



THE GREENSBORO VOICE

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

PRINTING NEWS THAT DOESN'T FIT

APRIL 2013

Clearing the Way for Beauty

By Stephanie Thomas, Staff Reporter



I pulled into the parking lot of the Interactive Resource Center (IRC) for our weekly staff meeting of the Greensboro Voice on a warm February afternoon. The first thing I noticed when I arrived was a group of young women cutting down the old dead vines covering the fence standing between the parking lot and the railroad tracks. Obviously they had been working long and hard before I arrived, clearing away the brush. It was an area of the IRC's land area in serious need of sprucing up.

I walked over and spoke to the young women while they worked. They were all UNCG students from a Service Learning class titled "Communication and Community" taught by Dr. Spoma Jovanovic. Trail blazers, Sabrina Gregory, Jazmyn Williams, Laura Gervais, Suzelle Serra, and Caroline Williams had each taken a portion of the fence to clear, and they were not intimidated at all by the hard work the project required.

I asked Caroline a few questions to gain a better understanding as to why someone would take the class and volunteer for the project. She said the students were each given the opportunity to choose from three community projects and they chose to work at the IRC. She said it was important for her personally to get involved in the community and she enjoyed helping people. She thought it was good to get to know people who cared about change and who would inspire her.

As we talked, other people who were also involved in the project arrived. I had the opportunity to speak with Kathe Latham, part of the initiative Transition Greensboro. Kathe is in charge of the IRC-TG Ed-

ible Community Garden project, and also coordinates the other landscaping, garden and design projects going on around the IRC. She also works closely with IRC guest David Merrit (see photo) who has been involved with the garden from the very beginning and plays a major role in decision-making as well as the work.

She told me the area the volunteers were working on was where the IRC guests liked to sit during the warmer months. To make the area inviting and comfortable they were planning on putting in plants, trees, benches, a patio and maybe a pergola for the guests to use, giving them the opportunity to enjoy the fresh air. Also included in the design was a memorial garden created to remember individuals who had passed away and had at some time in their lives experienced homelessness. The benches have already been made by the project with help from community volunteers, IRC guests and students from Elon, UNCG and Dudley High School.

Dr. Charlie Hedington, who has twenty years of experience in permaculture helped create the overall garden design, and working with him is Shawn Ross, a client of the IRC who is taking classes in design at GTCC.

Thanks to these hard working students, community activists and other volunteers, we all will begin to see beautiful flowers, plants and even vegetables growing in the gardens surrounding the IRC, giving the guests and volunteers many years of enjoyment. And we'll be able to join the IRC guests on the sturdy benches just as David Merrit is doing here. (Photo)

Flowers

By Rita Walson

Flowers I

I can bring you a flower today,
Instead of dry leaves or a ball of snow.
I can show you where I got that flower and where the rest of them grow.
Do you hear the birds singing?
They like the flowers too.
All of the many colors winter covered with snow are now showing through.
I can bring you a flower,
one that's been waiting
for me
to show
You.

Flowers II

There's something pushing,
A force beneath our feet.
A flower, a fern,
A cycle of
Familiar certainty.
Do you feel it
In Your steps,
This force beneath our feet?
The depth of the earth pushing
Upward.
The winter hurt
Diminishing.



Rita Wilson



**Attend Greensboro's Homeless Day,
Sunday May 26 Center City Park
1-5 Volunteer 255-6826**

**Fund Raiser for The Greensboro Voice,
Sunday May 5
Check website for details:
www.greensborovoice.org**

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Please send checks payable to "The Greensboro Voice" to our new address:
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1852 Banking Street #9252
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Stephanie Thomas is the Art Editor for the Greensboro Voice.

From the Editor:

April is poetry month and we are printing many poems from Molly Haile's poetry class that meets on Wednesdays at the Interactive Resource Center. All poets are welcomed to join. In honor of poetry month, I would like to share this poem, "Kindness" by Naomi Shihab Nye. This poem is one of my favorites because it offers an important way of looking at and dealing with those in the world around us, including those we may not fully understand. Each of us has the capacity for kindness and can find some way of enacting small acts of generosity towards others. Nye suggests that those of us who have suffered some grief or sorrow are best prepared to extend kindness and to carry it with us as we journey throughout our lives.

Elizabeth Chiseri Strater, Editor

Kindness

Before you know what kindness really is
you must lose things,
feel the future dissolve in a moment
like salt in a weakened broth.
What you held in your hand,
what you counted and carefully saved,
all this must go so you know
how desolate the landscape can be
between the regions of kindness.
How you ride and ride
thinking the bus will never stop,
the passengers eating maize and chicken
will stare out the window forever.

Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness,
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho
lies dead by the side of the road.
You must see how this could be you,
how he too was someone
who journeyed through the night with plans
and the simple breath that kept him alive.

Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.
You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice
catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.

Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,
only kindness that ties your shoes
and sends you out into the day to mail letters and purchase bread,
only kindness that raises its head
from the crowd of the world to say
it is I you have been looking for,
and then goes with you everywhere
like a shadow or a friend.

~ Naomi Shihab Nye ~
(Words From Under the Words: Selected Poems)

Whitt's Up With Social Security?

By Melissa Whitt



I have spent the majority of my twenty-five year career as a paralegal in the area of Social Security and while I don't claim to have all the answers, I do have extensive knowledge on how to navigate the red tape that is the Social Security Administration.

First, let me assure you, the process is lengthy and frustrating, but not impossible to maneuver. Through the years I have noticed that the biggest obstacles claimants face in obtaining benefits are impatience and misunderstanding as to how claims are processed. Many think it's a simple matter of submitting medical records and a doctor's statement stating they are unable to work and their claims will be paid. Another misunderstanding is to think they are more disabled than someone else they know. Both assumptions are MYTHS. When you enter the Social Security Administration as a claimant for disability, you are a number going through the system, equally disabled as those around you.

Through a series of questions and answers, I hope to offer insight about what Social Security is and how claims are processed so the mystery will be revealed and claimants can have more realistic expectations.

What is the difference between Social Security Disability and Supplement Security Income (SSI)?

Social Security Disability benefits are based on your earnings record, meaning as you work and pay into the system, you are considered "insured." But here is where it gets tricky and where many people are misinformed. Just because you have worked and paid into the system doesn't mean you will always be insured. It's like a car insurance policy: as long as you pay the premiums, you remain insured and as you continue to pay, your coverage continues into the future. But if you stop paying your premiums, the coverage stops and you then become uninsured.

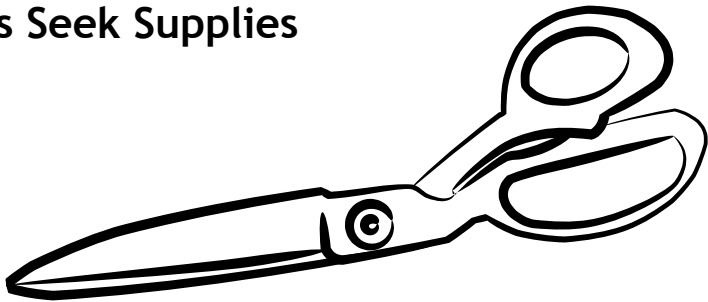
The same holds true for Social Security benefits. As long as you are paying into the system, your insured status moves into the future. It's when you stop working and paying into the system that the date stops

and after a period of time, usually five years of not working, you will be considered uninsured for disability. For this benefit, you simply have to prove that you have enough qualifying work credits and that you meet or exceed a federal medical listing for disability to receive benefits. Once approved for disability benefits, you will automatically be approved for Medicare insurance.

