

My Neighbor

By Shannon McLeish

THE FIRST TIME I saw her, she was shuffling down the sidewalk trying to manage a large purse with a curling iron sticking out of it, several brightly colored shopping bags, and a cardboard box. The belt of her raincoat kept tangling between her bags and her legs or alternately dragging the ground behind her. Her cheery red lipstick and perfect bun belied the panic in her eyes as it started to rain.

I was so stunned to see her there that I turned around and went back to ask if I could give her a ride somewhere. She gratefully accepted and I loaded her bags and box in the back seat, refusing to consider where they had been and whether they could have picked up bed bugs there. I have a horror of bed bugs. I've denied my own niece and nephew entrance into my house until the eradication of the bedbug infestation in their home could be verified. Still, her bedragglement and need were so apparent, it was easy to overcome my fear.

I took her to a church where she'd received help before and gave her all the cash in my wallet. It wasn't much but I didn't know what else to do. I'd asked her if she'd been to North Street shelter and she replied that she had but they couldn't help her there.

I saw her often, and each time, she was thinner. The next time I was close enough to address her, she was sitting in a small park near my house. She'd lost at least 50 or 60 pounds. Her hair was still in a bun, of sorts – really just pulled through a rubber band in a lump near the top of her head. It was apparent she has not looked in a mirror to put on the lipstick, relying on habit and failing memory to accomplish the task. It looked farcical and sad. Her box was gone; her bags had dwindled to one and the purse. I offered her my lunchbox. She accepted, only this time she didn't speak to me or meet my gaze.



Production Team
Printing lithocraft4460@aol.com
Desktop Publishing media-active.com

I Know You've Heard of Angels

Nurse Jenny

That's how some people, including our reporter at large, April Moser, regard Nurse Jenny. Although Jenny trains nursing students from our local colleges she regularly works at the STAR Center, a Halifax Urban Ministries facility on North St. The Center provides evaluations and treatment for minor health issues of our homeless men, women and families. Checking blood pressures is one of her many duties as well as referring those in need with an appointment to see the visiting Doctor. Assisting the needy in applying for Patient Assistance at Halifax Hospital so they can get regular doctor care and receive the proper prescriptions they need, is another one of her specialties. Many of the homeless suffer from diabetes (lack of a proper diet being a contributor) and obtaining a glucose meter and medication to control their glucose levels is essential. Nurse Jenny helps facilitate the acquisition of those meters and necessary medications. In the words of our reporter, April (once homeless herself and a beneficiary of Nurse Jenny's care) although some people are angry because she can't work miracles, at least not fast enough, she always has a line of folks sitting at her door waiting to see her. If the nurses in training are anything like her the world will definitely be a better place. Thank you Nurse Jenny from everyone whose lives you've touched.

I didn't know what else to do. I nodded and left.

I've seen her since. I know she's still among the living, if you want to call it that. She's one of the reasons I'm involved with this paper and why I've fought so hard to establish a truly representative community organization, the Volusia Flagler Continuum of Care, to combat homelessness. We had no answers for her, no help at all, and as a result I could only witness as her humanity, in just months, was stripped from her. It's hard to consider myself a loving human being or member of a caring, civilized society as I – and we – watch the disintegration of our neighbors and do, essentially, nothing.

If you are disturbed by the suffering in our community, please reach out, join the Continuum of Care or one of the agencies or churches that are doing so much in our county with so little (you can read more about those organizations elsewhere in this paper). Help if you can, because we need each other. It's part of being human.

Bleach Alternative

12 cups of water
¼ cup lemon juice
1 cup hydrogen peroxide

Mix: Add 2 cups per wash load or put in spray bottle and use as a household cleaner.

WARNING: Don't mix hydrogen peroxide and vinegar. It is very irritating to the eyes, nose, throat and lungs.



VOICES FROM HOME



STREET PAPER

A PUBLICATION OF H.O.M.E. OF DAYTONA BEACH, INC.



The Wrong Side of Advantage and No Boot Straps

By Brad Carter

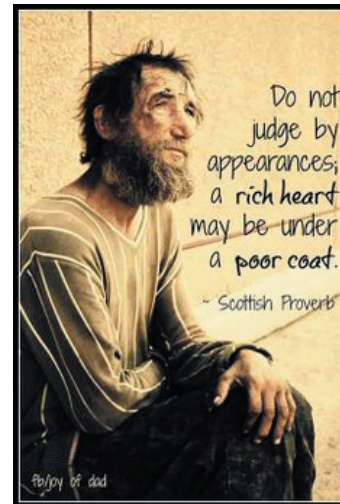
Formerly homeless and founder of H.O.M.E.

Every successful program that deals with homeless men and women who suffer from a diagnosed disability or who are trying to rehabilitate themselves from a life of careless behavior begins with providing them with a safe place to sleep.

Those who find themselves experiencing homelessness and who do not have a diagnosed disability are often expected to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. However, it's not easy (I speak from experience) when you don't get proper rest or, worse, no rest.

It's impossible for a person who is experiencing the indignities of life on the street to get the proper rest they need to maintain a healthy mind and body. Sleep deprivation causes many serious health issues and has been linked to mental illness including schizophrenia like symptoms. Lack of proper rest also puts a person at a higher than average likelihood of suffering from heart

disease, diabetes, low blood pressure, and obesity.



According to the American Civil Liberties Union, men experiencing homelessness, and not getting proper rest, have a life expectancy 25 years shorter than the average life expectancy of an employed man with a home, living in the United States.

There is a serious gap

in housing for those who are currently experiencing homelessness, especially single men and women. Currently the only option is to help themselves.

According to the Volusia Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless, the Federal Governments Housing and Urban Development program, (HUD) is no longer funding emergency shelters in favor of a "housing first" model. The theory is that a person is more likely to integrate back into mainstream society successfully when placed in their own home rather than an emergency shelter.

Housing first models have proven successful in helping Veterans and families return to a productive lifestyle. However, in my opinion, because of funding limitations and prioritizing, not to

Continued to Pg.6

An Homage from H.O.M.E.

**Thank You to:
United Presbyterians**

There are many church organizations who help the community, but one that we should especially honor is the group who helped give this newspaper its start.



