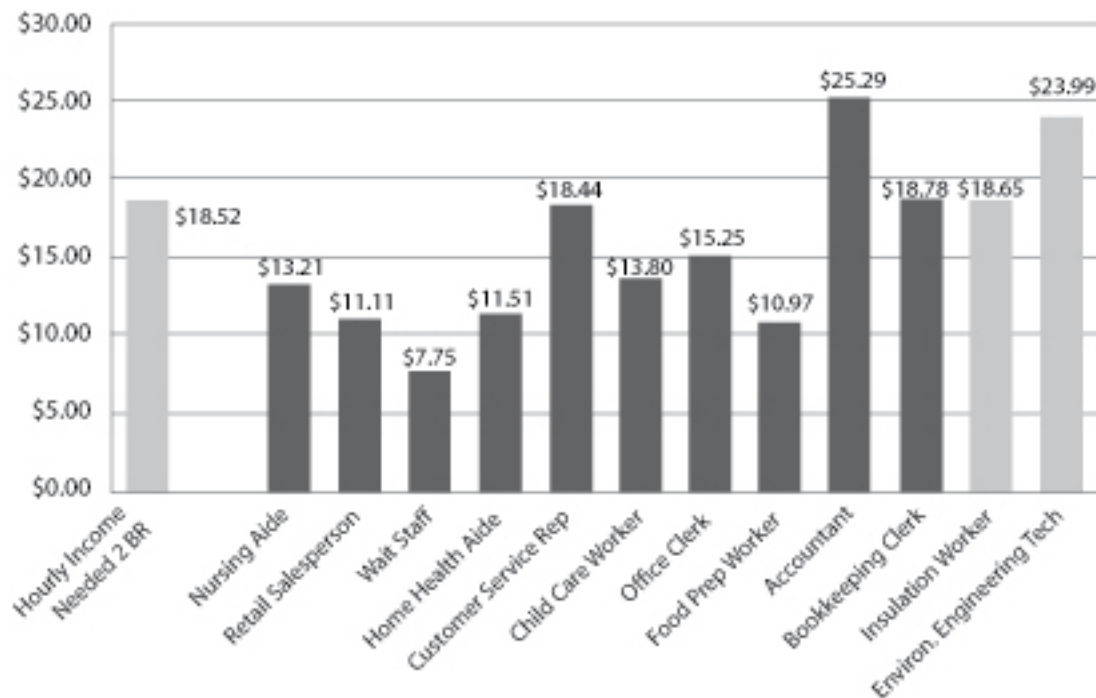
The Center for Housing Policy released their annual report Paycheck to Paycheck: Wages and the Cost of Housing in America this week and its findings were troublesome for the Ocean State. The study takes an in depth look at the rental and ownership affordability of homes in 208 metropolitan areas and the wages earned by workers in more than 60 occupations. Its findings mirror those of HousingWorks RI, showing that despite the lower home prices in some Rhode Island communities, homes are still unaffordable for many working families in our state.

According to the study, Rhode Islanders would need to earn \$56,716 annually to afford a median priced home (\$190,000) in the Providence-New Bedford-Fall River metro area. However, the study indicated that the average elementary school teacher, police officer, janitor and retail worker would fall short, with salaries ranging from \$25,458 to \$52,636.

To afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent (\$963) in the same metro area, Rhode Islanders would need an hourly income of \$18.52. However, a home health aide in Rhode Island (one of the fastest growing occupations in our labor market), earned an average hourly wage of \$11.51. Wait staff and food prep workers—critical occupations for the state's tourism sector—earned an average of \$7.75 and \$10.97 respectively, both below the amount needed to afford renting a home.

In addition to examining the housing affordability gap for some of the fastest-growing jobs in Rhode Island, the study also looked at housing affordability for workers in the emerging "green economy." Its findings show that the average salary of insulation workers is barely enough to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent in the Providence metro area.

Rhode Island Rental Market
2010 Fair Market Rent 2 BR (\$963/month)



Source: Paycheck to Paycheck, Center for Housing Policy, Analysis of 2010 Fair Market Rents report, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and Salary.com (November 2009)

Project Homeless Connect



On Wednesday, April 21st, more than one hundred visited Project Homeless Connect, Pawtucket, at the St. Joseph's Church rectory on Walcot Street.

They received information and services including: Housing Options, Photo ID Vouchers, Employment Options, Health screenings, Legal Aid, and Senior Services. The service providers in attendance included Access RI, Lifespan Community Health, NetWORKri (Employment Services), Housing Network of RI (Housing Counseling), Veterans Hospital (Veterans Clinic), Veterans Administration Social Security Administration (S.S. Benefits) and several others.

PHOTO DANNY ALMEIDA

Foreclosure Protection Proposed For Flooded Homeowners

Legislation has been introduced in the Rhode Island General assembly to help homeowners affected by the April floods avoid foreclosure.

Patricia Serpa of District 27 (West Warwick, Warwick and Coventry) has proposed bill H8008, which would delay foreclosure for a period of six months when owners are unable to make their mortgage payments due to flood created unemployment, if their payments were previously up to date.

The RI Department of Labor estimates that 3,500 people have lost their jobs a result of the local floods. That figure is expected to rise.

THREE BANKS "TOO BIG TO FAIL" SUE PROVIDENCE ON NEW ANTI-FORECLOSURE LAW

Three out-of-state banks, Deutsche Bank, Wells Fargo Financial and Bank of New York Mellon, are challenging the city of Providence ordinance that delays foreclosure until homeowners participate in a financial mediation process. The banks are asking the Rhode Island Superior court to instruct the city of Providence to follow the foreclosure process outlined in state law until a judge can rule on the legality of the ordinance.

At the April 8th hearing, Judge Jeffrey Lanphear ordered both sides to further submit briefs and he continued the case until May 22. Ironically, Judge Lanphear is the same Judge who last fall, upheld the Mayor's order to permanently close the Providence Tent Cities.

The ordinance, originally sponsored by Councilmen Kevin Jackson and Luis Aponte, has been in effect since September 2009. It requires mortgage holding financial institutions to participate in mediation with the homeowner and with a HUD approved third-party housing counselor before completing a foreclosure. Any lender who fails to make a good faith attempt at mediation will be

unable to file a deed of ownership with the city Recorder of Deeds and will be fined \$2,000.

At a well attended pre-hearing press conference in front of the Superior Court building on Benefit Street in Providence, Mayor Cicilline called on the banks to withdraw their challenge. The Mayor was joined at the news conference by Brenda Clement of the Housing Action Coalition and two homeowners who avoided foreclosure through the mediation required by the city law.

Calling home foreclosures "a crisis," Cicilline claims there have been 3397 foreclosed homes in Providence since 2006. Clement said there have been over 6000 foreclosed homes in Rhode Island over the past year and that an estimated \$5.6 billion in home equity will be lost in Rhode Island by 2012.

"It is unconscionable for a financial institution to attempt to stop this mediation process. Filing a lawsuit to block our efforts to help homeowners is simply outrageous," added the Mayor. "These financial institutions have accepted federal bailout money paid for by taxpayers and they

have an obligation to exhaust all efforts before taking the home of a taxpayer."

Supporters of the banks believe the ordinance prolongs the foreclosure process by increasing the time houses remain unoccupied and boarded up, a result that hurts neighborhoods. They contend the ordinance does not have its intended impact because resident homeowners have abandoned or vacated their properties before foreclosure procedures begin. The Mayor's office however claims that 85% of the Providence homeowners facing foreclosure have been able to stay in their homes since the Homeowner/Lender Mediation ordinance was passed.

A Superior Court decision is expected by early June. Both the Cranston and Warwick city councils have passed similar ordinances, which may be subject to the decisions of the court in the Providence proceedings. Regardless of the decision, the case will surely be appealed to the State Supreme and possibly through the federal appellant court system.

- J.M. Corrente

Even The Rich Can Be Homeless

He had a job with information technology earning hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly and a Newport Beach condo in California over one and one half years ago. The job is gone, and he is homeless. His golf clubs, HDTV and wine collection sit in a storage unit with household furniture since January. The bank took the condo when he missed mortgage payments.