Supplemental Security Income benefits are for the folks who have not worked and paid into the system or, for whatever reason, cannot rely on their own earnings record for disability benefits. Typically this is for housewives who have stayed home and raised children or for those who have worked under the table for many years or who are no longer considered "insured" for disability benefits. Unlike regular Social Security Disability benefits, this program requires that you meet the same federal medical listings for disability, but it also requires you to meet certain "non-medical" requirements to be eligible to draw the benefits. The non-medical requirements pertain to assets: an individual found to be disabled and entitled to SSI benefits cannot have more than \$2000 worth of assets and a couple can't have more than \$3000. By "assets," I mean anything that can be liquidated to cash or anything that has been deemed a "loan" from another person. For example, if a claimant is granted Supplemental Security Income benefits, the Social Security Administration will consider not only the money the person has but also the generosity of those who have helped the claimant sustain their survival while going through the disability process. One thing to remember with Supplemental Security Income is that the monthly benefit of \$710 is regulated by SSA and any income that comes into the household outside the allowable amount will be deducted from the monthly check. A claimant will receive Medicaid benefits with an SSI award of disability.

I will be addressing legal questions in subsequent issues of the Greensboro Voice, but would love to hear from our readers. If you have any questions, please send an email to www.greensborovoices.org and I will address them in future issues.

Artists Seek Supplies



Thank you for your past donations to the IRC Art Program. IRC artists are planning more shows and sales and to enable them to continue their work, we could use the following items:

- Rollerball Pens, black
 - 0.9 Mechanical Pencils
 - Pencils
 - Micro-pens-Black
 - Colored pencils
 - Erasers: Various kinds
 - Crayons
 - Markers, Permanent, all colors
 - Markers, Non-Permanent, all colors
 - Double face tape (not Dollar store)
 - Masking tape-narrow
- Glue-E-6000
 - Artists paint brushes, small sizes
 - Oil Pastels
 - Small pencil sharpeners
 - Small hammer
 - Sissors-5”
 - Shrink Wrap
 - Clear acrylic spray
 - Beads, pliers, wire
 - Yarn-assorted colors and amounts
- Paints: Acrylic, primary colors and black and white, watercolors, oils

Drop off items at the Interactive Resource Center, 407 East Washington Street at the office of the Volunteer Coordinator, Tiffany Dumas. For pickups from your home or school or questions about supplies, call Carolyn Owen at 643-6428. Come and see the art work on the walls at the IRC or stroll the Art Walk.

Mission Statement

Our newspaper aims to serve as a vehicle for elevating voices and public discussion on issues that are not frequently covered in mainstream media outlets. These issues include homelessness, facing potential homelessness and the resources available to help those in need. This newspaper is for everyone: people experiencing homelessness, students, parents and anyone else who wants to have his or her voice heard. We hope the awareness gained from our newspaper will encourage the community to have a discussion about issues and people who are normally ignored.

Join Our Team

Members of Greensboro’s community who want to end poverty and homelessness publish The Greensboro Voice. We welcome you to our team! Meetings are held at the Interactive Resource Center on Fridays from 1:00–3:00 p.m. The Interactive Resource Center is located at 407 E. Washington Street. Everyone is welcome at our meetings!

This edition was produced by:

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Melissa Whitt, Reporter

Jermaine Zigler, Reporter

Tree of Life

By Malea G. Lail

The tree ever growing boughs shading the life below
The tree ever standing even against the strongest winds
The tree ever holding the scattering of lives in and on its limbs
The tree ever reaching for the clouds dancing by its green leaves
The tree ever breathing its wonderful breath of life into the atmosphere
The tree ever supporting the lives of many, like you and me

If Only

By Kristen Schumacher

If only I’d known what I was shown,
Then I wouldn’t have to be in this cold upchurning sea,
To be tossed about to the point that I shout,
“Just leave me be; I want to be free.”

If only I’d known what it was that was thrown,
I wouldn’t be here ripping away my mind,
Nor would I be living in a cell
With a person so insane, that life is not the same.

If only I’d known then what I know now,
I would be able to stand up for myself
And not be a scared thing hidden on a shelf.
Nor would folks walk over me.
My mind would be calm and my heart at ease.

Hope

By Forrist Willis

The hope and prayers in a young girl’s eyes
The hope and dreams in a young man’s heart
The hope of life for a new mom’s child
The hope of connection for a father and son
The hope of beginning for a husband and wife
The hope of discovering for a scientist’s mind
The hope of growth for the budding plant
The hope for Love for all of you

Hands

By Melea G. Lail

Stirring, stirring stirring, the handle went round the bowl.
The cornmeal, the milk (ice cold) the eggs, and the melted butter
all stirred together with the wooden spoon.
Old hands and young hands working together, to make it smooth and combined.
The iron skillet hot from the oven, ready to receive the bounty of the mixture.
More melted butter to help the crust get to that perfect brown.
Old hands and young hands working together to put the skillet in the wooden stove.
Old hands picking up the young one off the little step stool she was standing on
to help the old hands cook for the first time.

Smile in Your Sleep (a poem on homelessness)

By Derek Dunham

The city sleeps
As rats run by
fighting for crumbs
(a lot like us)
and I start to wonder
but I no longer ask why.
It's impossible to think
(or to accept)
with billions spent on wars
and tours
of the nicer sides of towns.

There's plenty of food;
for those that can afford it
There are plenty of houses;
even as more are emptied each day
There are plenty of clothes
hanging neatly in closets
of those who forget about us.
(or pretend we don't exist)

My pockets are empty
but my spirits are high
I may not have a job
(or an address)
But I've got skills
and an iron will.
The strength it would take
to make these things right
is less than it takes
to fall asleep with a smile on my face
each night.

Love Lost

By Tony Hodges

Kool-aid, No sugar
Cereal, No Milk
Bread, No Ham
"Can't spell them without me,
It's either them or me."
Demanding as if a commander and chief
Dictating Hitler
Rebellious and over the hills
Two splitting atoms
More like nuclear bombs
Or an erupted volcano
Sunshine comes after the rain
Sweet as sugar
Bond, a force-field and unstoppable
Friend, Girlfriend, Boyfriend,
All end with the word *end*

(Inspired by the movie Friday and Lil' Wayne's
"Looking for Someone to Love Me")

Creating a Brighter Future

By Jessica Bennett and Joe Smith



Artifacts Group Meeting: 3/8/2013 (Members from the left going clockwise are: Channelle James, Samuel Kwaeteng, Carol Owens, Fred Gant, Matthew Goldberg, and Don Ames.)

The Interactive Resource Center's (IRC) art group is a creative coalition of artists. Its purpose is to help group members connect and gain artistic development and entrepreneurial skills. It intends to foster an environment that facilitates the making and selling of art. The group is also a cooperative, which means it is an autonomous art organization that is jointly-owned and democratically controlled by its members. The art group meets weekly on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. in the IRC.

The name of the group is "Artifacts" and they are developing a set of standards to be considered when someone wants to join their artist cooperative. These rules include things like how many people are

required to vote on issues, how many meetings a member should attend and who can participate in the art shows.

Mathew Goldberg, a student at Elon University and co-leader of the group, asked each artist in the group to discuss what thing they are looking forward to in the coming week. He also asked them to write a brief artist statement that describes who they are and a little bit about their art. This statement will be displayed next to their art to help the public get to know the artist.

The IRC and the Greensboro Central Library offer two safe places for the artists to create and showcase their work. Some of the artists also work at their camps. The group works in many mediums including

visual arts. Many of the art group's pieces are being hung on the walls of the IRC.

When the artists sell their work 90 percent of the sale goes to the artist and 10 percent goes into a collective fund where all the artists can choose what to do with the money. The group has discussed using the money for new supplies. Some artists get orders or commissions to buy their art.

If you are interested in art for your home or office, consider coming to one of the group's shows or go to the IRC and check out their works on display. The prices are affordable and the work is original and exciting. Sales from the works will help an artist continue to create a brighter future for them and for you.



The Interactive Resource Center assists people who are homeless, recently homeless or facing homelessness reconnect with their own lives and with the community at large.



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gsodaycenter.org (336)332-0824

Mental Illness. How do We Respond?

By Barry Strulson, Reporter

The National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) of Guilford County is THE advocacy organization for those suffering from mental illness and for their families. The mission of NAMI Guilford is: To promote recovery and optimize the quality of life of those living with mental illness by providing education, advocacy, and support for these individuals, their families, and others living in Guilford County.