The Presbyterians have many churches but as a united force they are a magnificent benefactor. Each year they award grants to organizations from all over the world to help promote worthy causes. Grants are issued on a specific timeline and the grant recipients must follow up with periodic reports on the progress they have made in accomplishing their stated goals prior to each disbursement. (The one Presbyterian church in Deland is even working with a Baptist church for "I. Dignity", who helps the homeless procure identifications.)

This tribute may be short and sweet, word-wise, but it is abundant with respect and appreciation from our hearts. Thank you to all Presbyterians for making this world a wonderful place and especially to their combined group, United Presbyterians, that makes outreach possible for those of us who could never have done it alone.



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Mission Statement for H.O.M.E. of Daytona Beach, Inc.

H.O.M.E. is the acronym for **H**omeless and **O**thers for a **M**eaningful **E**xchange. It was created for the purpose of improving the public’s perception of homeless individuals and raise awareness to such issues as the need for decriminalization of homelessness.

Voices from Home, a subsidiary of H.O.M.E. is a volunteer produced street newspaper whose mission is to print and distribute newspapers to provide jobs for the disadvantaged, marginalized, homeless, unemployed, and socially excluded individuals in our community. Initially, available jobs will be for vendors selling street papers in the greater Daytona Beach areas. However, as the paper is adopted by the community other jobs will become available.

Our paper will contain stories about its vendors, address the issues of homelessness, poverty and the need for shelter in our community and provide suggestions for direct, concrete avenues through which caring individuals can help. Its content will be rounded out with stories about local and state legislation, community news and projects and many more engaging topics that influence our daily lives.



New Laws Took Effect January 1st

Smoke Alarms

A new law calls for homeowners to begin phasing out old battery-operated smoke alarms. When people replace their smoke alarms, according to the legislation, they must reinstall a detector with a non-removable and non-replaceable battery that lasts at least 10 years.

According to a National Fire Protection Association study published last March, about three in every five fatal fires occur in houses without working smoke alarms. According to the state Department of Health, 103 people in Florida died from fire-related injuries in 2012, the latest year for which statistics were available online. More than 500 people suffered other injuries in blazes across the state.

Child Booster Seats

Under a law passed earlier this year, drivers are expected to place all children ages 5 and younger in a safety seat when traveling around the state.

Parents must place children in full child seats until at least age 3. After that, 4- and 5-year-old kids can ride in booster seats.

Some exceptions: Children between 4 and 5 years of age may use just a seat belt if the driver is not a member of the child’s immediate family and the child is being transported as a favor to the family, in the case of an emergency, or when a doctor provides reason for an exception.

Violators face a \$60 fine and three points against their license.

New Surcharge on Car-Sharing Services

Members of car-sharing services who use a vehicle for less than a day will pay a surcharge of \$1. If they take out a car for more than a day, members will be responsible for a surcharge of \$2 per day.

The new legislation refines Florida’s existing rules for car rentals. Users of rental services pay a \$2-per-day surcharge when leasing or renting a car. A number of new companies like Zip Car have entered the market in recent years, offering subscription-based car services rather than traditional rentals.

First Person Stories from the Homeless

*As Told, in Their Own Words,
to Our Roving Reporter April Moser*

How I Ended Up Here: “My Little Story”

Charles O. (Oh, My!)

In 2005 I became disabled. I was living in my own mobile home and since I could no longer earn a living, I could no longer pay for my home and ended up on the streets. A community assistance/advocacy group in Naples, Florida was kind enough to provide me with a Greyhound Bus ticket to come to Daytona. I was denied my disability claim but my regular Social Security will start in 5 more years. So, in the meantime, I come to the Bridge of Hope (a meal line sponsored by Halifax Urban Ministries, better known as H.U.M.) to get my lunch and talk to nice people. This, he said, was “the short version” of his story about how he ended up here.

How I Ended Up Here: “My Little Story”

My name is Kenny C., originally from Santa Rosa, Florida. I’ve been in and out of jail from a young age. Even tho’ I ended up in jail again, my live-in

girlfriend still wrote to me. When she moved she told me her new address, so when I left prison in St. Augustine, I took a bus straight to Daytona to be with her.

When I arrived at the high-rise building, the people inside at the desk repeatedly told me that she “wasn’t there”. (Moved again? just out? Or possibly shopping? I asked. They wouldn’t answer). They said that “even if she was there they wouldn’t let me visit and most certainly I couldn’t move in with her. It was an assisted living facility, so that was against the rules. Leave the premise immediately! So, I ended up with nowhere to go!

Post Script: When I ran into Kenny he had long scraggly hair and although he wasn’t begging people, the convenience store clerk just gave him coffee, soda, and cigarettes.

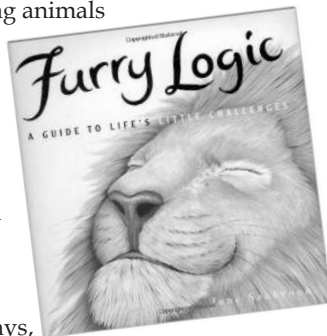
He was waiting to go get lunch at the local “soup kitchen” but I guess they all knew he didn’t mind if he could get these other “gifts” as well.

Book: *Furry Logic*

A Guide to Life’s Little Challenges

By Jane Seabrook

Guaranteed to coax a smile from the grumpiest of grumps. *Furry Logic* is a little book with a big heart and sly humor. Exquisitely detailed watercolor paintings depicting animals caught up in the joy and drudgery of life and paired with old adages given a new spin for our times. Illustrator Jane Seabrook’s forty universally appealing paintings of birds, bears, penguins, chipmunks, frogs, baboons, and more are rendered in delicate and biologically accurate detail using a tiny sable brush with a single hair at its tip. *Furry Logic* is an ideal gift for Mother’s Day or Father’s Day, birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, or for no reason at all.



Jane Seabrook is a freelance designer and illustrator who in recent years has focused her artwork on paintings of wildlife. She lives in Auckland, New Zealand, with her husband and two children.

Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, CA. www.tenspeed.com

Consequences of Homelessness

Anti-Social Behavior a Consequence, Rather than a Cause of Homelessness

By Lucy Nichol

Media and Communications Manager, Northumbria University

Anti-social behaviors such as drug and alcohol abuse are often the consequence, rather than the cause of homelessness, according to a series of studies from Northumbria University presented at the Economic and Social Research Council’s

They found evidence of anti-social behavior on the part of homeless people, with high incidences of drug and alcohol abuse, mental health problems, violent behavior, familial breakdown, negative social networks, unemployment and dependency on benefits, begging, sex work and crime.

However, the research indicated that these problems were often caused by homelessness itself. Roughly half of the homeless people interviewed had previously lived ‘normal’ lives, with high levels of educational achievement, positive family relationships, long periods of stable employment and no pattern of substance misuse or criminality.

“For these people, the pattern of their lives had been radically changed by a significant life event -- such as bereavement, relationship breakdown or redundancy -- which triggered addiction, followed by eviction or the repossession of a home,” says Adele Irving.

In these cases in particular, anti-social behavior was often a consequence of being homeless, and not the

2014 Festival of Social Science. The studies suggest that contrary... to common belief, unexpected life events could lead to anyone becoming homeless.

Researchers Adele Irving and Dr. Jamie Harding looked at the life histories and

causes of homelessness of over 80 people in Newcastle. They spoke to homeless people about their experiences, and staff from local authorities and hostels and support services in the area about the management of homelessness.

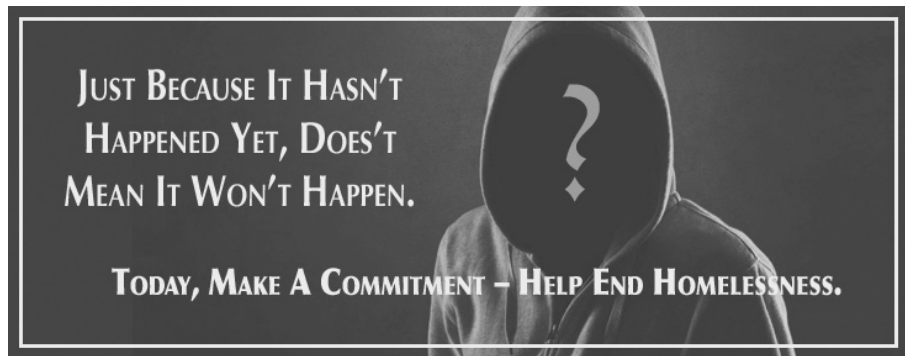
need to give greater attention to the structural and systemic barriers - in the areas of housing, welfare and employment – facing the homeless,” she concludes.

Ms. Irving and fellow researcher Oliver Moss are conducting further research on the experiences of homeless people in the North East and will showcase this research at an exhibition as part of the Economic and Social Research Council’s 2014 Festival of Social Science. For further information contact: Lucy Nichol at Northumbria University.

local authority care, neglect and physical and sexual abuse.

According to Adele Irving, research indicates that punishing the homeless for their antisocial behavior often only serves to further exclude them from society, and push them into committing more anti-social acts.

“Instead of punishing homeless people, which only reinforces these behaviors, policymakers



cause. For example, some people reported turning to drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism to numb the cold and get them through living on the streets or to cope with hostel environments. Others stole food and drink for survival. In other cases, homeless people reported committing crimes in order to avoid sleeping rough, with prison often seen as a short term housing solution.

“Crime and substance misuse were frequently responses to, rather than causes of, homelessness” reports Ms. Irving. However, for other homeless people interviewed, existing anti-social tendencies had led directly to them being on the streets, as they had been evicted from the parental or marital home, rented accommodation and hostels.

“It was clear that some homeless people had anti-social tendencies. Almost half of those interviewed

Tax-Deductible

Please Donate

Make Your Commitment – Help End Homelessness

Your Generosity Will Be Utilized Exclusively for Establishing Permanent Shelter for Homeless Men and Women While They Recover from One of Life’s Unexpected Physical, Mental and Spiritual Challenges.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

___ \$25.00 ___\$50.00 ___\$75.00 ___\$100.00 ___Other: _____

Please make checks payable to **H.O.M.E. of Daytona Beach, Inc.**, 1021 S. Ridgewood Ave., #1, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. Your Tax-Deductible Receipt will show **Alliance For Global Justice**, our umbrella 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. We accept secure credit card or PayPal donations through our website: www.VoicesFromHome.info/. Thank You.

Tax-Deductible

Sweet Hawaiian Crock-Pot Chicken

Ingredients:

2 lb. Chicken tenderloin chunks

1 cup pineapple juice

1/2 cup brown sugar

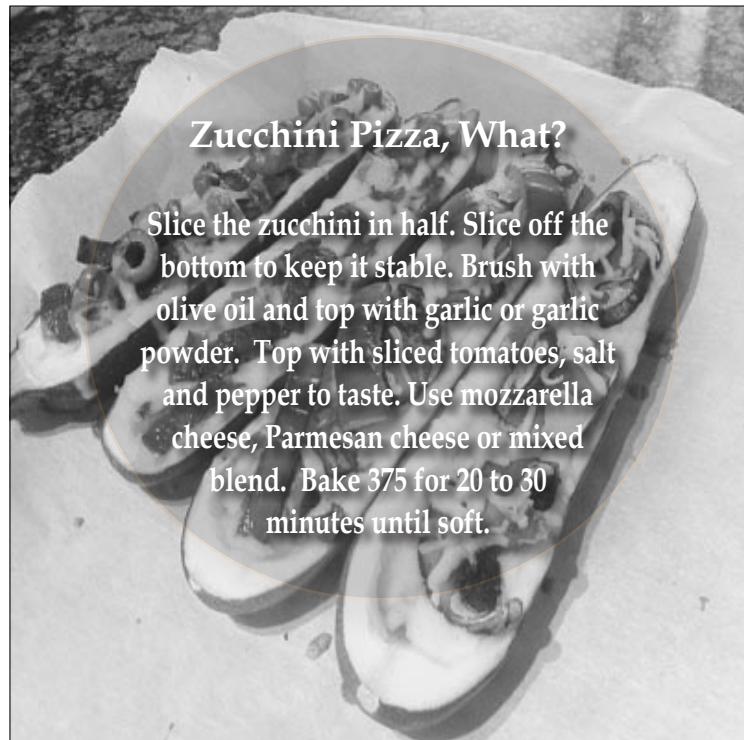
1/3 cup soy sauce

Directions:

Combine all together, cook on low in Crock-pot 6-8 hours . . . that's it! Done! Serve with brown rice and you have a complete, easy meal!!

