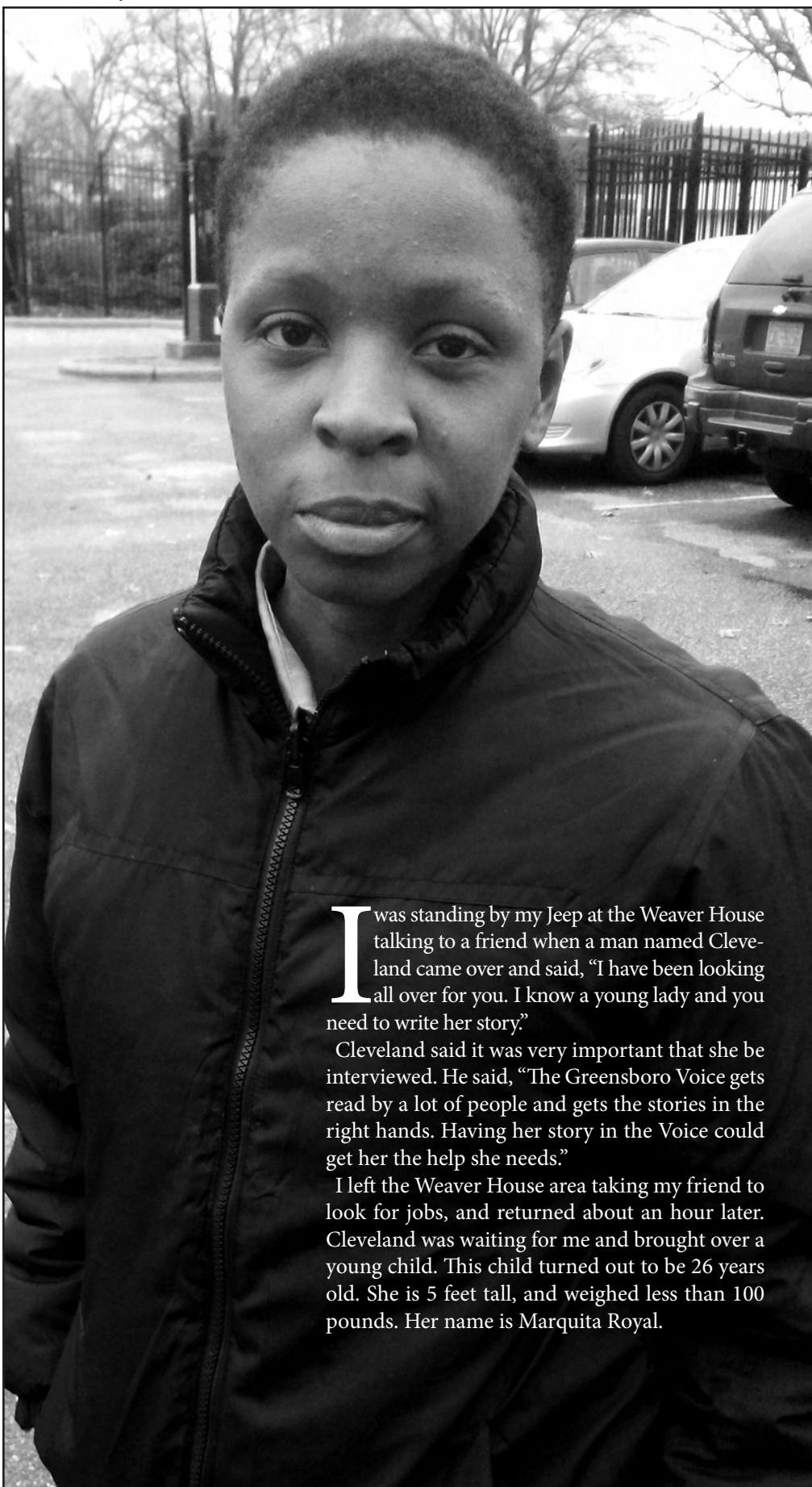




Marquita and Cleveland

Interviews by Joe Smith



I was standing by my Jeep at the Weaver House talking to a friend when a man named Cleveland came over and said, "I have been looking all over for you. I know a young lady and you need to write her story."

Cleveland said it was very important that she be interviewed. He said, "The Greensboro Voice gets read by a lot of people and gets the stories in the right hands. Having her story in the Voice could get her the help she needs."