NAMI Guilford exists to promote the idea of recovery. An illness may exist but symptoms can lessen, become more manageable, and a meaningful life can become available for all with mental illnesses. We also aim to assist families in maintaining a recovery environment as they interact with their family members who have a mental illness (biological brain disorder) diagnosis.

We have all become more aware of the problems our society is facing, both nationally and locally, from the effects of mental illness. We have seen several recent shooting tragedies and are aware of many local incidents, the latest being the tragic shooting of Tommy Campbell, Jr. The saber-rattling coming from our elected representatives is about gun control and, to a lesser degree, mental health awareness. What can we, as a progressive society, do to effect the changes that are needed to create an atmosphere of caring and healing that those who are living with mental illnesses must have in order to thrive?

When I was in the 4th grade, the school nurse and the Department of Health came to our school and gave us a new vaccine. This was to prevent a terrible disease that had crippled thousands in our country. I remember this because we were given “shots” by a new device powered by air pressure. The vaccine was to prevent polio, and throughout the years since, this debilitating disease has been virtually eradicated in the Western world. The same can be said for many other diseases that have been either eliminated or reduced in scale. I am sorry to report that there is no vaccine for any mental illness. There are no “magic bullets” to cure these diseases either.

I remember my mother telling me about her father, who had diabetes. He was able to control this disease with the use of a new drug, insulin. Today I too have diabetes and am fortunate enough to control it through medications, including insulin, and the prognosis is much better than in my grandfather's day. Medical research is continually amazing us with new breakthroughs in controlling or even eliminating many illnesses

that plague us. AIDS and HIV infections were once a death sentence. Now people with this disease can lead longer, more productive lives. These advances have become reality because we, the American people, have demanded that research and development of new and effective medicines be pursued with both public and private funds. The American public rose to these occasions with the zeal for which we are famous.

The time has now come for us all to step up to the plate and deliver for those seeking help in controlling mental illness. No one chooses to be mentally ill; no one wishes this debilitating disease to affect anyone. We must eliminate the stigma that surrounds the very words “mental illness.” It is not contagious, it is usually invisible, and it strikes many people in the prime of their lives. NAMI Guilford is a grassroots organization, run by and for people caring for a loved one with a mental illness. We provide several programs to assist families coping with mental illness. We also provide training for our law enforcement agencies to facilitate their interactions with mentally ill people, like Tommy Campbell, Jr., and others who may pose a threat to themselves and others. Our flagship program is Family-to-Family, which gives the education and tools to family members dealing with a relative suffering from a mental disorder. This enables them to lead more “normal” lives and helps them to better understand and care for their loved one by giving them the resources that enable them to be more effective care-givers. Other programs include NAMI Basics, which helps families who have children and adolescents cope with the trauma that accompanies the onset of mental illness. We sponsor support groups for families and individuals. There is no charge for any of these NAMI Guilford programs. The funding comes from membership dues and the largesse of many NAMI Guilford supporters.

I implore you all to become more familiar with all the agencies and resources available to help those in our communities with mental disorders. NAMI Guilford has monthly educational meetings designed to inform and educate the public about the many issues faced by society in dealing with mentally ill people. Please call our help line, 336-370-4264, to take advantage of this valuable community resource and to receive information about mental illness. You can also visit our website (www.namiguilford.org).

Spring into Action and Volunteer

By Rita Walson, staff writer

Have you ever felt that feeling of joy when you give someone something they've need for such a long time, and the smile on their face confirms that your gift will change their life? Have you bonded with a stranger, someone you never imagined you'd connect with until you engaged in a personal conversation? It's simple acts of kindness, giving your time, your presence, words of advice or just an ear to listen, that can make all the difference in someone else's life, especially your own.

Volunteering combines two separate worlds, creating an intimate and inspirational environment for both the giver and the receiver. “Volunteer” is a word filled with so much positivity, so why don't we do it more often?

Yes, I, the girl who loves to see a smile on others' faces, I'm guilty of the familiar excuse, “I can't find time to help.” So as I try to relax, catching up on late assignments over my spring break, I ask myself, “Why don't I volunteer more often?” During my fall and spring break of my junior year I went to Georgia and Washington D.C. to volunteer on an Alternative Spring Break trip. The ASB group prepared and served food in soup kitchens, passed out clothing in local churches, and played board games with the elderly in organizations like the Interactive Resource Center. This experience required so little of me, but I can surely say that it changed my perspective of volunteering.

I remember walking down the cold streets of downtown Atlanta, seeing people of all ages, genders, and ethnicity, huddled up in sleeping bags on the steps of abandoned buildings and church stoops. “Homelessness doesn't discriminate,” is one of the phrases I remember a young, intelligent black woman telling my ASB group as she shared her testimony of how she became homeless. She has a master's degree, got a few jobs as a pharmacist, but she still walked down the path to homelessness.

Hearing her story and being able to help the people I met in Atlanta and D.C. gave me a rush of hope. We stood on street corners selling newspapers like *The Greensboro Voice* for homelessness awareness. The ASB group even had the opportunity to have a brief talk with our North Carolina representative Brad Miller about the importance of providing resources for the hungry and homeless.

This week experience gave me motivation and a new outlook on helping others. However, all of these impulses to do something better dwindled as I got back to my school and my job. The mundane routine of trying to graduate while working to pay for my living expenses took my attention away from that great experience.

So, I come back to my pervious question: Why don't more of us volunteer? I did some research and asked my peers and family members why they don't get involved. The common response in the data I retrieved was, “I don't have time.”

From personal experience, I realize as a college student most of us volunteer for requirements or to build a better resume. I had a quick conversation with another staff member of the IRC and she brought to my attention that maybe some people don't feel comfortable talking with others they don't know, or perhaps they don't know where to volunteer.

Keeping all of these thoughts and statements in mind, I've come up with a list of things to consider when volunteering. I hope to give some encouragement to others who have never volunteered and those like me who can't seem to find the time:

Understand that volunteering isn't only about the deed, it's about the interaction between you and the recipient.

Remember that you can learn a lot from those you're giving service to, especially those who've walked a different path in life than your own.

Know that sometimes you only have to listen. Sometimes you don't need to say a word, listening can have as much of an impact.

Try and get your friends involved. This can help your friendships grow as you share experiences with volunteering.

Realize that volunteering can give you a better connection to your community by creating a positive bond in society.

6.) Rejuvenate yourself when you feel exhausted. Focusing on someone else in need is an inspirational experience and opportunity.

If you ever feel like one person can't change the world, remember that it's the little things that make a difference. Whenever I feel like my small actions won't affect anyone I remember how a smile from a stranger can change my mood, or how someone holding the door open can remind me of the generosity in the world.

No action is too small to change a life. Let this spring be the epitome of hope.

Los Sin Casa - Latino homelessness

By Joe Smith - staff reporter

Statistics show in the last 13 years the Greensboro Latino population expanded dramatically. In 2012 there were approximately 22,000 Latinos in the city of Greensboro (Greensboro, Quick Facts).

Faith Action House International (FAI) is the primary resource for Latinos in Greensboro. FAI serves and walks with thousands of the newest immigrant neighbors while educating and connecting Greensboro's diverse community across lines of culture and faith. Executive Director, Rev. David Fraccaro, said they serve over 1000 clients each year, and about 70% of them are Latino. FAI acts as a funnel to build relationships with shelters. The shelters will accept a client if they are assigned a case number. FAI does the screening. If a shelter associated with FAI has a space, they will take them in.

Important note: No one individual can speak for an entire culture. In this article the term Latino is meant to focus on primarily poor undocumented immigrants from Mexican and Central American.

The following is from an interview with Endy Mendez, a young married Latina with a little girl, living in Greensboro NC. She was raised near Mexico City, Mexico and came to the US when she was 12 (about 13 years ago). There weren't many Latinos in Endy's school when she came here. She met only one other Latino girl and they quickly became friends.

Endy's family chose to come to Greensboro because they knew the people were warm, welcoming, and kind.