No crock-pot?

Dip the chicken in seasoned flour and brown it, place in a casserole dish (NOT a crock pot). Mix the juice from your can of pineapple and about a 1/3 cup low salt soy sauce, pour over all. Bake 35 min at 350. At this point you can add the pineapple, bake another 15 minutes. Or serve the pineapple on the side without cooking it.



Zucchini Pizza, What?

Slice the zucchini in half. Slice off the bottom to keep it stable. Brush with olive oil and top with garlic or garlic powder. Top with sliced tomatoes, salt and pepper to taste. Use mozzarella cheese, Parmesan cheese or mixed blend. Bake 375 for 20 to 30 minutes until soft.

Are you a BookWorm?



Benny BookWorm

Book lover's know that you can never have enough books in your collection. With the growing popularity of tablets and eBooks, it's now easier than ever to get tons of books without having to add any new bookshelves. Several new companies can help you build a collection without having to spend a fortune. These services highlight discounted and free eBooks, and most make it free and easy to sign-up with little downside. One such company, Bookbub.com/ provides free access to some eBooks and a free daily email notification about deep discounts on acclaimed and bestselling eBooks. You choose the types you'd like to get notified about — with categories ranging from romance to mysteries to cookbooks. Could this be a BookWorms' delight?

Caring for Cast Iron

CAST IRON ISN'T nonstick naturally — it becomes nonstick through a process called seasoning. Most cast iron cookware you buy today is pre-seasoned, so you can start using it immediately, but you'll still need to re-season it from time to time. This is done by oiling and baking it, which gives cast iron its signature shine. If the bottom of the pan starts looking crusty, rusty, or uneven, it's time to re-season.

You also have to re season if you burn something in it badly and have to really scour it to get it clean, or if you neglect to dry it and it rusts, or if you buy a used piece of cast iron you want to rehabilitate.

How to Re-season

- 1) Heat the oven to 350°F, and position the oven rack in the top third of the oven.
- 2) Open your windows; use a fan — re-seasoning creates smoke!
- 3) Rub a thin layer of shortening, oil, or bacon grease all over the inner bottom and sides of the pan with a paper towel.
- 4) Place your pan upside down on the top oven rack with a rimmed baking sheet or a roasting pan underneath to catch the drippings.
- 5) Bake the pan this way for 1 hour. Then turn off the oven and allow it to cool with the pan inside. When the pan is correctly seasoned, the cooking surface should be smooth and shiny.

Note: Don't cook tomatoes or other highly acidic foods in cast iron, as that will destroy the pan's finish.

How to Clean a Cast Iron Pan

To maintain the finish on your cast iron pan, you must abide by the following rules:

When you're finished cooking, scrape out your pan with a wooden spoon or rubber spatula while it's still hot, and wipe it down with a little oil on a rag or paper towel to preserve the finish. Note: It may seem strange that you're supposed to use oil — and not soap — to clean your pans. But don't worry about getting sick from rotten food or rancid oil that's still on your pan — even if there were potentially harmful bacteria living on it, the pan gets hot enough when you cook with it to kill it.

Baby Birds

Did you know – an adult bird will NOT reject its young because it was handled by a human! Many people believe that bird parents will reject a baby once it has been touched by humans. However, this is simply not true. Like most animals, bird parents will go to great lengths to take care of their young. Yes, you can put that baby bird back in the nest, provided that's where it belongs! If the baby bird has visible skin, is only partially feathered, and can't stand, then it's a "nestling" and you can put it back in the nest (www.tristatebird.org/



clinic/babybirds). If it's fully feathered and can hop around, then it is a "fledgling" and is too old to go back in the nest (see our post from 6/9 about bird-napping). If you find any baby bird that appears injured or is cold or inactive, bring it to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for help immediately.

"We Couldn't Possibly Be Poor"

How a Doctor Fell Into Poverty

"As we found ourselves choosing between rice, oatmeal, or potatoes for every meal, it occurred to us that being in poverty isn't about how hard you work; it's about how much money you make."

By Robin Dickinson
November 3, 2014



My specialist doctor points out details of how my strokes had affected my cerebral cortex and offered her opinion as to recovery.

THE DOCTOR LOOKED grave as she pulled her chair closer to the desk where I was sitting with my husband and two small children. "I'm really sorry to have to tell you this. There's no easy way." As a family physician, I recognized those words: We're trained to warn someone before we tell them bad news. Then I realized she was saying I'd had two strokes.

I can't talk about federal nutrition assistance, or my first experience using it, without smiling.

In that one brief moment, my life completely changed.

I had no cognitive problems and was able to flawlessly inject a steroid into a patient's knee just days after my strokes, but I struggled with dizziness and fatigue. Instead of taking my children on play dates to the zoo, I needed to sleep 18 hours a day and would get dizzy while driving. I couldn't change a diaper and didn't have the stamina to fix a meal. My husband became my caretaker as well as the primary parent for our children.

I had spent my time after residency having babies, not getting rich. My husband had worked to support me through school. He went to college during my residency. When we started a family, it made financial sense for him to stay home and care for our kids while I worked. Now I didn't have the energy to drive to work, much less see enough patients to support my family and my own mounting medical costs.

I'd recently opened a "hobby" practice with no staff and low overhead to meet the medical needs of area families who didn't have access to care. I was able to keep working there as I recovered and gained stamina. We knew that in the long run this would be what got our family out of poverty, but initially it didn't provide enough income for us to scrape by.

It took a couple of months for us to realize our true situation.

We're both educated. We couldn't possibly be "poor" or need "assistance." But as we found ourselves choosing between rice, oatmeal, or potatoes for every meal, it occurred to us that being in poverty isn't about how hard you work; it's about how much money you make.

We're both educated. We couldn't possibly be "poor" or need "assistance."

We applied for assistance and, three months after my strokes, I received a phone call notifying me that our family qualified for Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), i.e., food stamps. I was so excited! "We'll have food," I thought. "Good food! And medical care!" The average person receives SNAP benefits for less than a year; we were off SNAP in 18 months. Many people with strokes end up completely disabled, so I know we are blessed.