I left the Weaver House area taking my friend to look for jobs, and returned about an hour later. Cleveland was waiting for me and brought over a young child. This child turned out to be 26 years old. She is 5 feet tall, and weighed less than 100 pounds. Her name is Marquita Royal.

Marquita's Story

She attended Shaw University in Raleigh, and has a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications.

Marquita told me she was working two jobs trying to save enough money to go back to college and get her Master's Degree. She fell asleep on one of the jobs and got fired. She couldn't pay her rent so she lost her apartment and became homeless.

When I met her she had actually only been homeless for one day. She's a researcher and looks up things like where to get free food. She called various shelters to try to get in and found they had a six months waiting requirement before allowing admission. She found the Weaver House and quickly got a bed.

She said,

Right now I can say the Weaver House for 67 days. My last day will be January 1st. After that I get a new card and can stay a couple of weeks after that.

I don't drink and I don't smoke. Every homeless person is not an addict and every drug addict is not a homeless person." It hurts my pride to be homeless. Everything happens for a reason. Even though I'm a busybody, I'm going to sit back and listen, and let God's eyesight show me something new.

Looking for work:

Marquita:

I've looked every day this week but so far I haven't found anything. I look online, I call people, and I show up in person. I hope I can find something around here. I'll take a job flipping burgers at McDonald's. That is fine with me. As soon as I get enough money together and with the aid of housing assistance I'll find an apartment.

Marquita's Family

Her family is only 2 hours away in Clinton. She told me she can't go back there.

Marquita:

I haven't burned any bridges. I'm not saying I want to be here at the Weaver House, but I can't go back home. I'm not a wild child but I do things differently than everybody else. So if I go home with my short haircut they are not going to like it. If I go home with men's clothes on they are not going to like it. Me, being different is not what they are used too. I just don't want to go back home and have them feel that way. I don't want to feel judged.

Being on the Street

The one night I stayed outside was really, really cold. I was over by the Mall and I was sleeping on a bench. A lady came by and beeped her horn at me. She came back later and brought me a blanket, several pairs of pants, and some socks. She asked me if everything was going to be okay. She came back a couple of times after that to check on me, to make sure it was all right. I knew it was God that sent her. It was scary but I felt protected at the same time. I haven't seen her since that day.

With me being a female - people will "Try me". So you have to pray about it to God and ask him to keep me safe. When someone comes up and tries me I walk fast. If you give someone the opportunity they are going to take it. When I'm out, I either walk with Cleveland, or my other friend. My other friend is gay. It's hard for both of us because when we're walking outside we get the looks. We have to be careful because you never know who is watching. When we see other people approaching us we never know what their motive is.

Looking for a Job

I went to Wendy's, McDonald's and I also tried to get a job at the News and Record. No one has responded about my applications yet. My main transportation is using Bus passes. I've only been given a few Bus passes so I can't spend all day looking for a job. If I had more passes I'd be out there looking more.

Christmas

She is going home for Christmas.

Marquita:

I know they'll judge me when I go home but it doesn't matter because they are my family. Even though their opinions and my opinion differ they are my blood. They are not a bad family. If I need anything financially they'll give it to me. But I want to do things on my own.

Her Future

Her plan is to get a job and save enough money to go back to school to get her Master's Degree at a college in Georgia. In the futures she sees herself teaching in the day-

Continued on page 4

I Come From A Place . . .

By Anita Gilmore

I come from place where family is love and like helping others
Peaches, orange, and strawberries
And watermelons, which are so refreshing

I come from a place where the sounds of drums marching
Children playing, laughing, gunshots, and firecrackers

I come from a place where the emotions are high,
Crying and joyful

I come from a place where there are problems,
Made to be solved once you find the solutions,
Communications, brainstorming and debating

I come from a place where children are the joy and a reason
To keep living,
To care, share and love
And take care of them

I come from a place where Jesus is the light,
Trees the sun,
Hospital operation rooms where it is so bright

I come from a place where music is uplifting,
My energy, my mood
With gospel, which brings me joy
Where I can smile and wave my hands today

I come from a place where food is for the soul,
Seafood, fish, vegetables--
Any kind as long as you bless it

And I come from a place of life,
Having it more abundantly and living it to the fullest,
Making each day as your last

Coming Out with Our Hands Up

By Clarette Sutton

As 2013 leaves and we cleave to 2014, we must have insight and vision. In many of the news medias, we are seeing the year in review. What about the homelessness year in review? Can we actually see a Homelessness Action in review? I think it is hard because sometimes homelessness can be a revolving door. Many have been homeless, received housing, and due to the same unsolved problems, become homeless again.