Jim Kennedy, 46, may not spend his days as homeless people do. He has different problems, yet they are problems and do drain his time, plans and resources.

He filed for bankruptcy last August. His clothes are in the back of his leased car. He is on a \$5 a day food budget. He now uses a rented mail box where his unemployment checks arrive,

which is his only income. He uses the laundromat like we do.

"I'm on hold, but time keeps going. That part's frustrating... and a little scary" he said.

From working, he accumulated many frequent flier miles and hotel points. He is able to use them now, sleeping in different hotels and motels, a few nights here and there, using up his earned points, switching to another place when the points run out.

His day runs differently than the average homeless person. He can use the free breakfast at his nightly stay, go to his storage unit for needed clothing or other items, check the mail at the post office, do his laundry and contact the employment agency. He

utilizes his day fully. No time to sit and complain. "I do not have a choice. I got to keep going because I am running against time. I have to find a job before plan A runs out, or I am going to run into plan B. I got to get to the finish line," he said.

He counts his days in small wins: getting mail, getting his recruiter calls, staying with disappointments, and glad he does not have to tell his 85 year old mother in Nevada that he is unemployed.

He may have different problems than most of our homeless, but to him, they are just as big and troublesome. Worse, he is not used to his new lifestyle!

- William K. Harter



Brenda Clement, Housing Action Coalition, speaks at the April 8th news conference with the mayor.

PHOTO J.M. CORRENTE



25 Fallon Street, off Chalkstone Ave in Providence: Deutsche Bank filed suit over the penalty they suffered due to their noncompliance with the city's new ordinance when they sought foreclosure on this home in October, 2009.

PHOTO J.M. CORRENTE



Would you like to see your Writing on the Wall?

Put your creative writing and poems in the drop boxes at Crossroads, Amos House, Oasis, and McAuley House or send an e-mail to Stan Kapelewski, creative writing editor, at streetsights@gmail.com. Visit our website at www.streetsights.org. Include your name and contact number so we can get your photo.

You are Mine

By Jenny DiTomasso

Your eyes are to see Me
 Your ears are to hear Me
 Your mouth is to speak My Word
 You are My Temple
 Your arms and your hands are to love
 Your feet to walk My way
 Your heart to hold My Word
 You are My Temple
 Draw closer to Me
 Watch what I do
 You will have treasures I planned for you
 The Temple is pure, The Temple is right
 And you will never be out of My sight
 For you are My Temple
 My home, My rest
 You are My Temple
 My child, you are Blessed
 You are My Temple
 My Love, My Joy
 And I will be with you forever more
 You are My Child, I am well pleased
 The Temple is done...
 My Kingdom has come.



A Silent Passing

By Catherine Rhodes

The opened door shined like a beacon of hope off the shiny new wooden floors. A brother sat silently in the corner gazing upward as the middle-aged woman entered the room smiling, nodding a hello. It was quiet except for the sounds of a snoring man sleeping peacefully on white cotton sheets. As the woman stood beside the bed the odor of disinfectant and bleach reached out and the sound of a sneeze interrupted the silence.

The brother brought over a chair and the woman sat down as a yellow swollen hand reached out grasping at the sheets. A small set of hands caught the hand gently holding on, as a prayer could be heard whispering amongst the humming of a machine. The brother sensed that the swollen yellow body of the brother was slowing fading away from the world. It had fulfilled its mission. A fleeting memory caught the woman off guard of a bright faced man cooking a simple meal in the church kitchen for those seeking shelter. There were tears now dropping one by one for the friend who once walked the city streets in search of something yet unfound. Into the woman's mind appeared a picture of a wooden rocking chair that the friend in better times had made with the hands that now lay unmoving.

There was a silent tapping noise as the brother left the bedside. It was time the woman knew to let go of the friend thus setting the spirit free to go forward on the journey home. The woman slowly set up the basin, soap and lavender lotion. A soft cloth held by a firm hand gently cleansed the man's feet and lower legs. Then the hands smoothed on the lotion and the sweet smell of lavender permeated the room. The sheets shifted back over to cover the friend's body as the cloth continued on to wash the man's face and throat in a circular motion. A finger gently applied lotion to the dry motionless face. Then the woman sat back sighing into the chair as the cloth continued on gently washing the swollen fingers and palm. The small firm hands began to rub lotion in between the fingers and thumb again rubbing in small circular motions. Thus the woman prepared the friend for his death.

"It's okay to go friend" repeated the woman as the hands gently touched the swollen forehead. A deep poison had gripped the man, a silent killer of many living on the streets despair, hopelessness and fear. The brother who now again sat next to the woman had just appeared after the man became gravely ill. A family...the man had made neither mention nor comment of its existence. The woman felt distraught for the man yet she looked at the calm serene face of the friend. In death thought the woman the friend ended his search to find peace with the three brothers, the son, nephews, nieces and friends who now had found the long lost brother. The friend would die with dignity as his closest childhood friend, a brother held vigil at the bedside. In a way the woman understood what the friend had desired and never found until his death, unconditional love.

Lessons to be Learned

By David Eisenberger

Promises, a morning filled with promise
The tender days of youth flies by
Finding out what life's all about
asking questions, not knowing why

So the day goes on, still promising
while living in the summer of life
Trying to live life to the fullest
not knowing why...we're under the knife

Lessons to be learned
as the heartaches have been earned
But when kindness is returned
there's still...lessons to be learned

Promises, the afternoon's filled with promise
the toughness of age continues to call
Still learning what life's all about
for in our lives, we've entered into fall

So as the day is done, it's known
even in winter, there's lessons to be learned
It's to give back, what was taught in life
Now the knowledge's something we've earned

Lessons to be learned
while the heartaches have been earned
But when kindness is returned
there's always lessons...to be learned



Has The Day Come

By Amanda Luce

The moon and the stars
they shine so bright
As my tears cascade down
with a sparkling light.
The pain is so deep
it can't be mended
My heart has been twisted,
broken and bended.
I'm waiting for my savior to come...
I was naive but mostly dumb.
What am I to do
with a hurt that wont go away?
I have nothing to do
but sit and pray,
For this day to be
the day the angel
comes for me.

Observation

By Kathy LeBrun

I ride by these buildings
that are empty and bare...
So many people in need of housing
That they would like to live there.
So much work to do...
But no money to do it.
The government says they care,
But we can see right through it



Living Alchemy

By Benjamin Ferreira

My enemy is faceless, nameless
My poverty is not accidental
But a casualty of the war on my integrity
Not just honesty,
But a willingness to sacrifice my comfort for my ideals
Not the ideals dictated to society
by the newspaper horns & television trumpets
But the ideals I have come to understand
thru circumstance.
You are not what is in your wallet
You are not your profession or vocation
You are not defined by your possessions
Success is not measured in dollars or cents
Live for yourself, not your children, spouse, or kin
Become the best of what you are,
despite what you may hear
Unleash the light beneath your skin
and conquer the darkness of your fear.
To be able to see perfection in chaos
To smile through your tears
To give all, no matter the cost
To step boldly in spite of your fears
To turn lead into gold
To live harmoniously
To break the mold
is living Alchemy.



IF YOU WANT TO VOTE - FIRST REGISTER!

By CATHERINE RHODES
STAFF WRITER

In a democracy, periodic national or municipal votes take place when each citizen is allowed one vote to elect the person of their choice for the offices of elected leaders.

This year in Rhode Island, registered voters will cast ballots for the offices of the Congressional House of Representatives, state offices of Governor, Lt. Governor, Treasurer, Attorney General, General Assembly as well as many local Mayoral and councilman positions. In addition, voters will cast ballots for state and local referendum items that will decide how municipalities will raise and spend tax dollars.

People who are currently homeless or living in an emergency shelter or transitional housing are citizens and have the right to vote. If someone has no formal address, they can register their address at the shelter where they are living or, if they don't want to use their shelter address, they can register using the local city or town's Board of Canvassers.