But she said as she drives around Greensboro she doesn't see many - if any Latino homeless persons.

There are many different reasons why there are very few Latino homeless on the streets: One of the reasons shared by Endy connects with Latino Culture

Most Latino's come to North Carolina from the agricultural area of Southern Mexico. Some of the poorest Mexicans live there. They believe your home is where your heart is. A lot of them don't have an actual home. Their living quarters are built from mud or whatever else they can find.

They believe that even if they live under a bridge you should make it your own home.

Her grandmother is from Guanajuato Mexico. She taught Endy that no matter how long you stay in a place, for one day, or your whole life, you make sure people know you were there. Make sure that even if it is made of mud that it is the clean-

est nicest place you would ever find. They cover the outside of their mud homes with a red material to make it pretty and surround it with plants.

In the US having a home, a car, and a stable job is expected. Many Mexicans are not used to having those things. They are of the mindset that if you were born poor you are going to stay poor. For them to have a trailer or an apartment is a HUGE accomplishment. Even a four foot by four foot space is the greatest thing they have ever known. Most Latino's who have fled to America never had much.

Endy also shared that Latinos exhaust every resource they can find rather than become homeless. The only way a Mexican becomes homeless is if they were really extremely hard to get along with (incorrigible).

Some Latino's who come here currently live under terrible circumstances. Their apartments have roaches; there is no heating, and no air conditioning.

Mexicans are used to not having heating or cooling. In the US there are companies that could sue the landlord due to these conditions. In Mexico that doesn't happen. The Mexicans put up with very difficult circumstances because that is the way it was where they came from.

Endy has not personally met a single Latino in Greensboro that is homeless. When FAI hears of a person who is about to become homeless they find the person resources and avoid that situation.

The main thing that would make them homeless is they can't pay their rent. Most of them reach out to churches, and friends. A lot of Latino's who have lived here for a number of years have a lot of family. Once a family gets established their goal is to bring the rest of the family here.

She says we dress nice even if we go to Goodwill and other second hand stores. You can find good brands and no one in our community cares where you bought your clothes..

Family and Community

Latino's have a saying, "Where you can fit two you can fit three. Where you can fit three, you can fit four".

I asked her if her family would bring in another Latino who wasn't part of their family. She said it is hard for people to take care of a complete stranger.

Specifically with people from Honduras, Guatemala, and Salvador, because

they go through hell when they cross three borders, it is tough to get here. They have to cross their own border, Mexico's border, and the US's border. They flee because their countries are under horrible violence.

The Honduran, Guatemalan, and Salvadorian's have even tighter family ties than the Mexicans. This may be because the Mexicans have been in the US longer than them.

The Latino families know what a struggle it was to get here, so if they see someone struggling they understand their pain and do their best to help them, even if they are not family.

They always try to help each other. She knows of people who have an apartment that is meant for three having up to fifteen people living there.

Mexico's is a lot bigger than Guatemala. Endy said that, "A lot of us come and it is really hard NOT to find people who are not related to one another. A lot of people marry people from other families so your family just keeps getting bigger."

Endy herself hardly has any of biological family left here. Her Dad and Mom went back to Mexico. Her husband and his parents are from Mexico City. He has a very large family in Greensboro and they help each other out. The seventy to eighty people who live in her trailer park are all related.

There are no known Latino homeless camps because there are so few homeless Latinos. The first thing a Latino does when he gets to Greensboro is to try and find family or friends, and then they go to the church.

Church

Another reason Latino's flee to America is because of freedom of religion here. Greensboro churches help Latino's feel safe. They feel Greensboro has compassion for them.

Latinos coming to America go through the desert, never alone; they always come with someone. Latino's have special things they say while walking, and driving to get to the borders, related to the Virgin Mary. They say prayers for the driver, prayers for the people who are going to cross, prayers for the moms, etc.

You just have to have those prayers, "I was brought here when I was 12, I still remember the difficult journey and honestly I don't know how we made it. I came with my brother, my mom and an uncle. My Dad came here 4 years before us."



Endy Mendez

She said there is an old Latino saying, "We plan, and God decides."

The predominate Latino church is Catholic. If you don't have faith you are not going to be able to make it crossing the border(s) to get to America. That's the thing that keeps you going when you leave your loved ones.

She referred me to Greensboro's Saint Mary's Church. The priest there (Father Jack) has a great compassion for Latinos and helps them with their issues. Father Jack agrees there are few if any Latino homeless persons in Greensboro.

Jobs

Endy is a volunteer at Faith International House (FAI) on North Green. She also works in a Mexican Store and at a local restaurant.

She said there aren't a lot of Latino's here so there isn't a lot of other completion for us (like there would be in Los Angeles, CA).

Eighty percent of the Mexicans who come to the US are running away from violence; and they don't have a job. NAFTA killed a lot of Mexican agricultural jobs so they are fleeing here to look for a job. It is very difficult to get a VISA and they are in a desperate situation.

I asked if was harder or easier as a Latino (compared to others) to get a job? She said



La carencia de vivienda en la comunidad latina

Por Joe Smith - reportero

Las estadísticas del censo muestran que en los pasados 13 años, la población Latina creció dramáticamente en Greensboro. En el 2012 había aproximadamente 22,000 Latinos en esta ciudad.

La fuente principal de recursos para los latinos en Greensboro es la entidad *Faith Action House International* (FAI). FAI sirve a miles de inmigrantes recién llegados, mientras los educa y conecta con la comunidad diversa de Greensboro, a través de la cultura y la fe. El Reverendo David Fracaro, quien también es el director ejecutivo de esta identidad nos informó que ellos ofrecen sus servicios a más de 1,000 clientes por año y que el 70% de estos son latinos. FAI funciona como embudo para desarrollar relaciones con los refugiados. Cuando FAI se entera que una persona está a punto de perder su hogar, ellos buscan los recursos necesarios para evitar que esto suceda. Estos refugiados aceptan a los clientes siempre y cuando estos tengan un número de caso asignado. FAI hace la revisión del caso y si un refugio asociado a ellos tiene un espacio disponible entonces las personas son aceptadas en el mismo.

Nota importante: Ningún individuo puede hablar en nombre de toda una cultura. Latino en este artículo se refiere al enfoque principal de inmigrantes indigentes e indocumentados, que vienen desde México y Centroamérica.

La siguiente es una entrevista con Endy Mendez, quien vive en Greensboro, NC. Endy es una joven latina, casada, además tiene una niña pequeña. Esta joven fue criada cerca de la Ciudad de México, y vino a los Estados Unidos cuando tenía 12 de edad (aproximadamente 13 años atrás). Para ese tiempo no había muchos latinos en la escuela que Endy asistía; y solo llegó a conocer a una niña, la cual se convirtió en su amiga inmediatamente. Su familia decidió mudarse a Greensboro porque sabían que la gente de esta ciudad era afectiva, acogedora y amable.

Endy también nos dijo que cuando conduce por Greensboro no ve numerosos latinos indigentes, posiblemente ninguno.

Hay muchas razones diferentes del por qué hay muy pocas personas latinas sin hogares en las calles: Una de las razones que comparte Endy y que también conecta con la cultura latina

La mayoría de los latinos que llegan a Carolina del Norte vienen de la zona agrícola del sur de México, donde viven algunos de los mexicanos más pobres. Estas personas piensan que el hogar está donde

está el corazón. Muchos de ellos no tienen una casa real, sus viviendas están construidas de barro o de cualquier otra cosa que puedan encontrar. Es por esta razón que ellos creen que aún viviendo debajo de un puente, se debe hacer de éste tu hogar. A estas casas le cubren el exterior con un material rojo, las rodean de plantas para hacerlas lucir bonitas.

La abuela de Endy es de Guanajuato, México. Ella le enseñó que no importa cuánto tiempo te quedes en un lugar, por un día, o por el resto de tu vida, te debes asegurar que tu presencia se dé a notar y que aunque la casa sea de barro, esta debe ser el lugar más limpio y bonito que jamás hayas encontrado. Endy y su familia están felices con su casa rodante sin importarle que su ingreso se encuentre en la línea de la pobreza. Ellos se sienten ricos y les emociona que puedan vivir de pagos y que puedan obtener crédito para comprar carros, etc.