As a former homeless person in Greensboro, I have been at the door of homelessness many times. Many of us are only a paycheck away from homelessness. In 2009, I never knew I would face a homeless situation, but I did. I had a job, but no permanent place to stay. Then I had a place to stay and no permanent job. As with all others, we face these situations in life. Through it all, we must come out with our hands up, praising God that we are still alive. We know that many have lost lives due to their plight of homelessness.

In 2014, let's make things better by reassuring ourselves that this is a temporary situation in our lives. If you need to go to Greensboro Urban Ministry, please go, receiving not only a spiritual blessing, but an opportunity for a job, if you do not have one.

Since 2009, I have seen hundreds of new faces, so we know homelessness is a revolving door. Many people may not ever be in the circle of the parks, shelters, and feeding sites, but are yet are still homeless. I have seen familiar faces that are homeless again. Whatever situation that is holding you back; affirm this year that this too will pass. Affirm positive change. Each day look in a mirror and say, "It will be a better day." You can also follow the following tidbits of advice:

- 1) Set daily goals
- 2) Budget accordingly
- 3) Lose bad relationships
- 4) Make positive connections
- 5) Work diligently
- 6) Accept homelessness as a transition to your life.
- 7) Live, laugh, and learn to love

As those goals are set, I ask that we be a voice to our new politicians. We, the homeless, are not second class citizens and should not be treated as so. We smell because we cannot use many public restrooms, we stink because we can shower, but still cannot wash our clothes and coats, we act like we are hungry because we are hungry, we sleep on sidewalks, porches, park benches, and public spaces, because we have nowhere to sleep. We go to jail, to get a warm place to stay and a few meals a day.

This year in 2014, I declare and decree that any person that faces a hopeless and homeless situation will be treated with dignity and respect. They will not be forced back into the streets of despair, but unused buildings will become their safe havens. That people will realize that homeless people are humans too. If we can make space for a Doggie Park, that we can make space for a homeless park. I decree that most companies will realize that a positive workforce is needed and not depend on temporary work forces but permanent employment. I declare this year America will awaken to the plight of economic derangement that leads to economic hardships that lead to homelessness.

So this year, let's come out with our hands up.

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.

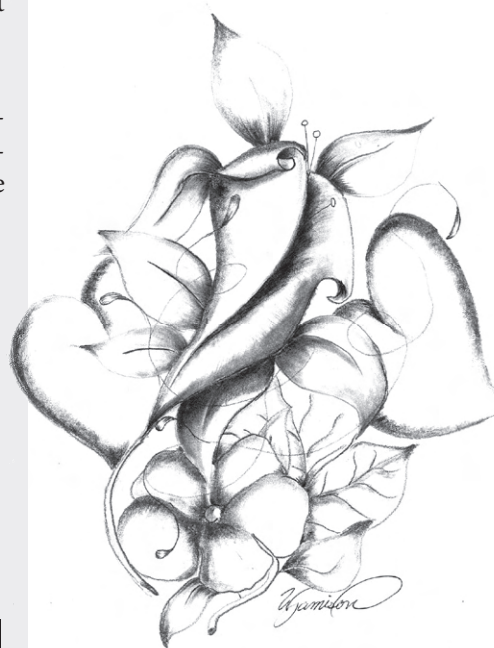
Join Our Team

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 Wednesdays from 12:30–2:00 p.m. The Interactive Resource Center is located at 407 E. Washington Street. Everyone is welcome at our meetings!

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Stephanie Thomas, Art Editor
Mary Yost, Reporter & Editor
Jermaine Zigler, Reporter



Come sleep . . .