In order to cast their ballot, each citizen must be registered to vote. To qualify to register, a person must be a U.S. citizen and a resident of RI and be at least 18 years of age. Currently, Rhode Island law does not permit online voter registration. In Rhode Island, individuals on parole or probation are eligible to vote.

In order to register to vote, you must fill out a Rhode Island

Voter Registration form. The forms are available at City Hall, online at www.elections.ri.gov or from a third party like a voter registration drive.

Once the registration form is signed, an oath must be taken where the registrant swears they are: (A) not incarcerated in a correctional facility, (B) not presently judged incompetent to vote by a court of law and (C) all the information they have provided is true to the best of their ability.

When the voter form is received by the local Board of Canvassers, the registration is verified and a voter card is sent to the address presented on the voter registration form. Anyone who uses the local Board of Canvassers as an address must inform the Board's employees so they are aware of any mail that may be addressed to the voter. If the post office cannot deliver the notice to the address given at registration, the voter's name will be placed on an "inactive" list and they may not be eligible to vote. A notice acknowledging receipt of your voter registration should be received within three (3) weeks. If it is not the local Board of Canvassers should be contacted.

Once verified, the voter's name is placed on an active voter list and a second card is sent to the voter's address listing the poll locations, dates and times of the next election.

If your address changes, you should reregister under your new address, however, you cannot vote in local elections unless you have

been registered at your primary address for 30 days.

Voter registration forms are available at the local Board of Canvassers (for a complete list go to <http://www.elections.ri.gov/canvassers>)

There are time limitations on registering to vote: To vote in

the September 14, 2010 primary election, you must register by August 14, 2010. To vote in this year's general election (Election Day), on November 2, you must register by October 2, 2010.

If a voter requires any assistance or believes that they have been denied the right to register to vote or suspects voter fraud,

they should contact the RI Board of Elections at 50 Branch Ave, Providence, RI 02904 as soon as possible.

The above information was courtesy of Ralph Mollis; RI Secretary of State, Ms. Jill Rios, Clerk, Providence Board of Canvassers and the RI Board of Elections and www.elections.ri.gov.



PHOTO STREET SIGHTS

McKinney-Vento protects homeless children

The rights of homeless families under the Federal McKinney-Vento program was the agenda at the development training held at the Northern RI Collaborative Professional in Lincoln on March 12, attended by care givers, service providers, educators and activist from across the state.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (1986) is the legislation which provides federal support for such homeless assistance programs as supportive housing programs and the emergency shelter grants.

Of most direct concern was how the act is applied to children whose families

are homeless. The legislation protects the rights of youths to attend school if they are homeless or are temporarily doubled where a parent does not reside, and assists the homeless child who is ready to be registered for school but does not have an adult present.

The law ensures homeless children free school transportation and protects their rights to choose what school they attend regardless of where their family resides. It requires schools to register homeless children when they lack the normally required documents (such as immunization records or proof of residence), and local district outreach ensures that staff is aware of the

rights of homeless children. In addition, educators are to provide public notice to homeless families at emergency shelters and schools.

By law, homeless children includes: (a) Children sharing housing due to economic hardship or loss of housing, (b) children living in "motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds, due to lack of alternative accommodation, (c) Children living in emergency or transitional shelter, (d) children awaiting foster care placement (e) children whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation such as a park bench, etc. (f) children living

in "cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, buses or train stations.

Today there are approximately 1200 children in Rhode Island schools who meet the legal definition of "homeless".

Understanding how the McKinney-Vento legislation protects the rights of homeless children is therefore critical for educators, service providers and parents to ensure that all these children are given the chance to grow and learn as all American children should have the right to do.

-Melissa Howard

Stop the Hatred of the Homeless

By **MELISSA HOWARD**
STAFF WRITER

In Rhode Island, there have been reports of the homeless being threatened, beaten, stabbed and raped. But most of these attacks don't get reported to the police. Only after others have been involved, do the police step in to help.

Some do not report the abuse because they believe the police, like many citizens, accept the stereotypes that the homeless are lazy, drunks, or drug addicts who choose to lead those lives. As a result, many homeless feel they are open targets, do not expect help, and have to survive on their own.

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, 880 homeless were attacked between 1999 and 2008, and 244 were murdered. The truth is that few choose to be homeless. Instead, the reasons vary but lately loss of homes, jobs and divorce are among the leading causes.

There are some anti-homeless groups who believe they are "mission offenders" on a mission "to cleanse the world of a particular evil." Those who carry out that idea, usually teens and young adults, become thrill seekers who view their attacks on the homeless as non-punishable crimes.

The homeless are more vulnerable to attacks because many are outside at night in isolated areas. Ironically, we are the smallest state with some of the biggest homeless problems.

A Superior Court judge recently ordered a homeless tent city encampment removed from a public park because they were violating city laws concerning the lack of running water, showers and a bathroom, posing a "threat to the health, safety and welfare to the public."

Whose health, safety and welfare was he considering? Only those with homes? Apparently, no one seems worried that the homeless have none of those rights. Where is their safety from random attacks outdoors?

In early December, Councilman John Lombardi's resolution, approved by the Providence City Council, urged the General Assembly to adopt legislation classifying violence against the homeless as a hate crime. The impact of such a law would make it a first-degree felony and double the maximum prison sentence to 30 years for offenders.

A homeless man who didn't want his name used said to me: "I read something somewhere that got me a little heated. This

person wrote: 'Why not just get some extra police details in the problem areas?' I guess they really don't know what's really going on down there." He continued, "Put extra police, are you kidding? Most of the time the police lock us up for one thing or another. They don't look into the report or anything, so why bother reporting it? We're viewed as the lowest class citizen, and we're not worth(y) enough to walk down the same street as other people, breathe the same air as them."

There are videos called the "bum hunters" where groups of thugs hunt the homeless, tie them up, brand and beat them. Some of the victims are forced to perform degrading and dangerous stunts for money, alcohol or food. The videos are

available on You Tube and, at one time, at Tower Records, Amazon, Borders, Virgin Mega, Target, Best Buy, Blockbuster, Barnes & Noble and Trans World Entertainment. After public protests and outrage, some of the sources stopped selling the DVD's, including Amazon.com., Target, Virgin Mega, Blockbuster.com and Barnes & Noble.

Those who believe that crimes against the homeless are a profitable business are just plain sick. Those crimes should be covered by the hate crime law now being considered by the General Assembly. When you go out and seek a particular person for their unfortunate situation or condition and seek to harm them, that is a hate crime. Period.

Farm Fresh Rhode Island



Students from Farm Fresh Rhode Island, lend their hands to help prepare a meal for the Tuesday soup kitchen at St. John's Episcopal Church on North Main Street. Farm Fresh RI works to promote a local food system that links Rhode Island farmers with local buyers. It also conducts a 15 week culinary education course for students to obtain the skills and certifications necessary to work in the food industry. For more information, contact Christie Moulton at christie@farmfreshri.org.

PHOTO J.M. CORRENTE



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ROVING REPORTER

Were you affected by the recent flooding and heavy rains?



"I wasn't affected by the flooding, but the rain was pretty bad."
- Mark Carbone, Street Musician.



Martin is a student at URI, and although he lives in Warwick, his apartment didn't have any problems or flooding.



"I live in Burrillville and didn't have any problem with flooding, but it's tough to play when it's raining." Lincoln would like to move to Providence and get more involved with the music scene.
- Lincoln Poison, Street Musician and landscaper.



"I know some people who had to evacuate their house," he says "and had to go to motels. Some couldn't afford the motel for too long, and as a result got their first experience of homelessness."

-Travis Eisenberger with his dad, **Street Sights** own Dave Eisenberger:

Travis lives in Warwick, and his apartment had no water for a time because the city had to shut down the sewer treatment plant. He says he didn't have any other troubles but saw a lot of damage and debris near by.

PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS BY ERIK GOULD

PROFILE

Day in the Life of a Homeless Man

WILLIAM K. HARTER
STAFF WRITER

This is the daily activity of a 30 year old Hispanic male, semi-homeless partly by choice, partly by circumstances,

His name is William. This is his story:

He wakes up in the morning and gets ready to run, which he does three times a week. After exercise, he washes up and makes breakfast for his sister and himself. He calls his son, aged three, to talk for a little bit if he is not with him. He spends some time reading or cooking before getting ready for work at around 3:00pm. He works 5-8 hours every day in a restaurant. He takes a bus to his sister's home, spends

some time with his sister's family, reads, showers, and goes to bed.

For the past few years he stayed wherever he could crash in a relative's home. When he got into an argument, he got kicked out or wanted to leave, and moved on to another relative. Last summer when I first interviewed him, he was living with his younger sister. During the winter he lived with his younger brother. William is the oldest male in the family. He had been living with his older sister before that. This April, he moved back with his younger sister again. Being a gourmet cook at her house, he often prepared meals. He has lived in Providence, Pawtucket & Central Falls.

He takes a bus to work, which is time-consuming, as it often requires more than one bus. He usually has two jobs as a cook. He works full time, and he enjoys his work very much.

He prefers deep, thought-provoking non-fiction books: religion, philosophy, psychology, science and cooks books. He would like to do more traveling, Spain and Virginia mountains being first choices.

He does not want to drive a car, feeling there are too many 'crazy drivers' on the road. In case he is needed in an emergency he does have a license. Though claiming he would like a place of his own, he is doing absolutely nothing to accomplish this goal.

He had been living with a girlfriend who had a son whom he supported. On his taxes, he claimed support of that boy as a deduction. Later, the real father claimed the child, so William is now stuck with paying IRS back taxes. This is eating up a lot of his income. Hopefully, it will be cleared up this year, and he will be able to save some money.

The mother of his child does not want to be his son's mother, so he has taken much responsibility for the care of the boy. When he is at work, he usually leaves the boy with the boy's mother or with one of his siblings.

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Offering a New Chance at Life

WILLIAM K. HARTER
STAFF WRITER

The Shekinah House is a residential ministry of the Quidnick Baptist Church on Fairview Ave. in Coventry, RI. The ministry is a Christian nine-month program enabling released prisoners to get new start in society. They believe with God's help, men can be rehabilitated. Thus, they are "committed to the regeneration of the whole man, spirit, mind and body, enlightening them in all personal and social aspects." The church supports the Shekinah House financially, spiritually and emotionally.

The goals of the program are:

1. Teaching releases a way of life built upon using God's word.
2. Help them to use God's power to overcome addiction and destructive life styles.
3. Help them with employment, responsibility in personal and social interactions, and to respect authority.
4. Teaching them to share themselves and their resources with others.

Starting in 1987, Wayne Luther, a Quidnick church member, conducted worship services and Bible Classes at Medium Security at the A.C.I.. He asked Pastor Henry Maxson to join him. An inmate on work release was allowed to spend time helping

Wayne develop studies. During that time, they developed the idea of a residential program for prisoners released on parole or probation.

They acquired the vacant third floor of the church apartment house, a building donated by a family from the church. Their plans were submitted to the parole board, prison Chaplain and others. After incorporating some suggestions, its first resident came in late 1987. Pastor Maxson became the director. After 10 years, Ron Larocque succeeded him. Currently Richard Laprise is the director of the program.

In 1993 Joseph Campbell, the current pastor since 2001, became the first live-in supervisor. Mike Aballo took over in 1998 for 7 years. John Benedict Sr. took over in 2006. Jim Toole, soon to graduate, is currently the live-in supervisor.

Women of the church give each newcomer a welcome basket of personal needs to start living away from the prison setting. There is a Thursday evening Bible Class followed by a house meeting. Some church members provide fellowship and transportation assistance.

They do not discriminate against anyone because of their charges. Interested applicants fill out forms and submit a recommendation by the prison chaplain. Rehabilitation counselors also must approve. A member of the church team later visits the applicant.



Shekinah House, Fairview Ave., Coventry, RI.

PHOTO WILLIAM HARTER

The nine month program consists of spiritual, emotional, financial, social and practical counseling. Men become part of the church activities. A counselor is assigned each member. Members still must meet parole or probation requirements.

Three to four men are in the program at any time. In the past twenty three years,

sixty five men have attended the program. Shekinah is not a word found in the Bible. It is a Hebrew word meaning "The glory of God."

This award is given to the Shekinah House for its help in rehabilitation of men who have gotten into trouble in their lives.

RAINBOW AWARD

JirehScope Ministries: Generosity On The Go

By DAVID EISENBERGER
STAFF WRITER

This month's Rainbow Award goes to Troy Bourne, (JirehScope Ministries) who along with his Praise Team, works many functions throughout Rhode Island and nationwide.

The mission: Provision-Clothes Encounter. This is to obey the command of God, to care for the needy of our land. One way of obeying is by distributing the abundant provision of clothing that they continue to obtain through the generosity of our donors.

Linens, clothes, shoes, are sent to other ministries in the U.S. & Mexico. They're distributed directly to anyone in need during evangelism and outreach ministries. They also respond to requests through local emergency services.

Bourne's an accomplished musician, celebrating 5 yrs of worship as a lifestyle. He's been to Columbus, Ohio and Foxboro, Massachusetts. The Praise team has 10-12 members, which also serves the Matthew 25, in Woonsocket, affiliated with "Loaves & Fishes." The mobile truck right now's in limbo, but soon he's to go out on his own.

The aim is to go to smaller places, and not "shove" the Gospel down people's throats. A street team goes into Providence.

He's associated with the Providence Center, (methadone recovery, etc) and holds Bible studies and fund raisers via yard sales, also, the church in New Bedford takes 3 trips to Mexico, building 2 orphanages, to accommodate 120-200 kids via "JirehScope" for the last 9 yrs. Members continue to go there and minister

He hopes in the future to get a "donated" truck ministry on the road. Currently He uses a van once a week to go back to Mexico. He's also writing a book called "Spiritual Heaven", and song writing 90 songs so far. Another project is to have a more concentrated effort via the website for donations, and for it's an awesome place for all to visit via the internet. He's had musical bookings in 5 states and hopes for more

The meaning of Jirah, God provides! His message: It's our provision, for if you serve God...He'll take care of your needs." JirehScope Ministries, PO Bx. 114075, North Providence, RI 02911. www.jireh-scopeministries.org.



Troy Bourne, fourth from left, with the rest of his prayer team.

PHOTO DAVE EISENBERGER

US ACT MAY HELP HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS IMPACTED BY FLOODING

BY KRISTEN SHERMAN
COLUMNIST

In 1986, Congress passed the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (the "McKinney Act"), which was designed to ensure that homeless children receive equal access to public education and that state policies do not act as barriers to the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children in schools. In addition, the McKinney Act prohibits schools from segregating homeless children in a separate program or a separate school based on a child's status as homeless. To implement these goals, Congress directed the states to prepare and adopt a plan for the education of its homeless children and youth and provides federal funding to the states.

In implementing the McKinney Act, the Rhode Island Department of Education ("RIDE") adopted the Rhode Island McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Regulations. The RIDE regulations protect "homeless children and youths," but the definition includes more than just children who are living in "cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or

train stations, or similar settings." The RIDE regulations also protect children who are: (1) sharing housing with others as a result of their loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reasons; (2) living in motels, hotels trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative accommodations; and (3) staying in emergency or transitional shelters. Therefore, a child does not need to be living on the streets to claim the protections.

One of the goals of the RIDE regulations is to prevent a child from having to relocate to a new school if he or she becomes homeless. The RIDE regulations provide that, if a child becomes homeless, the school in which the child was originally enrolled (known as the "school of origin") must allow the child to stay at that school until permanent housing is found, provided that it is in the child's best interest to do so.

If a child who is homeless does switch schools, the McKinney Act and the state regulations aim to ensure that the transition is smooth and that the child receives the same type and level of services as he or she did at the school of origin. Among these

services is transportation to and from the school of origin. In addition, the regulations provide that a homeless child may not be denied enrollment because he or she cannot immediately produce academic records, medical records, proof of residency or other similar documentation.