People often assume that our first shopping trip would have been demeaning or sad to me. On the contrary, I can't talk about federal nutrition assistance, or my first experience using it, without smiling.

"I have a surprise!" I announced to my son. "We're going to go buy a lot of food!"

He squealed. "Can we get a watermelon?"

"Yes!" I replied with delight. "Yes, whatever you want!" He also demanded cucumbers, apples, and chocolate ice cream.

Walking through the store and loading food into the cart seemed surreal to me. Cheap food is brown. Our cart was filled with a rainbow of foods, many of which my baby daughter had never eaten before. She may not have understood, but she knew the rest of us were excited. She giggled as she hugged the cucumbers to her chest. The checker smiled and asked if we were celebrating someone's birthday.

"No," I replied. We're excited to have food."

Dr. Robin Dickinson wrote this article for The End of Poverty, the Fall 2014 issue of YES! Magazine. She is a physician in Colorado and mother of two children. Her family was forced to deplete its savings after she suffered two strokes and couldn't work. Food stamps helped to feed them during her recovery.



Source: www.YesMagazine.org



Florida Nursing Forecast: 50,000 Short

By Tessa Wiseman and Carol Gentry
Health News

Florida-Based on current trends, Florida will be short by more than 50,000 registered nurses by the year 2025, a nursing expert warned a committee of the State University System's Board of Governors.

Donating Time vs Donating Money

IN TERMS OF ‘How to Help’ the unsheltered homeless, there’s really no wrong way to contribute or assist. Any assistance is beneficial for the community in general. If you’re wondering whether your money or time would be a better donation; either contribution is helpful – both are important in their own way.

Here’s Several Ideas of What to Donate

Give Time

(Meal Times Vary by Location)

- Serve a Meal
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Holiday Meals
- Food Drives

Items Needed

- Coffee & Herbal Teas
- Coffee Mugs (Durable, not styrofoam)
- Towels (Bath, Hand & Face)
- Men’s Clothing (All layers)
- Toothbrushes & Mouth Rinse (Floss)
- Socks
- First Aid Kits
- Hygiene Kits (Men & Women)

Money Donations

- Make a One-Time Donation
- Become a Monthly Angel (\$15+ per mo, see pg. 12)
- Sponsor an Event
- Advertise in the *Voices From Home* Newspaper
- Office Supplies for *Voices From Home* Newspaper
- Mail an Anonymous Check

Giving Money will provide clothing, education, food, and shelter. It’ll help the homeless in more ways than you may realize and the more money that is given, the more services and help can be provided. But giving money is not the only way to help – you, your friends and family can also give your time to help the homeless.



Giving Time is often as valuable as offering money. You can spend your time volunteering for meal times, or working on projects that will uplift the homeless – most importantly – be there as a support and anchor when times get tough. During the holidays, many people love to feed the homeless and assist with meals. The *Voices From Home* Street Newspaper loves the seasonal help, but would like to kindly remind everyone that help is needed more on days that are not holidays.

Many look past the homeless, caught up in their own busy world, but you can still do something. You have a community responsibility to participate; contributing to the homeless with money or time. Your contributions help provide sustenance to citizens who need it most.

Visit our Online Paper
and Read the Daily Blog
www.VoicesFromHome.info

TRY THIS PUZZLE

Find and Circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The words may be hidden in any direction.

- BIG

BOTTOM

CARDBOARD

CLOSED

CONTENTS

EMPTY
- ENDS

FLAPS

FULL

HEAVY

LARGE

LIGHT
- OPEN

RECTANGULAR

SIDES

SMALL

SQUARE

TOP



Answers on page 9.

“Education is the Only Answer.” – Gordie Hayduk



Muse : be absorbed in thought.

The Condition of Florida
by the Numbers

FLORIDA IS EXPECTED to pass the 20 million mark during 2016, making it the third largest state in the country. Current estimates are that Florida’s population will be 23.8 million in 2030, an increase of 4.2 million people from 19.6 million in 2013.

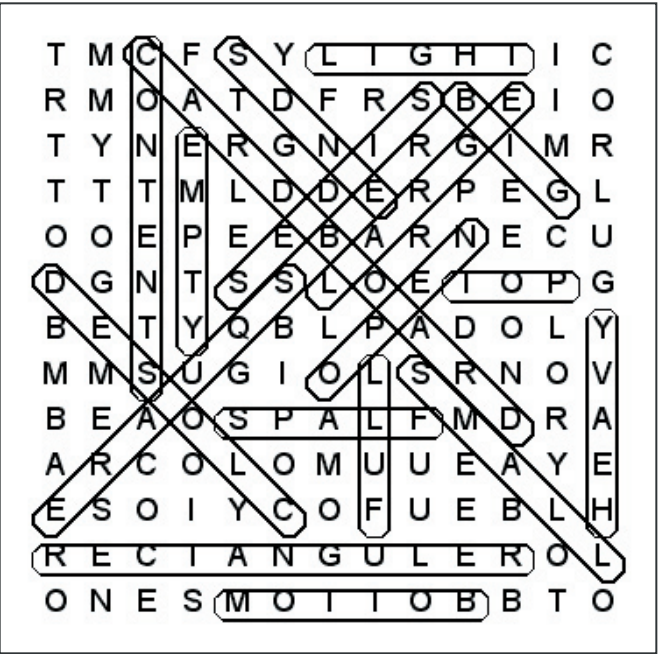
Today’s Florida residents live in a state still recovering from the Great Recession. As expected in any recovery period, jobs are coming back, although too few to employ the same percentage of Floridians that had jobs before the recession. State revenues are increasing now and are expected to climb each year into the foreseeable future. But policymakers have used much

of that growth money to provide new tax breaks each legislative session instead of reinvesting in areas of the budget squeezed during the recession years.

Telling points: Florida ranks 49th in the nation in per capita state and local spending for education, but corrections is funded well enough to rank 23rd among the states; and the state ranks 43rd in a recent survey of quality of services for the elderly, disabled and their caregivers.

The state ranks very low in other measures of well-being affected by state expenditures.

Answers to Puzzle on page 4.