En los Estados Unidos es de esperarse que las personas tengan una casa, un carro y un trabajo estable, pero muchos mexicanos no están acostumbrados a tener estas cosas materiales. Según Endy, ellos tienen la mentalidad de que si naciste pobre vas a permanecer pobre. Para ellos tener un apartamento o una casa remolque es un logro enorme. Muchos de los latinos que han venido a América nunca han tenido mucho en sus vidas; y aunque tuviesen un espacio de cuatro pies por cuatro, para ellos esto es lo mejor han podido tener.

Endy también nos comentó que los latinos agotan todos los recursos que puedan encontrar antes de perder su hogar y verse en las calles.

Muchos de los latinos que vienen aquí, actualmente viven en circunstancias terribles. Sus apartamentos no tienen calefacción ni aire acondicionado, además de tener cucarachas. Muchos mexicanos ya están acostumbrados a no tener estos servicios.

A diferencia, en los Estados Unidos hay empresas que podrían demandar a los propietarios si sus residentes viven bajo estas circunstancias. En México esto no sucede; los mexicanos toleran estas condiciones tan difíciles porque han vivido así anteriormente en su país de origen.

No se conocen en Greensboro campamentos para latinos sin hogares porque de estos hay muy pocos. Personalmente Endy aún no ha conocido a ningún latino que esté sin hogar en este país. La razón principal por la cual ellos podrían perder su hogar es si no pueden pagar el alquiler. Cuando esto sucede, ellos recurren a ayudas de las iglesias y también de sus amista-

des. Muchos de los latinos que han vivido aquí por muchos años tienen muchos familiares, ya que cuando una familia se establece en un lugar, su meta principal es traer consigo al resto de su familia.

Ella también nos dice que a los latinos les gusta vestir bien aunque tengan que ir al *Goodwill* u otras tiendas de ropa de segunda mano. Porque en éstas pueden encontrar buenas marcas, además de que nadie en su comunidad le da importancia al lugar en donde se compró la misma.

La familia y la comunidad

Las familias latinas saben lo difícil que es para poder llegar hasta este lugar y en específico las personas de Honduras, Guatemala y el Salvador, debido a que estos tienen que pasar muchas adversidades cuando cruzan las tres fronteras. Es muy difícil poder llegar a aquí; estas personas tienen que cruzar la frontera de su país, la frontera de México y la frontera de los Estados Unidos. Ellos han huido porque sus países están bajo espantosas condiciones de violencia.

Cuando un latino ve a alguien en situaciones difíciles ellos entienden el dolor que están pasando y hacen todo lo posible para poder ayudarlos, aún si estos no forman parte de sus familias. Ellos siempre se tratan de ayudarse los unos a los otros. Endy sabe de personas que tienen un apartamento (para tres) quince personas viviendo en él.

Los latinos tienen un dicho que dice: "donde caben dos caben tres, y donde caben tres caben cuatro".

Le preguntamos a Endy si su familia le brindaría su hogar a otro latino que no fuese parte de su familia y nos contestó que es muy difícil hacerse cargo de un completo desconocido.

En comparación México es mucho más grande que Guatemala, nos dijo Endy: "muchos de nosotros venimos y es muy difícil que no encontremos a personas que no están relacionadas entre sí. Lo primero que hace un latino cuando llega a Greensboro es tratar de buscar y encontrar a algún familiar o amigo y luego ir a la iglesia.

Muchas de estas personas se casan con otras familias haciendo que estas sigan creciendo aún más.

Los hondureños, los guatemaltecos y los salvadoreños tienen lazos más fuertes con sus familias que los mexicanos. Esto puede ser porque los mexicanos han estado en los Estados Unidos por mucho más tiempo que ellos.

Continúa en la página 9

it depends. Remember what we have in America is better than where I came from.

Usually the head of the household comes to the US first. My husband came years ago and he used to work for a local restaurant as a dishwasher. They paid him in cash. The thing is he was paid \$3 an hour. That wasn't even minimum wage back then. We didn't know any better so we took the money.

But someone who lives here and knows his rights wouldn't take that job. Some employers will take advantage of the Latinos. She told me she knows there are many good managers - but there are still those who will take advantage.

Her husband lived in a 3 person apartment with 12 others when he got the \$3 an hour so he was stuck in those conditions. He was able to save enough to eventually jump into to a better situation. She says a lot of non-Latinos who may be dying of hunger are not willing to take a job that only pays \$4 an hour.

Some Latino's now know better about labor laws but because of their situation they have to remain quiet and stay in the shadows.

Things are changing little by little and there are good people out there that are willing to help and make it fair.

Continued on page 8

Los Sin Casa

Continued from page 6

Her family is very happy with their trailer. Their income is on the poverty line but they feel rich. They live on payments and can get a loan for a car, etc. She told me it feels exciting, and it is easy to get credit.

She knows the saying, "Work smarter not harder" but adds that she and her husband do it the other way, working 7 days a week and up to 12 hours a day to provide for the family.

One thing Endy would want Greensboro to consider:

Hopefully people who are well off will think more about society as a whole. Instead of always putting extra dollars in their pocket they should realize they are taking advantage of not only one society but also their own people. Being greedy takes advantage of others who also have families to feed. There is a more middle ground approach where everyone can prosper.

When you make a business you need to make a profit. Think beyond the profit. What are you bringing to your people, your community? One good local example is the group "Action Greensboro" (see actiongreensboro.org). They are putting their hearts, efforts and spirit into Greensboro's community.

Appreciate what you have instead of always wanting more. TV tells you to not be happy until you have the latest I-Phone, your nails done, etc. Even some music tells you money should fall from the sky (Rain Money by Lady Jay). Meanwhile there may be people dying on the street where you live.

It's okay to have high expectations and look for something better but at the same time, think about your community.

La carencia de vivienda

Viene de la página 9

Endy no tiene muchos familiares biológicos viviendo en Greensboro. Sus padres volvieron a México. Al igual que ella, su esposo y suegros son de Ciudad de México. Su esposo tiene una familia numerosa en Greensboro y ellos se ayudan entre sí. En el parque de casas rodantes donde vive Endy unas setenta u ochenta personas son parientes.

La Iglesia

Otra razón por la cual los latinos vienen a los Estados Unidos es debido a la libertad de religión que hay aquí. La iglesia predominante de muchos latinos es la católica. Las iglesias de Greensboro ayudan a los latinos a sentirse seguros y que también se compadecen de ellos.

Cuando los latinos vienen a los Estados Unidos, estos tienen que pasar por el desierto. Este camino siempre lo emprenden acompañados nunca vienen solos. Ellos dicen oraciones relacionadas a la Virgen María mientras caminan y manejan hacia la frontera. Dicen plegarias para el conductor, para las personas que también van a cruzar, para sus madres, etc.

Endy también nos dijo: "cuando llegue aquí, tenía doce años, y aún recuerdo lo difícil que fue el trayecto y honestamente no sé como lo logramos. Vine con mi hermano, mi madre y mi tío, mi papá se había venido cuatro años antes que nosotros.

Otro dicho de la comunidad latina es: "uno propone y Dios dispone".

Para Endy la fe es muy importante, si no se tiene fe es imposible cruzar la frontera para poder llegar a los Estados Unidos. Según ella es lo único que te mantiene en pie cuando dejas a tus seres queridos.

Además nos habló de la Iglesia Santa María de Greensboro, donde el Padre Jack siente una gran compasión por los latinos y les ayuda con sus problemas. El sacerdo-

te Jack concuerda con que hay muy pocos latinos indigentes en Greensboro.

Los puestos de trabajo

Endy conoce el dicho "trabaja con más inteligencia, no más duramente"; pero añade que ella y su esposo hacen lo contrario. Ésta trabaja como voluntaria en *Faith International House* (FAI) que está localizado en la calle *North Green*. Ambos trabajan siete días a la semana y hasta doce horas por día para poder proveer para su familia.