The recent flooding has not only forced already homeless people to relocate but has also created a whole new class of homeless people who lost their homes temporarily or permanently due to flood waters. The impacts of these disasters hit the children and youths of these families the hardest. Not only have they lost their homes, but they may have to reside in temporary homes of other family and friends, at shelters or on the streets. In such cases, education may fall to the bottom of the list of priorities in a child's life, but yet it may be the only remaining stable environment for the child. The McKinney Act and the RIDE regulations are a tool that families impacted by flooding can use to help their kids stay in their own schools. If such children must attend another school, the law and regulations facilitate the transition process.

NEW SERVICES HOLD COMMUNITY EVENTS

MAY 1ST - FRIENDSHIP CAFE

The Friendship café, a restaurant and training center for students of the ACE culinary arts program at the Amos House, had its grand opening celebration, which featured a ribbon cutting ceremony as well as free food, ice cream, live music, and promotional giveaways. The restaurant is located at 500 Broad Street in South Providence and offers a healthy alternative to the fast-food dominated neighborhood.

MAY 3RD - THE ESPERANZA/HOPE CLINIC

The Esperanza/Hope Clinic celebrated its move into their new building on 60 Valley St. in Providence. The clinic serves the uninsured and currently has screenings at Church of the Master on Saturday mornings. Dr. Anne De Groot, M.D. (Dr. Annie) runs the clinic. The clinic's new site will open in June. www.aplacetobehealthy.org

ON MAY 3RD - VET TECH

Vet Tech, 679 Broadway in Providence, celebrated its grand opening. Vet Tech is an organization that teaches computer technology and repair skills to disabled veterans. There are laptop computers and other technical necessities for sale at low cost.

MAY 4TH - CAPITAL GOODS FUND

The Capital Goods Fund held its Spring Gala: "Building Green Connections" fund raiser at the Waterplace Restaurant. There was jazz, cocktails, great food, a silent auction, and the special presentation of the "Agent of Change" award to legendary social entrepreneur Barrett Hazeltine.

SUCCESS STORY

Moe is home at last

BY CATHERINE RHODES
STAFF WRITER

After seven years of living on the streets, "This is a palace," stated Moe. Upon meeting with Moe, one begins to wonder: "How did this energetic individual live on the streets of Providence for seven years?" Moe's story is one of many.

After the city had condemned his home and demolished it, Moe slept out on the State House lawn with other housing advocates. He had no other place to go, and the shelter was overcrowded. Moe had tried shelters but often times

he was given a sheet to sleep on the floor.

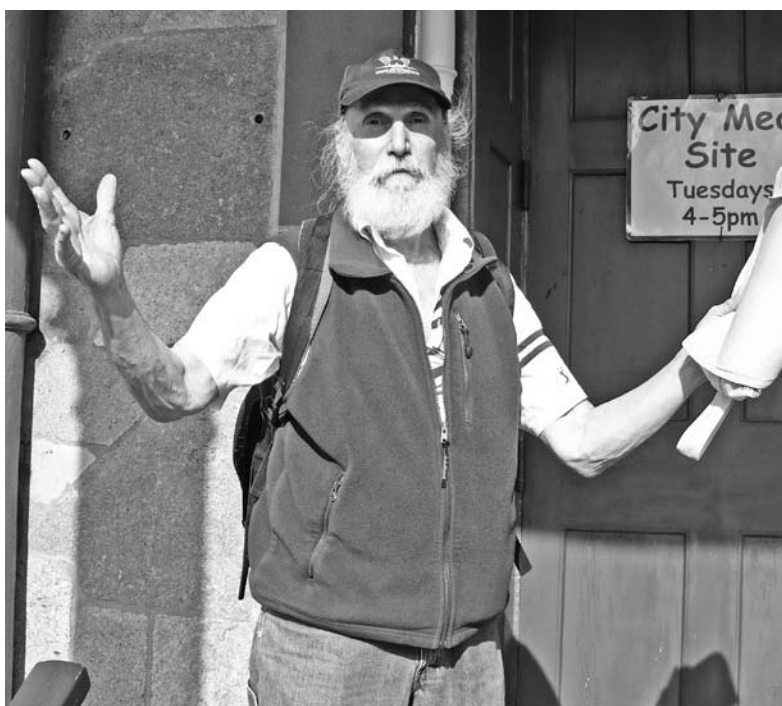
A lifelong resident of the city, Moe attended high school at Classical and a college in Boston where he studied math and physics. After university life, he moved to the North End of Providence where he assisted his grandfather in running a variety market on Dexter Street. His grandfather met a tragic and untimely death at the hands of a robber.

He has a serious interest in metaphysics, and can often be heard in deep conversations with

students and friends around the nature of the universe and the nature of humanity.

His love of animals has led him to care for feral cats on the West End, when no one else could be bothered. Moe has also assisted in search missions in the winter months to help homeless people and stray animals in danger of freezing to death.

Today, Moe has found a new place to live in an apartment off Valley Street in Providence. The apartment is subsidized through the SHP program, Housing First by Riverwood.



Moe, hamming it up for his friends

PHOTO J.M. CORRENTE

How State Rep Saved Life of Homeless Man

BY IRWIN BECKER

It started like so many committee hearings at the State House. The House Judiciary Committee was considering a bill to add the homeless to the protection of the state hate crimes law.

Most of the speakers were in favor, and a large number of students, homeless and their advocates filled the House Lounge because the regular committee hearing room could not hold that large a crowd.

One of the more intense moments occurred when a portion of a Sixty Minutes program showed a free-lance video of a vicious assault against a homeless victim. When the video was done, a 68-year-old freshman representative from Newport started to speak. He spoke in a monotone, but his remarks were anything but subtle—four years ago he had prevented a homeless man from being stoned to death on railroad tracks that ran along the edge of his property. When he completed his story he was obviously quite emotional, and stood up and left the room.

In an interview two weeks after the March 9 hearing, Representative Peter Martin, District-75, said he heard some shouting coming from the tracks near his Willow Street home at the north end of America's Cup Avenue.

"There were three teenagers on the top of the abandoned trolley bridge abutment," he said. "They were stoning my homeless friend who was cowering against the wall below them."

"I called the Newport Police Department, took the 'police' radio that I had used as a volunteer engineer on the Old Colony & Newport Railway and a 'mag-light', and ran down to the tracks. As I approached the area, the Newport police channel on the radio went off with the dispatcher's call. The three teenagers heard the radio and they took off running."

"I probably would have done some regrettable damage if I had grabbed one of them," he added. "You get involved in these things." After the assailants fled, Martin reached the fallen man, whom he knew, laid him down on the tracks, and called



COURTESY STREET SIGHT ARCHIVES

the Newport Fire Department for medical assistance. His homeless friend, he said, spent a week in the Newport hospital. "He had medical problems, and he was drunk but he remembered" the attack "and he thanked me," Martin recalled. Martin would not identify him.

Martin, a former street social worker, said he was not sure that he could identify the three teenagers. In any case he would not testify in court about the stoning attack.

"I told the police I would not testify against them. I wanted to have a closed door meeting and talk to the kid so I would tell the kids they had no idea that you might end up on the tracks like my friend. I hope if it happens to you, you don't get stoned to death."

The incident is but one of many in which Martin has been involved while quietly helping the homeless for the last 10 years. "The homeless live on the street, and in the weeds," he explained. "I and a buddy have a list of names of those we have helped, about a dozen are dead. I also have worked with the homeless on Broadway." During a recent walk along that street with a visiting elected official from Providence, the visitor was startled when the homeless said "hello" to Martin as they walked by. "It's another aspect of my life. I have had a good life," he noted.