By Tony Hodges

Come sleep, oh sleep, the joyful kind of peace,
Music to my ear,
Sweet as honey, kind as deer.
Oh how sleep took me by a landslide,
As my arm lingers on the bedside.
My eyes as bats,
My hands clinch the sheets as cats.
Come sleep, oh sleep, the joyful kind of peace,
The warmth from thick covered squares.
Through sleep my senses are still aware,
Aware of space around me.
The planets around me are different,
Lovely the stars above,
Yet dreaming to be brighter than the night before.
Come sleep, oh sleep, the joyful kind of peace.

Donor Honors Her Brother with Coffee for Guests

Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater as told to her by Anne Wallace



The guests at the IRC now have Anne Wallace, English professor at UNCG, to thank for hot coffee available every morning. Anne says that “it makes me very happy to think of the guests enjoying coffee each morning on Marc and me.” Anne shared that her younger brother who died last May was a talented man who read at an early age and “was interested in numbers and science and in tangible visual expressions of numbers”: he loved beautiful fractals and learned many basic computer languages such as Cobalt. Marc went to Washington University in St. Louis when he was sixteen and graduated with three majors. He worked in IT in the San Francisco Bay area until shortly before his death.

Marc Douglass Wallace died at age 41. Though the direct cause is unknown, his health had been severely damaged by the effects of alcohol addiction. Just six months before he died, Marc had finished an in-patient treatment program and then moved from a half-way house into full independence. He described to Anne that

during his recovery he “felt light and free” and was able to “think and feel” again. And while he was never homeless himself, he knew many people experiencing homelessness and talked with them as part of his daily life. Marc attended many, many meetings for addictions both like and unlike his own and he always volunteered for coffee service which, he said, others found demeaning. Serving coffee was a need that Marc saw and stepped into to fill. So it is fitting that in his memory, his sister helps fill the cups of those at the IRC who face struggles with addictions, mental illnesses and homelessness.

Anne feels the great loss from her younger brother’s death and wants to help others continue on in this complicated and challenging world. “When a person dies, there is an empty space that will never be filled again, a blank where there was once a whole person. When I think of Marc,” Anne said, “his smile and calm voice, I can imagine him visiting with us at the IRC, pouring out cups of coffee.”

A Servant’s Christmas: Expressing Gratitude as a Moral Obligation

By Nadirah Goldsmith

During my early morning commute, I sat patiently inside of the J. Douglas Galyon Depot, keeping warm on the oversized brown bench until the driver of my destined route arrived on the opposite side of the glass doors to invite passengers aboard the bus. One week before Christmas and still disturbing signs linger of a culture and society who refuse to acknowledge homelessness as an issue of priority. While reading my book, an irritated woman seated beside me brought to my attention the nearly half a dozen sanitation workers who were cleaning diligently inside the men’s bathroom, scouring the walls around the toilet (bathroom door propped open) where an accident occurred; leaving behind a disturbing stench. This woman then frustratingly voiced her concerns about the growing homeless population in Greensboro, how it affects the general public and her resentment towards our government for not providing shelter for those who are desperately in need. During the winter season when the temperatures begin to take a dip there are those who literally consider committing a simple crime just to have a warm bed and shelter from the elements, in jail of course.

As the holiday season rolls around each year, my concern isn’t with the trivial exchange of gifts; but being primarily inspired by the spirit of Christmas to express my gratitude through serving others. Just recently, my children and I watched Oprah Winfrey’s “Christmas Kindness in South Africa,” a television special from nearly 7 years ago in which Oprah, friends and staff spent 3 weeks serving over 50,000 devastatingly impoverished and orphaned children. Over three weeks Oprah’s team provided shoes, clothes, food, toys, school supplies, sporting goods and even personal photos to children who had already experienced the unimaginable. Towards the end of this recorded special various staff members and volunteers tearfully shared their thoughts about how peaceful, joyful and deeply inspired they felt contributing to this project. The intention was to make each child feel valued, appreciated and renew within them a spirit of hope; which

by the end of that project, they understood that indeed they mattered.

It was in that spirit of gratitude at the onset of the holiday season that I decided that celebrating Christmas would be more purposeful. I discussed with my children the original concept of Christmas, the relentless lure of extreme materialism and how well-off we were compared to others around the world. Typically most households I explained, enjoy the comfort of indoor access to hot running water, safe drinking water, electricity, food (stocked in cabinets and refrigerators), heat, air conditioning, furniture, a bed(s), washer and dryer and access to a vehicle.