We have always been told that success in this country comes from climbing rungs of a ladder. However, one can’t climb it if one doesn’t even have access to the ladder.

That best portion of a good man’s life; his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love. – William Wordsworth – English Poet

“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.” – Isaiah 1:17

“If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin.” – Charles Darwin

Republican-led Petition Drive Begins
for 2016 Ballot Measure to
Boost Solar Power in Florida

Ivan Penn, Times Staff Writer
January 7, 2015

BACKERS OF BROADER use of solar energy in Florida have quietly launched a petition for the 2016 ballot that would allow those who generate electricity from the sun to sell the power directly to other consumers.



If the measure passes, solar proponents argue that it would open up Florida’s solar energy market, which has largely stagnated for years. The measure would allow business or property owners to produce up to 2 megawatts of solar power and then sell that power directly to others, such as tenants, without having to go through a utility.

Under Florida law, only utilities can sell electricity directly to consumers, though solar proponents argue that 36 states allow the practice. By removing the utilities as middlemen, the argument goes, it could help spur solar as a clean-energy alternative.



Led by Republican Tory Perfetti, a Tampa resident and head of Conservatives for Energy Freedom, the effort is making for strange bedfellows.

Some Republicans, including the Republican Liberty Caucus of Tampa Bay, and Democrats are teaming up to support the initiative that

they say is long overdue. Environmental groups are expected to join the effort at a press conference January 14.

Under the political action committee Floridians for Solar Choice Inc., backers of the amendment criticize Florida utilities as having too much control over the Sunshine State’s power. “Floridians have a right to choose where they are going to have their energy coming from,” Perfetti said.

The group started its petition drive this week but plans to make a major push over the weekend and early next week.

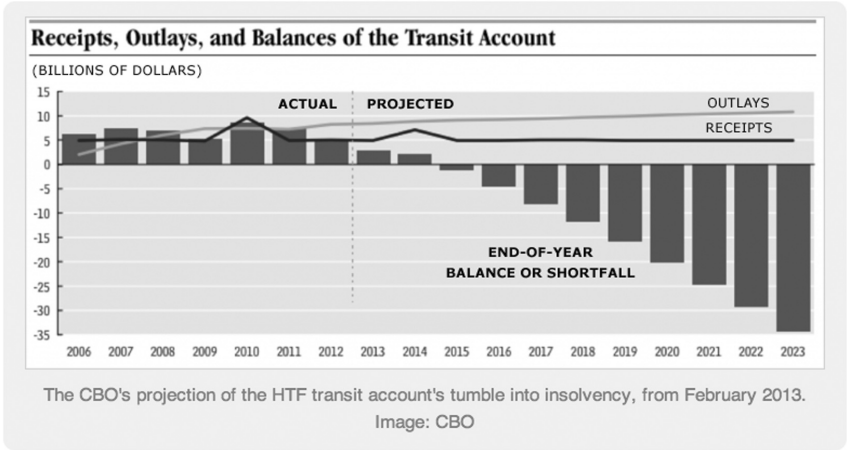
“I think the people understand that ... the power companies have been running the show in Florida for too long,” said one supporter, Rep. Dwight Dudley, D-St. Petersburg. “I’m very excited and happy they’re doing it.”

The Florida Department of State approved the petition December 23 without fanfare. Perfetti waited until after the holidays to begin circulating it.

Highway Trust Fund Wins? Retirement Funds Lose?

In a Friday, July 18th, 2014 edition of Wealth Daily, Geoffrey Pike reports this important bit of information that could affect the lives of many citizens.

The House of Representatives recently passed legislation to allocate money for the Highway Trust Fund. The fund was nearly broke, and it needed an infusion of money in order to pay for roads and other infrastructure projects. While gasoline taxes typically fund the Highway Trust Fund, they have not been adequate in the eyes of the politicians in Washington, D.C.



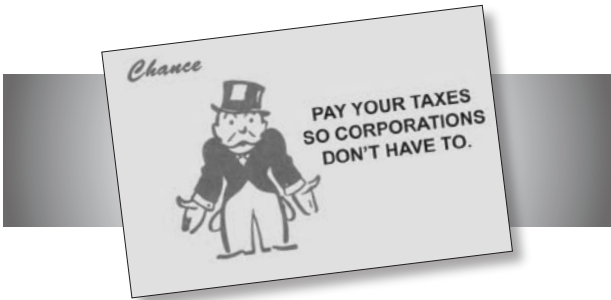
The legislation passed by the House is *supposed* to provide more than \$10 billion dollars, including funding to complete projects through next May. However, it is also *supposed* to be revenue neutral. So how do they manage to offset this cost? Since it is getting close to election time, most of the politicians hesitate to directly raise taxes and cause an uproar. Instead, they resort to other means to pay for their projects.

One of the provisions of the bill is projected to raise revenues by over \$6 billion over the next 10 years. It is a change in corporate pension funding rules that will allow companies to contribute less money today for benefits that are being promised to employees for the future. This is sometimes referred to as pension smoothing, and it is one of the latest accounting tricks in D.C.

Since employers would be delaying pension contributions, they would have fewer expenses and higher reportable income. Therefore, they would pay more in corporate taxes... at least theoretically. One of the big problems is that companies would later have to make up for this by contributing more, thus reversing the process and resulting in less taxable income down the road. But that’s still a ways away, so why would today’s politicians worry about it?

This bill passed overwhelmingly in the House by a vote of 367 to 55. Only 45 Republicans and 10 Democrats voted against the bill. It was truly bipartisan, which means you’d better watch out.

Source: Wealth Daily



Living on Minimum Wage

Challenges People Faced Trying To Live On a Minimum Wage Budget For A Week

Members of Congress and thousands of paycheck fairness advocates across the country wrapped up the “Live The Wage” challenge yesterday, after working to live on a minimum wage budget for a week. On just \$77, these leaders hoped to gain just a small understanding of the challenges and decisions faced by minimum wage workers every day. Earning just \$7.25 an hour, the average full time minimum wage worker struggles to survive on only \$77 a week after paying taxes and housing expenses.

We’ve rounded up 8 examples of the challenges they faced. While they pale in comparison to the challenges that low-wage workers face every day, they provide a glimpse of why we need to raise the minimum wage so that hardworking Americans can make ends meet.