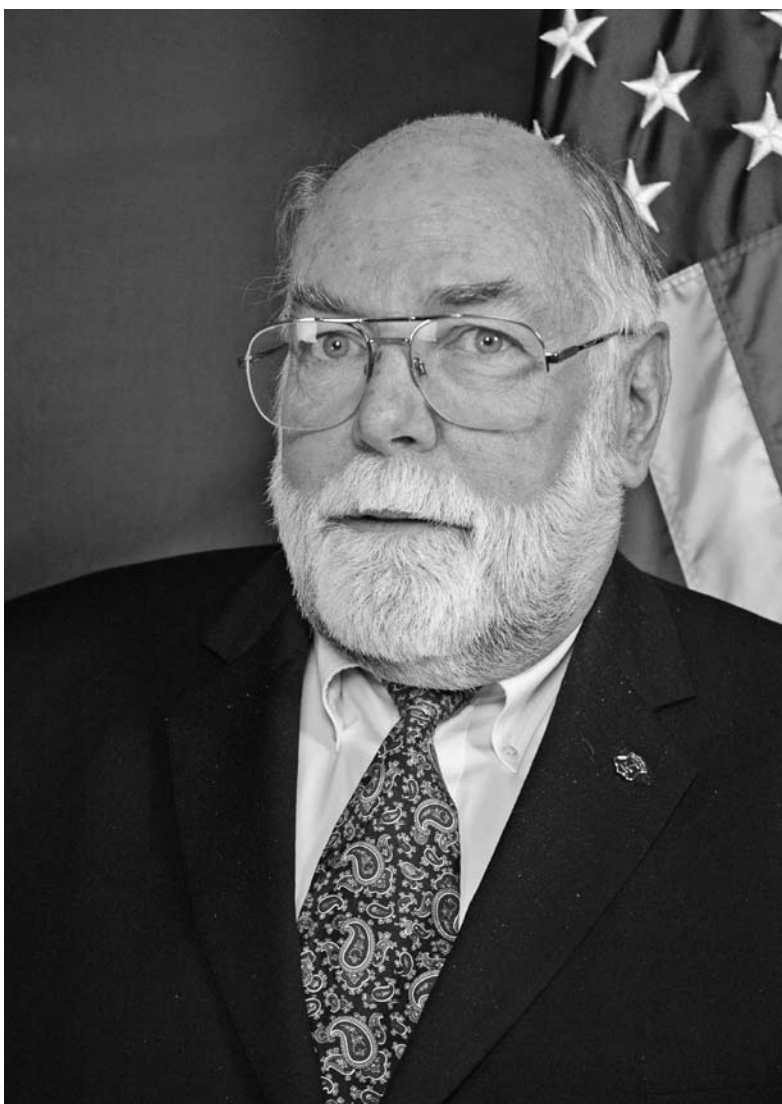
A native of Newport, Representative Martin has a bachelor's degree from Providence College in 1964 and an MBA from Bryant College in 1977. In between, he attended Boston College of Social Work in 1965-66. "I was a social worker in the 60's and spent a year working for Progress for Providence. I never left the streets." He also spent eight years in San Francisco where the homeless "are pretty brutal," he concluded.

Speaking of his activities since he retired to Newport in 2000, he added, "People like me do the 'next best thing. We just keep quiet about what we do. We don't enable the homeless. We take try to care of them." His temper sometimes gets him into "bad situations," he explained, "I was trained in hand-to-hand combat. I just jump in. I have no fear."

During his retirement, Martin has also found time to work with teens. "I'm not alone. I walked the tracks with City Year volunteers to clean the trash. When a couple of them saw a man in the weeds, they laughed. I said, "That's my friend, leave him alone. How many of you know now that you won't end up like him later in life?" Martin is a retired real estate investor and web site developer, according to Project Vote Smart.

Martin maintains extensive contact with the homeless. "I was planting hedges across from the house near the tracks—they were being thrown out from another property. My homeless friend, Joseph, came by and was chatting with me. He asked, "You need some help?" We worked together for the rest of the afternoon and completed the job. A couple of years later, Joseph returned and proudly showed the hedges to his son."

So while he serves on House Committees on the Judiciary, Municipal Government, Veterans Affairs, and Small Business, he still finds the time to watch over his friends.



Rep. Peter Martin has a long involvement with homeless issues

PHOTO COURTESY OF P. MARTIN



The Providence Center
It's time for a hug

BY JIM GILLEN

Ah Spring! It's that time of year when everything seems to get a do over. The ground is not so unforgiving. The trees, leaves and grass start to show signs of life. The early bloomers among our flower friends are getting ready to poke their heads out of the ground. Yes, spring time!

There is story that an old African Griot once told me, many years ago. He told of the snake and how it is able to shed its skin, and in a sense be regenerated, reborn. He called this *guanwanko* or the rhythm of re-birth.

When spring comes and it comes every year, I always think in terms of *guanwanko* and a chance for us to start anew. A chance to start the recovery process, whatever that mean to anyone.

The definition of healing is "to restore to health or soundness" and "getting back or recovering something lost, to heal." So they are all connected as I believe we are all connected. With that comes a certain responsibility to love each other, to be willing to help each other. No form of help is unimportant or too small. Sometimes it's just a kind word, maybe a pat on the back. Or my favorite, the hug! Hugs can go a long way in helping with the healing. They can be very reassuring and comforting.

So next time you and I run into each other, do me a favor, give me a hug... it's part of the healing.

So in the spirit and rhythm of *guanwanko*, and the great American Poet Gil Scott Heron who sings "No matter how far wrong you have gone, you can always turn around." Never forget that healing and recovery are possible.

Happy spring, my friend!

Happenings: We are very happy to say that through the efforts of some great people, as of April 6th, a series of trainings has taken place with the Providence Fire Department and EMT's. These were around people who need to use rescue, due to alcohol and drug related incidents. It gave us an opportunity to speak to the face and voice of that person and how we as treatment and recovery support providers can be of better support. We also talked about dignity and respect when dealing with a person needing rescue.

A great seven-minute video was made with the Rev. Mary Margaret Earl from McAuley House and three people in recovery from Providence Center Recovery Services. Thanks to Joe L, Gene K and Dave O, we have wonderful testimony of why recovery works and how it works. This video will be made available soon, free of charge, through our friends at Closing The Addiction Treatment Gap (www.closesthegapri.org).

Homeless Family: Part 2

In the March issue of Street Sights, Irwin Jacobowitz wrote an opinion piece about his family's struggles keeping their kids in school while they have been homeless. The children have been out of school for 445 days.

This month we include the voices of his kids: Dakota, Montana, and Arizona.

Dakota: I want to be the world's greatest judge and bring peace to the world for all men, women, and children, alike.