Ésta también trabaja en una tienda mexicana y en un restaurante local. También nos dijo que aquí no hay muchos latinos y por esta razón no tienen mucha competencia en sus negocios (como sería en Los Ángeles California).

El ochenta por ciento de mexicanos que viene a los Estados Unidos está huyendo de la violencia y de la falta de trabajo. *El Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte* (NAFTA, por sus siglas en inglés) eliminó muchos de los trabajos agrícolas mexicanos y debido a esto han huido a este lugar en busca de una vida mejor. Conseguir una visa es un proceso muy difícil. Hallándose éstos en una situación desesperante.

Una de las preguntas que le hicimos a Endy fue si a los latinos se les hacía más fácil o más difícil (en comparación con otros) conseguir trabajo y ella nos contestó que todo dependía. "Todo lo que hay en Estados Unidos es mucho mejor del lugar de dónde venimos".

Cuando deciden abandonar su país usualmente el jefe de familia viene a los Estados Unidos primero. "Mi esposo vino años atrás y solía trabajar en un restaurante local como lavaplatos. Solían pagarle en efectivo \$3 dólares la hora. Esa cantidad tan siquiera era el salario mínimo en aquel

tiempo. No sabíamos lo que hacíamos y decidimos aceptar esa paga".

Para alguien que vive aquí y que conoce sus derechos no hubiese aceptado ese trabajo. Muchos patronos se aprovechan de los latinos. Endy también nos dijo que hay muchos gerentes buenos, pero que todavía existen los que sí toman ventaja de la situación por la que ellos están pasando.

Su esposo llegó a vivir en un apartamento (para tres) con doce personas cuando obtuvo el trabajo que le pagaba a \$3 dólares la hora. Mientras estaba metido en esa situación, pudo ahorrar suficiente dinero pero eventualmente su situación mejoró. Endy también nos comentó que hay muchas personas no latinas que quizás están muriendo de hambre pero que jamás aceptarían un trabajo que solamente les pague \$4 dólares la hora.

Muchos latinos hoy día conocen mejor las leyes laborales pero por su situación de indocumentados tienen que permanecer callados.

Sin embargo, las cosas están cambiando poco a poco y hay personas buenas que están dispuestas a ayudar y a hacer lo que es justo.

Lo que Endy quiere que Greensboro considere:

Para Endy, las personas que están bien económicamente deben pensar más en la sociedad como conjunto. En vez de pensar en el dinero extra que pueden tener, se deben dar cuenta de que no solo se están aprovechando de la sociedad sino también de su propio pueblo. Añade que ser avaricioso es tomar ventajas de otros, que al igual que ellos tienen una familia a la cual dar de comer; agrega que hay un punto medio en el cual todos podemos prosperar.

Por último, nos dijo: "Cuando se tiene un negocio se necesita generar ganancias. Piensa más allá de esas ganancias. Piensa en ¿qué estás aportando a tu gente, a tu comunidad?". Un ejemplo de esto es el grupo *Action Greensboro* (actiongreensboro.org). *Action Greensboro* se dedica en cuerpo y alma a su comunidad.

Endy también quiere que valoricemos lo que ya tenemos. La televisión te dice que no estés feliz hasta que no tengas el I-Phone último modelo, tus uñas arregladas, etc.; también hay música que te dice que el dinero debería caer del cielo (*Rain Money by Lady Jay*) mientras hay personas muriendo en las calles de dónde vives.

Translation by Jessica Bennett



Do you have suggestions for The Greensboro Voice or want to join our newspaper team?

The Greensboro Voice's team welcomes feedback from the community about how we can improve our newspaper. We also always welcome new team members to our group. For more information, visit our website at www.greensborovoice.org or e-mail us at greensborovoice@gmail.com.

UNCG conference discusses community agriculture

By Majik Pennix, Reporter

Poverty and hunger are major social issues faced by North Carolina's residents. Many families are not eligible for food stamp benefits nor are many families financially stable enough to buy food after they pay their monthly housing expenses. People that receive government benefits such as SSI, Social Security, disability or veteran's compensation may not qualify to receive food stamps or the food stamp benefits that are granted are too low an amount (\$10-\$75 a month) to feed even one person.

Around the 1980's, food programs, individual/community gardens, farms, environmental developers and farmers markets decided to grow natural and organic foods themselves. Many people decided that eating healthier (along with exercise) would energize the body and people would live

longer. "Going green" was a new image in living a healthier lifestyle. "Organic" foods soon took a huge step by keeping down the food poisons and pesticides that got into our fruits and vegetables through large commercial farms. The USDA passed certain laws and food restrictions on farmers to decrease many contaminations.

A Food Farming Roundtable Conference was held on Feb. 19 at UNCG. It consisted of vendors, sessions and speakers who discussed the importance of gardening. Vendors from across the state had take-home information available. Many of the session speakers spoke mostly of growing fruits and vegetables. This conference supported the effort of many Greensboro residents to start community and individual gardens as a way of encouraging healthy diets.

From Addiction to Success: Tracy Herbin

God interceded and now, as of February 8, 2009, I am celebrating my fourth year clean and sober. I rose back to life and am still shining. May God be the glory, because if it hadn't been for the Words on my side, tell me: where in the world would I be? All Thanks to Almighty God!



Tracy Before



Tracy Now

Homegoing Service for Mr. Wild I. Rose

By Tracy Herbin

A homeless addict to death, known as Mr. Wild I. Rose departed this life on August 14, 2008 at his home surrounded by loving family. Mr. Rose will not be missed by those who loved him like me. He is survived by one son, Wild I. Rose Jr., wife, Mrs. Wild I Rose, Brothers John Thunderbird and Jimmie MD-Mad Dog 20-20' sister Ms. T.J. Swan; a host of nieces and nephews; special friends, Mr. Rocker feller Crackpipe and Sally Cocaine, and some friends that didn't like him.

Sleep on Mr. Rose. Take your rest.

We hate you, but the devil loves you best.

The Family

Cool Morning

By Forrist Willis

On a cool morning, tall grass and the crickets cricking
And hummingbirds humming-- all I need to hear as I start the day.

As I look down the pond at my little wooden boat
To go fishing and meditate on God's creation--nature gives peace.

God's love is the beauty of nature, and
That I can eat from the ground and the water.

The sun rises over the pond.

Worry

By Forrist Willis

Moving place to place,
Worrying the green light is always on,
Like wanting hot dogs at a hot dog contest,

Moving like a hungry man,
Touching the walls and doors,
The sound of a horn blowing in my mind--

I keep worrying, moving place to place.

Depressed

Melea G. Lail

Gray, rolling clouds coming over a slate-colored ocean,
Neverending.
Tasteless, gritty, bland, pasty, nauseating,
Cold, lifeless, metallic, nothing, useless, rotten,
Stale, musty, dry, dusty, moldy,
Dull, aching, buzz, muted, soundless echoing, tinny,
Words running over one another.

Tears

By Melea G. Lail

The once dancing water . . . now still,
The sparkling clear water . . . now dull,
Once green, lush foliage . . . now listless in the misty grey,
The fauna of the woods . . . seem to be in hiding,
There is no feeling of existence . . . a void has taken over.

Emptiness and sadness only remain . . .
Tears like rain strike the ground.
Loneliness creeps into the setting of the land . . .
Never to be the same again.

THE GREENSBORO VOICE

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

The Greensboro Voice is organizing a Speaker's Bureau where our team members will give presentations about the newspaper to your group. For more information, contact us via e-mail at greensborovoice@gmail.com.