In order to ensure that we remained focused on counting our blessings and mindful of the spirit of gratitude and unconditional love, we would extend ourselves to others more this holiday season. With just \$10 I purchased a real tree from Walmart and with the remaining \$10 purchased some lights and ornaments. We cleverly arranged our homemade ornaments from church with our purchased ones to create a wonderful symbol of unconditional love and beauty. We drank lots of vegan egg nog and listened to classic holiday music from 97.1 WQMG and 1510 WEAL. Surprisingly the children were excited about serving dinner at the Servant Center on Christmas and later having dinner with my family at my mother’s home. It was extremely rewarding to serve others and simultaneously teach my children about the true meaning of Christmas. Unexpected was that although we set our intention to serve others for Christmas, others had established that they would help me and my children with much needed clothes, household items and toys from our church, family and their father who doesn’t normally celebrate Christmas. Thus, during this holiday season I hope that more of us will initiate our gratefulness, perform random acts of kindness and make it a moral obligation to spread the spirit of Christmas each day with boundless love, radiant light, infectious joy and infinite peace.

VOICES FROM
THE GREENSBORO VOICE

A reading from writers of Greensboro’s street newspaper,
Wednesday, February 26th at 7 p.m.
Scuppernong’s Books, 304 South Elm Street, Greensboro.

Marquita and Cleveland

Interviews by Joe Smith



“I don’t smile for photographs.”
-Marquita

Continued from page 1

time and doing radio shows in the evening.
Marquita:

When I have money I’m going to see that more shelters are built throughout the United States. Everybody might not be as lucky as I was. I would hope that people who are having trouble at home would be able to talk it out with the adults before they up and leave.

Marquita and Cleveland Meet

Cleveland said:

During lunch one of the men in the Weaver House told me to sit down by Marquita, so I did. She told me her story. I asked her where she was staying and she told me she had been staying with a friend, but the night before she had slept on a bench in a nearby Mall. I said to her, you’re only a baby; you need to stay here at the Weaver House. I didn’t care if she had to sleep on the floor I didn’t want her to stay outside. So Miss Sherry, who works for the Weaver House, found a bed for her. It was an act of providence that there was an opening at that time.

So I started mentally pushing Marquita, and told her not to let her situation determine who she is. She’s smart, and intelligent. I tell her life will show up on you whether you’re ready for it or not.

The reason she is in her current situation is due to the choices she made. She could go back home but can’t live with her families rules. I tell her this is an experience she shall never forget. I hope that when she gets her Master’s Degree she will try to help other people in similar circumstances. She never knew she’d end up like she has.

But right now I don’t want her to be back out there on the streets. We believe God is going to open some doors for us. You’ll never know where your help is going to come from.

It’s real dangerous out there. Women get kidnapped and they get raped. I tell her to always let me know where she’s at. When I don’t physically see her I try to find out where she’s gone. Because of her height and weight it’s easy for a man to grab her, snatch her up, and take her away. I’m real protective of her. There are some crazy people out there. The ones that you would least think would do something are the ones that actually do. For any female it’s really dangerous on the streets. You can never know what will happen.

Cleveland’s Family

If you’re a young person and don’t want to abide by the rules of your family, there are consequences. Whatever decision you make there are consequences whether it’s wrong or right.

The decisions I made cost me my whole

UNCG Social Work Message: Help Others

By Kristen Creed

family when I was younger. I didn't want to listen to them I wanted to be grown even though it meant living on the streets.

I've been homeless for the last six years. I've been clean now for two years. That happened in Charlotte North Carolina. I got off drugs and alcohol and dedicated my life to God. In those years I took so much from other people and now I want to make myself available to give back. I tell her you have to have patience. I tell her she has to always love herself, and understand yourself in order for you her to move on.

Cleveland on Addiction

Addiction is a disease that is incurable, it will always be there. You get to the point where ... It's up to you to allow that monster to come out. I tell people this but they don't want to hear the truth because they continue to drink and drug - that's what they want to do. A person that is on alcohol and drugs is really crying out because that is what I was doing.

Once you get to the point where you're tired and decide you don't want to live like this, you have to make a conscious, intelligent decision and say it's over. That's what I did.