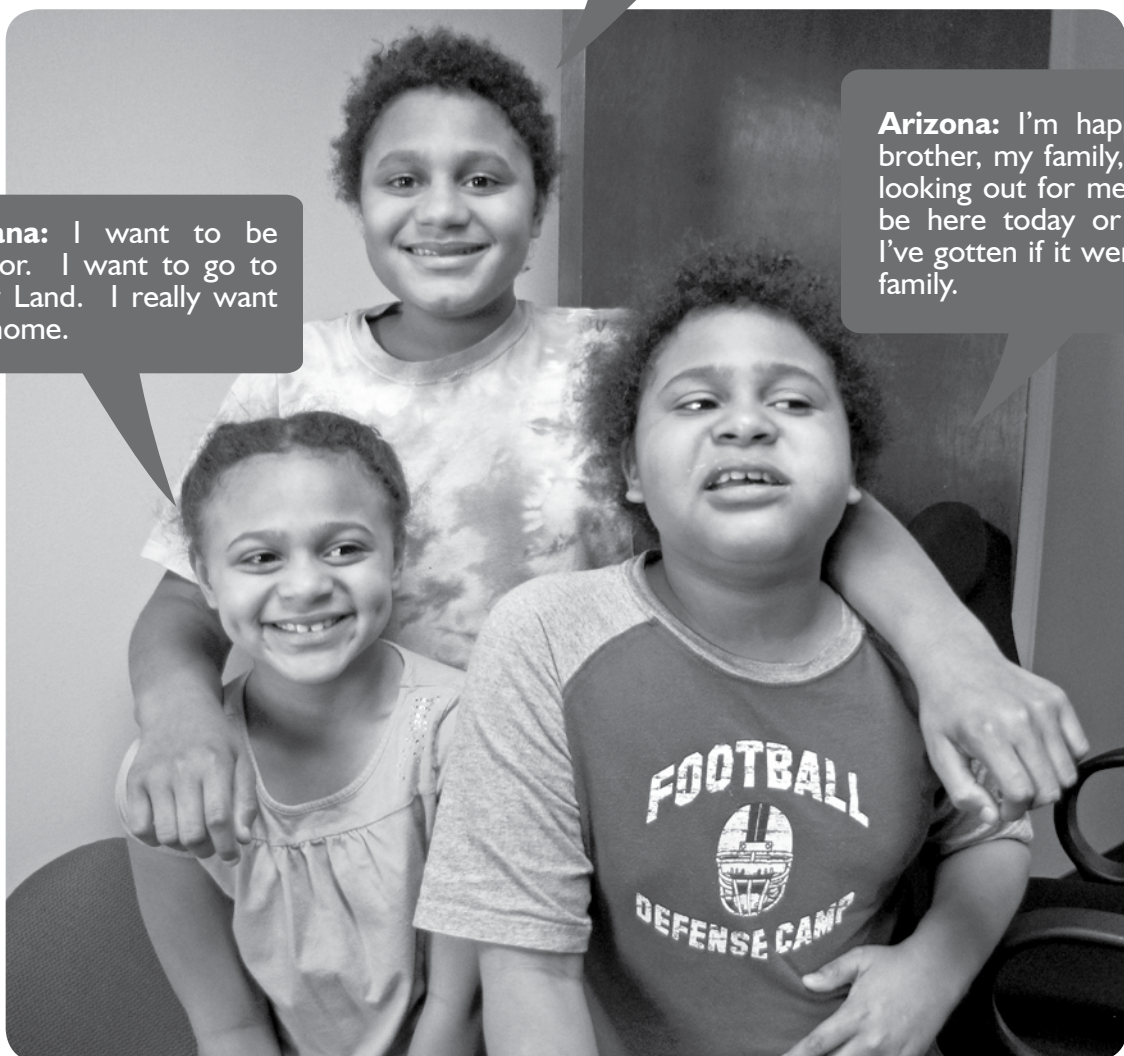
I always heard about this guy named God and I was wondering who he was until I tried to pray to him. Then one day I saw his light...I felt his light shining on me and I know that some things would get better, like my mom told me.

One day we moved to Hemlock Farms, PA in the Poconos. Nobody bothered you there. You could see all the mountains in the clouds and the trees. It felt like the Promised Land...free from all the stress in the world.

Sometimes you get dreams about things have happened before...like visions. Back in Delaware we used to sleep in cars. We had a home on the go, like Little House on the Prairie. We never got bothered by people because they didn't know where we lived and a lot of things had not happened yet...

Montana: I want to be a doctor. I want to go to Disney Land. I really want to go home.

Arizona: I'm happy that my brother, my family, and God is looking out for me. I wouldn't be here today or get where I've gotten if it weren't for my family.



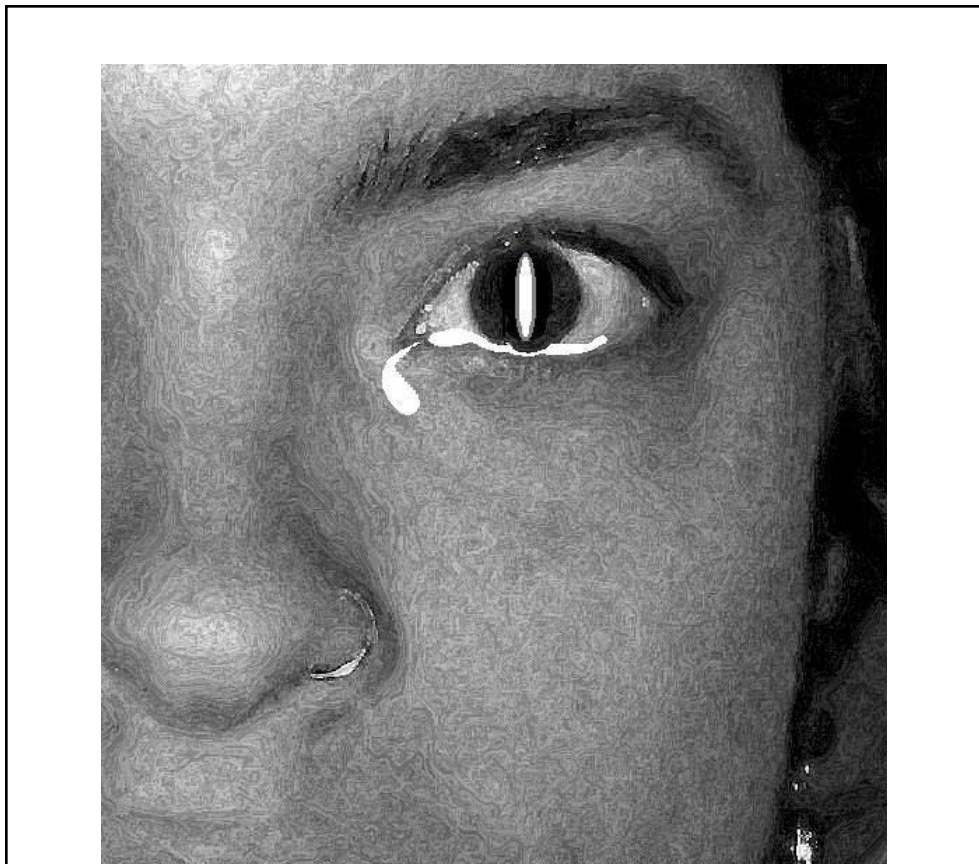
Dakota Jacobowitz (center) "Home is a place where you can have peace of mind and sanity" Montana Jacobowitz (Left) and Arizona Jacobowitz (right)

PHOTO ELIZABETH OCHS

Pearl (mom): At that time we tried to put our son Arizona in an autism program but we couldn't because they said we were not residents.

Then we moved to Malvern, PA and we tried to put our kids in school. We got illegally evicted and Dakota got kicked out of school.

Irwin (dad): We also stayed at a hotel in Delaware. It was a really bad hotel. The people were as nasty as the hotel. We had to present receipts from the hotel each day so my kids could continue to go to school. Under the McKinney Vento Act we shouldn't have had to do that. Now we are home-schooling our kids.



The Chrysalis

BY FRANCISCO COLBER

This is an introduction: The Chrysalis is the story of an extraterrestrial girl (Ciia) who through a series of exploratory Quests (under the tutelage of her surrogate father) explores her father's anguished world. It is about emergent philosophy and the emotional maturity needed to sustain it. As an exploratory work, it helps to define the author's beliefs. Simply written, the stories deal with complex human themes such as homelessness, poverty and mental illness. These characters will tell their stories in the coming months in an illustrated novella in *Street Sights*. This is the first in a series of chapters in the coming months. Readers' reactions are welcome.

I am good at typing. I do not have to look at the keys. But every once in a while, I place my fingers on the wrong row to start and I get a mess.

Like this:

032 37524299 182 3752 4299 0316 703289.

Rather than retype it, I will let you unscramble this thought.

For each number, please replace it with a letter shown here:

- 1 = A
- 2 = E
- 3 = H
- 4 = L
- 5 = M
- 6 = N
- 7 = O
- 8 = R
- 9 = S
- 0 = T

Puzzle by William K. Harter

Resources

May Events

Classes

- ◆ Beginning Computer, Open Doors (New name for Family Life Center) – Mondays-Thursdays, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., 841 Broad Street, Providence, RI. 02907, (401) 781-5808.
- ◆ Employment Series I, Open Doors, first Tuesday of the month, 9:30 am
- ◆ Art Class, McAuley House – Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
- ◆ Art classes, Oasis, 1280 North Main Street, Providence – Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon and Wednesdays, 1:30-3 p.m.