1. Everything needs to be planned. There’s absolutely no room for spontaneity on a minimum wage budget.
2. Transportation really cuts into a budget. The price of gas and even public transportation quickly adds up.
3. Medical costs can easily destroy a budget.
4. There’s little to no room for any other expenses. Standard expenses like home costs and school supplies just don’t fit in.
5. It’s pretty much impossible to save on just \$77 per week. And the understanding that having savings is key in case of an emergency.
6. It’s hard to eat healthy on a minimum wage budget. The fast food dollar menu is sometimes a more affordable alternative to fresh fruits and vegetables.
7. This is a reality everyday for millions of people. Women and families have it especially hard.
8. An appreciation for the challenges low-wage workers face. And, accompanying that, a desire to see more elected officials share the experience and vote to raise the minimum wage.

Source: thinkprogress <http://tinyurl.com/wagelive>

Who’s In Your Wallet?

Equifax has got Your Income Number and Sells It.

Financial information is considered by most to be very private, but that isn’t stopping one credit reporting agency from sharing it without your knowledge, according to a report by NBC News. Equifax, one of the nation’s largest credit reporting agencies with one of the most expansive private databases of information, has accumulated the salary and employment records of more than one-third of U.S. adults, according to NBC. In turn, the agency has sold some of this information to debt collectors and other financial service companies. read the full story at: <http://tinyurl.com/omecuck/>.

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART

Published on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 by Common Dreams

By Donna Smith

by the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice.

Those who oppose the Affordable Care Act/Obamacare might do better if they argued that the law violates Federal Anti-Trust laws. But the health industry would no doubt argue that health care is a different animal and not subject to the same rules and laws as other businesses. Health care is so co-mingled with public policy and employment law, that it can be very difficult to catch the offenders. Note that I said it would be difficult — not impossible — to prove that health industry professional associations provide the perfect cover for cartel agreements.

One thing that interests me is that within the definition of collusion there is a notation that fixing credit terms and the lack of open advertising of pricing often can be signals of such illegal activity. So far in my life as a patient, I have found the fixing of credit terms and the lack of openly advertised prices to be the norm throughout the health care system. And to ask questions or question policy is so frowned upon that a patient or caregiver must be willing to risk being “fired” as a patient on the



spot for being so insolent as to ask such questions.

If we had an improved and expanded Medicare-for-all for life system, financed through a public, single-payer model, our system would be just that — our health care system. We would be the ones making sure that good health care access and fairly negotiated pricing was done in the best interests of us all. Until then, we are at the mercy of the health care cartel that is so powerful that it currently controls almost one-fifth of the U.S. economy. As a good friend once said, “The profits are dear.” Do you really think this industry could possibly be this profitable while also failing to perform well and not be cartel-controlled?

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Donna Smith is the Executive Director of Health Care for All Colorado and the Health Care for All Colorado Foundation.

What is Case Management?

Case management is the work of a person who makes it his/her business to know what community services are available for people in many different situations. Case Managers look at the services a person is now receiving (or not receiving) and helps determine if there are other services that would be of assistance or would

serve you better. The services may be medical or social.

Case Managers work with individuals and families. They can help with doctor’s visits, transportation, medication and other needs of daily life. They can assess needs; they can advocate (argue your case) and help you understand papers

that are sometimes confusing. They can help people obtain the uninterrupted care that is necessary for becoming and remaining healthy.

Case Management services are paid for by Medicaid and most other insurances because, by helping you select and coordinate the best services and

plans for you, Case Managers save everyone money while making sure their clients (you) have needed services.

If you think a Case Manager could be of help to you, personally, or to someone you know (like an ill parent, maybe) ask your doctor. That’s a good place to start.

to mention there are no Continuum of Care (CoC) organizations that offer housing first programs to men and women who do not suffer from a diagnosed disability or substance abuse problem. Rapid re-housing dollars will never extend out to the estimated 40% of the street homeless population that does not suffer from a disabling condition.

Meeting the housing needs of the hundreds of local men and women, who are falling through the cracks, is essential if we are ever going to end homelessness. The sad truth is, many of the men and women who are suffering from sleep deprivation and who have no housing options are bright talented people who would benefit from a *safe secure place to sleep and case management*.

Until some organization steps up and provides a housing first program to the men and women who have just found themselves on the wrong side of advantage and until there are plenty of rapid re-housing dollars and space available, housing first and rapid rehousing programs are not an alternative to an emergency shelter.

Over the next few months the members of the Continuum of Care will be asked to make decisions that will affect the lives of hundreds of men, women and children experiencing homelessness. I'm asking for assurances from the CoC membership that they'll work to meet the housing needs of every man, woman and child.

Brad Carter
Formerly homeless and Founder of H.O.M.E. of Daytona Beach, Inc.