Community Resources

SHELTER

Trailways Housing
407 E. Washington Street
336-332-0824

Christian Counseling and Wellness Center
(Temporary housing & counseling services)
1118 Grecale Street
336-273-8305

Greensboro Urban Ministry Weaver House
(Housing, food and clothing assistance)
305 W. Lee Street
336-553-2665

Greensboro Urban Ministry Pathways Housing
(for families with children)
3517 N. Church Street
336-271-5988

Mary’s House
(for single mothers recovering from substance abuse issues)
520 Guilford Avenue
336-275-0820

Room at the Inn of the Triad
(Temporary housing for homeless, pregnant women)
734 Park Avenue
336-275-0206

Salvation Army Center of Hope
1311 S. Eugene Street
336-273-5572

Act Together Crisis Care
(Youth ages 11-17)
1601 Huffine Mill Road
336-375-1332

Joseph’s House
(Youth ages 18-21)
2703 E. Bessemer Avenue
336-389-9880
Hotline: 336-558-1695

FOOD

Breakfast
7:00 – 8:15 a.m. at Beloved Community Center Hospitality House
437 Arlington Street
336-230-0001
Serves on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

7:30 – 9:00 a.m. at St. Paul Baptist Church
1309 Larkin Street
336-275-4680
Serves on Monday, Wednesday & Friday

8:00 a.m. at Grace United Methodist
438 W. Friendly Avenue
336-272-2171
Serves on Tuesday

Breakfast (continued)
7:00 a.m. at Potter’s House
305 W. Lee Street
336-271-5959
Serves on Wednesday

8:30 a.m. at Nu-Life Church
209 W. Florida Street
336-275-3243
Serves on Saturday

Serves Lunch Every Day
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Potter’s House Community Kitchen
305 W. Lee Street
336-271-5959

Dinner

2:00 Sunday Dinners
Center City Park
Sponsored by Church of the Covenant, The Remnant Seekers, and Ebenezer Baptist Church

5:00 - 6:30p SOUP Unity Christian Center
803 Waugh Street @ E Wendover
336-790-8285
Serves on Wednesday

5:00 p.m. Worship Service & Meal
New Creation Community Presbyterian Church
617 N. Elm Street
336-478-4775
Serves on Sunday

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Greensboro Central Library
407 E. Washington Street
Serves on Monday

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church’s Multin Life Center (arrive by 6:30 p.m.)
617 N. Elm Street
336-373-0445
Serves on Tuesday & Thursday

6:00 p.m. at Grace Community Church
643 W. Lee Street
336-379-1936
Serves on Wednesday

5:30 p.m. at New Birth Sounds of Thunder
2300 S. Elm-Eugene Street
336-324-7902
Serves on Friday

4:30 p.m. at YWCA
1 YWCA Place
Meal served by REAL OutreachServes on Saturday

RESOURCE CENTERS

Family Service of the Piedmont
315 E. Washington Street
336-387-6161

The Servant Center Grocery Assistance Program
1312 Lexington Avenue
336-275-8585

Beloved Community Center
437 Arlington Street
336-370-4330

Joseph’s House Resource Center
2703 E. Bessemer Avenue
336-389-9880
Open Monday, Wednesday & Friday
from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Interactive Resource Center
407 E. Washington Street
336-332-0824
Open Monday through Friday
from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Women’s Resource Center
628 Summit Avenue
336-275-6090

Sherri Denese Jackson Foundation for Domestic Violence Prevention
2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive (Suite C)
336-510-9292

Malachi House II
3603 Burlington Road
336-375-0900

OTHER RESOURCES

HealthServe
1002 S. Eugene Street
336-271-5999

HealthServe
1439 E. Cone Boulevard
336-375-6104

Joblink Career Center
303 N. Raleigh Street
336-373-5922

Word of Life Food Pantry
Call 336-517-7755
Monday-Thursday from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Focused Sistass Outreach
P.O. Box 3941
336-501-6570 or 336-254-4233
Open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Goodwill Industries
1235 S. Eugene Street
336-275-9801

Shiloh Baptist Church
1210 South Eugene Street
336-272-1166
Food Pantry open Monday through Friday
from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Utility assistance may be available

RESOURCE CENTERS (continued)

St. Phillip AME Zion Church
1330 Ashe Street
336-272-1301
Clothing and Food Bank open every Wednesday
from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Prince of Peace Lutheran
1100 Curtis Street
336-378-9738
Farmers Market every other Thursday

St. Paul Missionary Baptist
1309 Larkin Street
336-275-4680
Food bank open on Tuesdays and Thursdays
from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Utility assistance Tuesdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Rabbit Quarter Ministries
2904 Esco Place
High Point, NC 27260
336-307-0119

ACCESS 24 CALL CENTERS

The Guilford Center Information Services
1-800-853-5163

Domestic Violence Line
336-273-7273

NAMI Hotline (Mental Health Services)
336-370-4264

United Way 211
1-888-892-1162

Community service spotlight:

StreetWatch Distributes Needed Items for Living Outside

As part of our larger ministry, StreetWatch provides new and used tents, tarps, sleeping bags and blankets to homeless people who are currently living outside. All of the items are donated, so if we're out of something you need, we'll request it from our donors. Requested items are distributed by our team members as soon as possible (but not usually the same day that you request it.)

Before we give you a tent, we need to verify that you've found a safe, legal place to camp. This is to help ensure that your tent and belongings won't be removed by a property owner.

When you're no longer using your tent, we ask that you pass it along to another unsheltered person or return it to us so that we can re-distribute it.

For more info, visit us at swgso.com.
-Michele Forest

Clothing Bank

Focused Sistas Outreach now has a new clothing bank located at 2400 Brye Court in Greensboro. Our clothing bank is open seven days per week from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You must call to make an appointment and everyone is required to bring one canned food item in exchange for clothing/shoes. Focused Sistas Outreach is a resource, information and referral program that caters to individuals who are needing a GED/diploma, job placement/job training skills and finding temporary/permanent housing for those in need. For contact information about the clothing bank, call Michelle Gordon, clothing administrator, at 336-965-8739.

The Community Writing Center and The Greensboro Voice meet at the Interactive Resource Center on Fridays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. They are available to help with any writing project at any stage of the process—from brainstorming to polishing final drafts. We love to work with writers, so come by and share your work with us!

The Greensboro Voice's staff thanks the Community Writing Center for its support of our newspaper reporters. The writing consultants have been very helpful with brainstorming and editing our articles.

Short takes with Anita: A collection of stories

By Anita Gilmore

Anita Gilmore is a guest at the Interactive Resource Center (IRC). Every month she talks to people experiencing homelessness and collects their stories.

I became homeless due to job loss and bad decisions. I came to the Weaver House to better myself and start a new life with the help of God. While I was in the Weaver House I surrounded myself with positive people who became my friends. I met with Anita Gilmore and Terry Barlow who were my inspirations after learning their stories and watching their walk with Christ. I said, "If they can do it, so can I." Before I became homeless I was working and being a productive member of society. After losing my job I became depressed and downtrodden blaming everybody but myself. Then one bad thing led to another until I found Jesus and realized he was carrying me all along. So I started building my faith and believing in myself. I believed that I could do it. So now I am back to being a productive member of society, working 2 jobs and staying positive with the Glory of God. I thank my friend Ms. Anita and Terry for believing in me.

Ken Barnes

Before I became homeless, I was driving a taxi in Fayetteville, North Carolina but I wasn't doing very well financially. The job market was bad there so I applied for Commercial Driving School in Asheboro, NC and was accepted. I had to earn some money to go to the training so I came to Greensboro looking for a better job market and resources. My first stop was Urban Ministry where I was blessed with a bed at the Weaver House Shelter. I have also blessed at the IRC where I met other people in my position. I am 30 years old and I was very excited to meet people at the IRC that made me feel I had a chance. I am a positive person and I realize I didn't get her by chance: it was a blessing. You see, they come in all kinds of disguises and I would like to call them blessings. I know that with my faith in people that I can now say the IRC is like family to me. I will survive and like Anita Gilmore says, "There is light at the end of the tunnel and I will make it."

Anonymous

Two months ago I was put in a situation I thought I would never get out of. I was on my way to church when the person I was living with decided to put me out of their car and forced me to walk. I was determined to get to church but couldn't make it to my home church. Instead I attended a church on East Market Street. The word there was powerful. The Preacher spoke about how there was someone in the house

of the Lord that was in a terrible situation and needed to get out. "Today is your day," he said. "Get out and don't look back."