Events

- ◆ NAMI-RI Yard sale, May 8th 8am-4pm East Side YMCA, Hope St., Providence
- ◆ NAMI-RI 27th Annual Meeting May 26th, 5pm Ray Conference Center, Butler Hospital, Providence to RSVP: 331-3060
- ◆ CityArts Gallery Show through May 14th Providence City Hall, 25 Dorrance St.
- ◆ Gallery Night, May 20th, 5:30pm One Regency Plaza, Greene St., Providence
- ◆ End of the Year Celebration and Art Party, New Urban Arts May 14th, 5-9pm, 743 Westminster St., Providence
- ◆ RICAREs 11th Annual Legislative Day to celebrate recovery May 19th, 2-5pm, RI Statehouse Rotunda, Providence

Meetings

- ◆ AA, Crossroads – Mondays, 9 a.m.
- ◆ AA, Open Doors—Tuesdays, 7 p.m.
- ◆ NA, Open Doors—Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Support Group for formerly incarcerated women—Tuesdays, 5 p.m.
- ◆ Addiction Recovery Group, Fridays at 10 a.m. at McAuley House
- ◆ The Twelve Steps, a Spiritual Journey—Mondays, 5-7 pm at the House of Manna Ministries, 1542A Broad St.
- ◆ Open discussion about transitions from prison, homelessness, addiction, etc.—every other Friday, 5-7 pm at the House of Manna Ministries, 1524A Broad St.

Speak Out

- ◆ May 14th (special guest: Senator Rhoda Perry), May 28 3-4pm Mathewson Street Church 134 Mathewson Street
- ◆ Speakers Bureau, Every Friday 1-2pm Theater Workshop, 2-3pm Speakers Bureau Meeting Mathewson Street Church, 134 Mathewson Street

Library Hours

- ◆ Central Library 150 Empire Street, 455-8000 Monday & Thursday 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm Tuesday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm Wednesday CLOSED Friday & Saturday 12:30 - 5:30 pm Sunday: 1 - 5 pm (Sept 13, 2009 through May 16, 2010)

Highlighted Meal Site

- ◆ Bread of Life Ministries, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 670 Weeden St. Pawtucket, RI 02860 Schedule for daytime meals is: 2nd and 4th Thursday each month, 10:30 a.m. - Food Distribution pantry, 11:00 a.m. - Hot lunch is served, Schedule for night time meals is: 1st and 3rd Thursday each month, 5:00 p.m. - Hot meal (no food distribution)

Legal Clinic (Information: 401.721.5685 ex22)

- ◆ Grace Church 175 Mathewson St. Providence 401.331.3225 May 5th 9:30 am, May 19th 9:30 am.
- ◆ Amos House 413 Friendship St. Providence 401.272.0228 May 25th noon
- ◆ Harrington Hall Howard Ave., Building 58, Cranston 401.462.0724 May 24th 5:30 pm.
- ◆ WARM Center 56 Spruce St., Westerly 401.596.9276 May 12th 1pm

Meal Sites

Breakfast

- ◆ Beneficent Church Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, 6-7:30 a.m.
- ◆ Amos House Monday-Friday, 7-8 a.m.
- ◆ People's Baptist Church Last Saturday of the month, 8-10 a.m.
- ◆ Church of the Master Saturday, 9-10 a.m.

Lunch

- ◆ Amos House Monday-Saturday, 11-12:30 p.m.; Closed first Saturday of the month
- ◆ McAuley House Monday-Friday, 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m., and last Saturday of the month
- ◆ St. Joseph's Church Monday, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- ◆ St. John the Baptist Church Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grace Church Wednesday, 12:15-1 p.m.
- ◆ United Baptist Church

- Second and third Wednesdays of the month, noon
- ◆ Pawtucket Soup Kitchen Saturday, 10:30-11 a.m.
- ◆ St. Vincent DePaul Saturday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Dinner

- ◆ Salvation Army in Providence Sunday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. and in Newport 5-5:45 p.m.
- ◆ WARM Shelter Sunday-Saturday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Providence Rescue Mission Sunday-Saturday, 5 p.m.
- ◆ Pawtucket Soup Kitchen Monday-Friday, 4:30-5 p.m.
- ◆ St. Patrick's Church Monday, 4-5:15 p.m.
- ◆ Trinity Church Fourth and fifth Mondays of the month, 5 p.m.
- ◆ St. John's Church Tuesday, 4-5 p.m.
- ◆ All Saints Meal Site Tuesday, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Emmanuel Episcopal Church

- First Tuesday, 5 p.m.
- ◆ Assembly of God Church Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- ◆ St. Charles Church Thursday, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Victory Assembly of God Second and last Thursdays of the month, 5-6 p.m.
- ◆ PICA meal at Mathewson Street Church Friday, 4:30-6 p.m.
- ◆ Epiphany Soup Kitchen at St. Steven's Church Saturday, 4-5 p.m.
- ◆ Hispanic Evangelical Church Saturday, 4-5 p.m.
- ◆ Community Baptist Church Saturday, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ Gospel Tabernacle Outreach Ministries, Inc. Second and fourth Saturdays of the month, 3-4 p.m.
- ◆ Matthew 25 at River United Methodist Church, Sundays and Wednesdays from 4-7p.m.
- ◆ Sts. Peter and Andrew Church, Last Sunday of every month 1-2:30pm

Meal site addresses

Providence

- ◆ Amos House, 415 Friendship St.
- ◆ Assembly of God, 353 Elmwood Ave.
- ◆ Beneficent Church, 300 Weybosset St.
- ◆ Cathedral of St. John, 271 North Main St.
- ◆ Church of the Master, 15 Valley St.
- ◆ Gospel Tabernacle, 145 Oakland Ave.
- ◆ Grace Church, 175 Mathewson St.
- ◆ Judy's Kindness Kitchen, 160 Broad St.
- ◆ Mathewson St. Church, 134 Mathewson St.
- ◆ McAuley House, 622 Elmwood Ave.
- ◆ People's Baptist Church, 1275 Elmwood Ave., Cranston
- ◆ PICA, 134 Mathewson St.
- ◆ Providence Rescue Mission, 627 Cranston St.
- ◆ Salvation Army, 386 Broad St.
- ◆ St. Anthony Parish, 1413 Mineral Spring Ave.
- ◆ St. Charles Church, 178 Dexter St.
- ◆ St. Patrick's Church, 224 Smith St.
- ◆ Sts. Peter and Andrew Church, 25 Pomona Ave. Last Sunday of every month 1-2:30pm
- ◆ St. Stevens, 114 George St.
- ◆ Victory Assembly of God, 321 Veazie St.

Newport and South County

- ◆ Community Baptist Church, 50 Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland Blvd, Newport
- ◆ Emmanuel Episcopal, 42 Dearborn St., Newport

- ◆ Salvation Army, 51 Memorial Blvd., Newport
- ◆ St. Joseph's Rectory, 5 Mann Ave., Newport
- ◆ Trinity Episcopal Church, Newport Queen Anne Square, Newport
- ◆ United Baptist, 30 Spring St., Newport
- ◆ Welcome House, 8 North Rd., Peacedale
- ◆ Warm Center, 56 Spruce St., Westerly

Northern RI and Blackstone Valley

- ◆ Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 193 Walcott St.
- ◆ Hispanic Evangelical Church at Park Place Congregational Church, 71 Park Ave. 235 Dexter St. Pawtucket.
- ◆ Salvation Army, 102 High St.
- ◆ St. George's Episcopal, 12 Clinton & Central Falls.
- ◆ All Saints, 323 Rathbun St.
- ◆ River United Methodist Church 17 Federal Street, Woonsocket
- ◆ Bread of Life Ministries, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 670 Weeden St. Pawtucket, RI 02860

◆ To place an event or listing on the calendar for the coming month, contact streetsights@gmail.com

◆ For more information about services throughout the state, call United Way Hotline 2-1-1 or go to www.rihomeless.org to Resources to Street Sheets