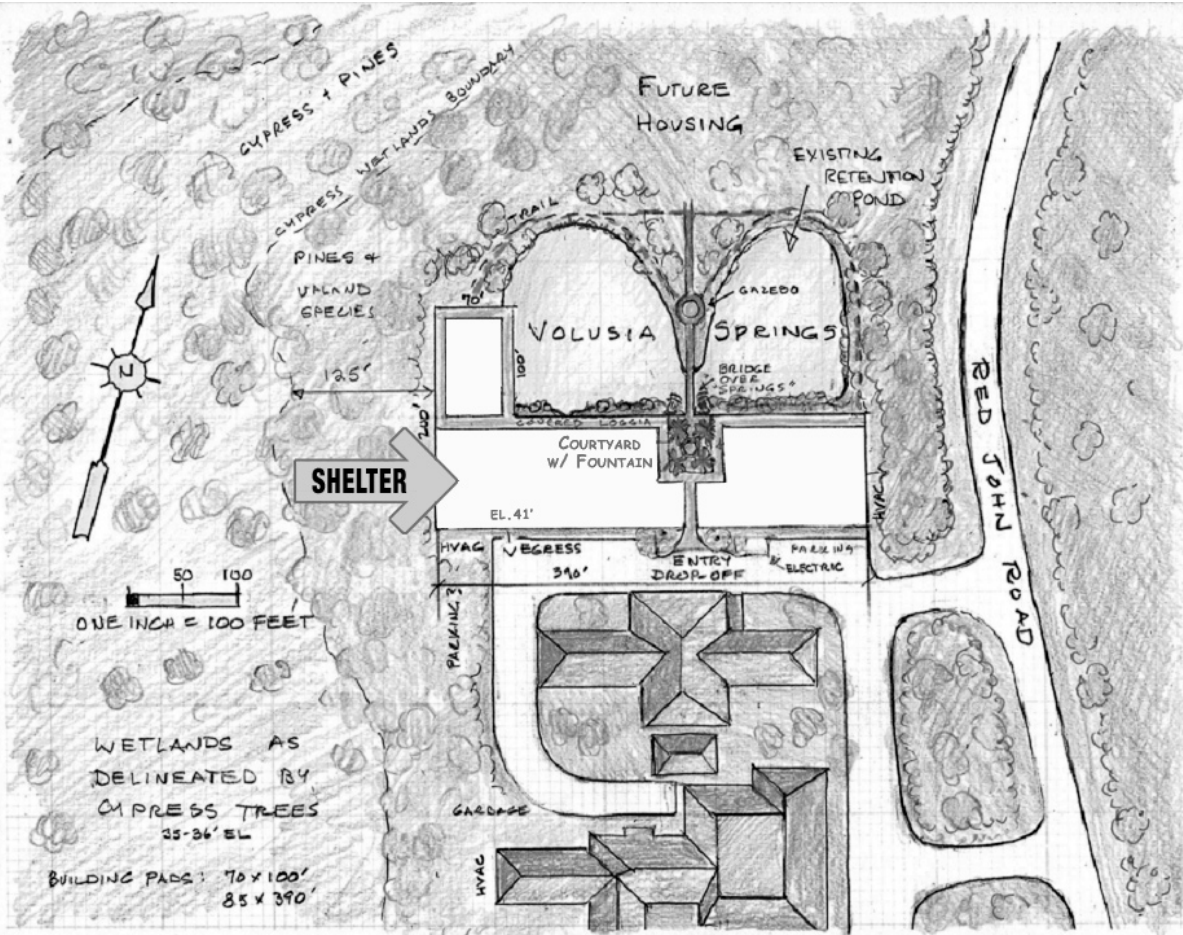


Doing Good by the Homeless While Saving Money with a Proven Plan

By Mr. Michael E. Arth

Tiger Bay Village

Original Name When It Was Presented to County Council 8-Years Ago.



Miochael E. Arth's Rendition: Building to Accommodate 250-Individuals.

suffer the highest health care costs and the highest homelessness rates of any industrialized country. Texas, one of the most conservative states, has adopted the holistic, campus of services model because it gets the job done for less. It also happens to be compassionate and gives clients their dignity along with attainable goals. Marbut has proposed a number of such campuses across the country where a range of complicated issues and services can be handled in one place for maximum benefit and minimum cost. Marbut affirmed what we have been saying for years: the site next to SMA "is the only logical location" for such a campus

"...we are squandering a fortune to ensure the homeless, the mentally ill, and substance abusers stay in dependent misery."

in Volusia County. It's time for logic to be transformed into action.

The dream of a village, a community, will not be entirely realized with the

first building. All journeys begin with one step. The first step is the creation of Volusia Springs (aka Volusia Safe Harbor), which would be adjacent to the Stewart Marchman Act detox and mental health facility on Red John Rd. at highway 92, 11 miles east of DeLand and 11 miles west of the ocean at Daytona Beach. Dr. Marbut proposed in his recommendations the first buildings should be built on the west side of SMA. The west side of SMA is not feasible, however because

it is a cypress wetlands. Therefore, as shown in the illustration, the location has been moved to the north side of SMA, which not only has a graded pad, but an existing pond and additional water features, which can be incorporated into the plan. The central walkway would pass from the entry through the building into the courtyard with a central fountain. The walkway would cross a bridge with views of the waterfalls and lead to a gazebo. From there, the path would lead into the woods where permanent housing could also be built later. All of the things, in a tranquil setting, will help create an atmosphere conducive to rehab and healing. The proposed site for Volusia Springs (shown in yellow) is immediately north of Stewart Marchman Act off 92 on pine upland that is already partially cleared and graded. An existing retention pond and a second pond would be added to create a conjoined water feature utilizing waterfalls and a courtyard with a small fountain incorporated into a 200-bed facility designed pro-bono by architect Bill Chapin. This site allows for further expansion and permanent housing, which would eventually comprise a truly holistic, community of services.



Homelessness Solutions
Will the community discover more and better solutions to resolving this persistent dilemma? Do you have a potential solution; will you share it? Some suggest local construction of 'Tiny Homes' by homeless individuals working with professional builders to 'earn' a Home Of Your Own. Cities and/or Volusia County could underwrite such a person-uplifting program.

www.VoicesFromHome.info

Will the Homeless Shelter Become a Reality?

By Ms. Observant Citizen

A homeless consultant, Dr. Robert Marbut, was hired by the City of Daytona Beach in March of 2013 to conduct a study on the feasibility of constructing a homeless shelter. For a fee of \$50,000 thousand dollars, he spent time in our county investigating the homeless hangouts, talking with many homeless individuals and even spending a night in a homeless camp.

He presented his recommendation for the construction of a homeless shelter referred to as Safe Harbor, a bare bones facility that would provide temporary shelter indoors and out for an as yet undetermined amount of people (250 was suggested) along with food, showers, laundry facilities, job placement resources, access to drug and mental health treatment and a chance to reacquaint themselves with faith if they so choose.

As is the usual case, our politico's, are not yet fully in agreement about going forward with plans to build a shelter. The Daytona City Commission members all agreed to the idea of hiring a consultant to look at the feasibility of the proposal presented by Dr. Marbut, and decided to rehire him to provide needed guidance and the all-important number crunching.

County Manager Jim Dinneen, concerned with the cost to the county of going forward with the project also wanted to see a detailed budget on the costs of operating such a facility and the County Council selected Correctional Finance & Consulting Solutions to provide that information. As head watchdog of how the county spends taxpayer money, his stance was no surprise. However, there was another proposal presented by Mr. Michael Arth that the county chose not to pursue. The accompanying article will introduce you to his plan and visit his website to learn more. (tinyurl.com/m7arth)