After that message I went to the YMCA Shelter where I used to volunteer. Mrs. Jan took me in and gave me a bed. A few weeks later I was offered a job at a Rehabilitation Center as a CAN. I plan on going to the Marriott to get a second job. And I have an interview on Wednesday. Life is finally looking up for me. Turning back is NOT an option.

Anonymous

Before I became homeless I was working steadily with a person I was living with. He liked me to go to church with him so I believed I was going to get paid daily like it was at first. He changed his mind on me and said I was working to pay for rent. That is not how I wanted it. I needed to make a living to support myself and my family so I left Florida and returned to Greensboro homeless.

I have been looking for employment and did get a job starting in March and am grateful to be in the Shelter especially in this cold season. I thank God for that. I try and continue to stay focused because I may weep for a night but joy comes in the morning.

Anonymous

I am from Charlotte, NC. I left to go to prison for 14 months. Well while I was in prison I decided I wanted to change and wanted a new life and a new beginning. I was released in Jan. 2013 and moved to Greensboro to the YWCA Homeless Shelter through Urban Ministry. I signed up for the Step Up Ministry program and for every day I went out walking and looking for a job, come rain or shine. I had several interviews but no one would hire me because I am a felon. Well I was ready to give up but I decided to try one more time. I went to the Marriott Hotel and completed an application and got hired on Feb. 14th. I had nothing to wear so I went to the IRC to see if they had some clothing. Anita Gilmore helped me find some clothing and if it were not for her, I might not have kept the job. I want to thank her for that. I moved out of the shelter to a rooming house so now I am on my own. I don't have much but I have freedom. I would like to thank God and all the people that made it possible, including my mother. She made me the strong woman I am today and I want to thank my grandma for being by my side through it all.

Anonymous

Do you know a resource we should add to this page?

If so, please e-mail our team at greensborovoices@gmail.com and we will include your information on our Community Resources page!

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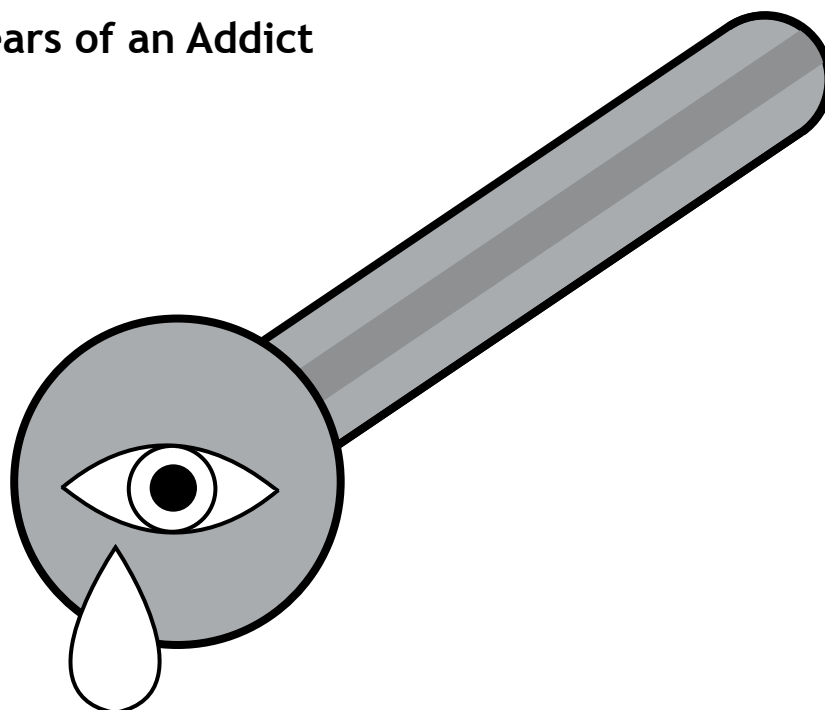
A City of Compassion!

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**WE ARE GRATEFUL
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Tears of an Addict



Hey, hello, World, pay attention! This woman is trying to tell you something you may not want to hear but listen anyway: You may be the next victim. You see I am dying. What is happening here? Why don't the people of the world listen to me? I'm trying to say something important to you.

I know I am dying.

But as I look at this world it seems like nothing important is happening but I am Crossing Over: It's my time. Hey world, I'm leaving. Why are the people I know still doing the same old things that they were doing before I left? I will go now. I have called out that I am crossing over into another world. This is my last cry God; Please make someone hear me. I can see the drug dealers still dealing and the users are still using.

Buzzers are buzzing, why? Oh Stop, something just hit me. I just got here. Someone was screaming and kicking and calling for her mother, calling his daddy and calling God. These evil looking things carried her over into a very dark place. Well, it looks like it's too late for her. I'm glad I knew about God before I was sent here against my will. I can see those horrible looking creates and they are real ugly, dressed in very long black draped fire proof outfits. They are taking people with them against their will. They are throwing them into a very dark place. I can hear them screaming in the depth of their souls. I am glad I am not going there. Thousands of them leave here fast in a few minutes they come back with someone screaming and kicking, trying not to go. God, can you hear me? What is that terrible smell? Please don't let these evil creatures come after me. After all, I went to church sometimes and I knew a lot about God when I was in the world with other people. I was supposed to be

getting ready for this day. I am only fifty years old and my time on earth has run out. I have sense enough to know that I'm not still on earth where I used to live. If anyone can hear me, if you can hear me, will you get this message to all of my family and church members? This earth is not the only place we live. Tell them they will go to another place as soon as they leave their body. They will take on a new life. It's up to them where they will go. I am permitted to tell you that this is not make believe, it's real. I would like to get everyone's attention. But the cars are still going and people are still killing and the television is playing and nothing seems to have changed. I am able to look down at this fast moving world. Don't they know that they must cross over one day too?

Maybe I'm not important to this world in your mind. You may be privileged to look down and see that death is not the end: it is a new beginning. I can sense the presence of other beings here. I can see clearly now that it's too late. No one can hear me but God. What did I do with those fifty years on earth? Will I get to go to that wonderful place my Pastor told me about? Will I rest under the Alter until Jesus calls my name? Please send an angel here to get me. I seem to be moving very close to the noise where people are screaming continuously. I am getting close to the heat and it's beginning to bother me badly. This is a very dark place and terrible place. Family and friends don't come here. I try to run but I can't. I want to hide but I can't move by my own power.

Oh God help me. You know me. You know I didn't do anything to hurt anyone else. I just smoked crack. I don't want to stay here. Please help me. It's getting hotter. What did I do with my fifty years on earth? How many people did I lead to Jesus, the Savior of the people who obey the word of God.

The Girl From Haiti

By David Mayo

When I look into my
Enemies' eyes, I feel stress
That never ends. And anger.

When I look into
the past, I see nothing
Except blackness.

When I walk around,
The block buildings crumble.
Windows shatter.
My family is lost.

And I am the only one left.
Trees fall with me,
Even though I don't see them.

Winter Nights

By Tony Hodges

Wherever the wind blows,
the ice goes.
Where chills go,
you won't know.
I lie down on sheets of ice
I gaze at the stars on the crystal night.
I fear not the frostbite,
For my hands are covered
thick and tight.

I wander the city
For a place to heat
My body and rest my feet.
For you do not know
Where I have to sleep
Alone, a wolf,
Yet frozen tears I weep.

Through it all
I am strong and bold,
No relation to the freezing cold.

So good night I say to all the other
lonely souls.

(This poem was featured in the Greensboro News and Record)

Cold Night

By Forrest Willis

I remember a cold winter night;
You didn't hear a cat in the alley,
It was so cold.

The moon wasn't out that night,
No one was on the streets,
Not that night.

The wind so strong,
The windows in the building popped.
Wonder if we're going to make it.

No food, no light,
The whole family bore up together
To stay warm on a cold night.
Just waiting, waiting, for someone to come
To free us up from this cold night.