Stumbling block or a steppingstone

I tell Marquita, "You can use this homeless scenario as two things: A stumbling block or a steppingstone. A lot of people out here that are still a drinking and drugging have accepted this life. I refused to accept it anymore".

How Cleveland got Clean

He said:

A voice, a thought, came to me when I was in an old hotel room at 3:30 in the morning. This thought came to me; that they were going to come in this room and kick the door in and you're going to go to jail. I'm going to have all these drug charges and a felony. I heard a voice which must have been God and it asked, "Is this how you want to be remembered?"

I got out of the motel room right away and went to the Amtrak Station. I called my mom and asked her to please come and get me before I killed myself. It had gotten to that point. Sometimes something tragic has to happen before you can quit.

My mom came and got me and I went home to Wilson North Carolina. I stayed there three days and on the fourth day I went to Charlotte. I cleaned up there and I've been clean ever since.

Throughout our community, many hands are extended to help end homelessness in Greensboro for good. This certainly includes the efforts of surrounding universities where college students bring their own personal efforts and touch the lives of the homeless in powerful ways. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro has an outstanding social work program, funded by Cone Health Foundation, that offers graduate and undergraduate students internship experiences to help the cause of homelessness. Cone Health provided the program's charter funding and has been with it from the very beginning. The relationship between the social work program and the Interactive Resource Center began when the IRC first opened its doors in the space provided to them by Bessemer United Methodist Church. The demand for a day center for the homeless was so great that it was included in the city's ten-year plan to end homelessness. Jay Poole, who is part of the Social Work department at UNCG, received a call asking to have his social work students involved, essentially beginning this wonderful relationship between the program and the IRC.

The social work program got its feet in the door of the IRC in no time; the day center had only been open for two weeks when the program partnered with it. They have literally been working closely with the IRC since the very beginning. They teamed up with the Congregational Nurse Program, with which they had already been in a close working relationship, and took off running from there. According to Fran Pearson, also in the Social Work department at UNCG, it's all about relationships. "All of this came about because of relationships. I think it is important from a community perspective to see how cities undertake these efforts to meet these larger needs," says Fran. A little over a year went by before there were efforts to move the center closer to the downtown area. Space was donated and renovations took place in the building that is now the current IRC on the corner of Morrow Drive and East Washington Street.

The number of social work students working at the IRC on a daily basis varies due to the internship schedules of the students. They work with a 14-member team of 7 undergraduate students and 7 graduate students. "Every one of our students is going to touch homelessness in some way during their program," says Pearson. She says that the students' experience, after being placed to work at the IRC and interacting closely with the homeless, is 'transformational.' Once they realize that the homeless are "just people," the overall picture is put into perspective. They are people just like the rest of us, who may have simply hit an extra bump in the road or are without family support.

The training process that the social work students go through first includes a bio-psycho-social assessment, which is necessary for learning to better identify needs. The students take the time to talk with the clients and find out what has happened, what their history is, to determine how they have reached their current circumstances. They understand that the homeless walking into the IRC have emotional wounds that need attention, and it is clear that this program has helped save lives in their supportive counseling. Pearson emphasizes that "a bus ticket is never just a bus ticket," meaning that there is always a back story to a person needing a bus ticket. There is always more to find out about the clients they work with. Another service provided by the social work interns includes education to small groups of IRC guests/clients that focus on mental health and substance abuse issues.

So what is the motivation behind the social work program helping the homeless community? Jay Poole thinks that it is, in part, a social responsibility. Fran adds that as professors, it is their job to teach and the students' desire to learn and this leads to the perfect storm of motivation that drives them to help the homeless. Poole adds that their motivations deal with "praxis," which is the combination of putting theory into action, which is precisely what the social work students experience. It's important to keep in mind that the social work program is not just observing these efforts to help homelessness, but they are very much a real part of the fabric that supports the homeless community. The professors of social work at UNCG

understand the richness that the students will take away from this experience and find rewarding in so many ways. Poole adds, "People deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and people deserve to have their needs met, and that is what social work is really about." Pearson says that these are opportunities that allow students to truly be catalysts for change.

Poole has been in the social work department since 1984 and, although he has never experienced homelessness himself, he has encountered many homeless people and the issue is not foreign to him--it is real. Likewise, Fran has never experienced homelessness, but credits the fortunes of her life for putting her in the position that she is in now to give back. She classifies it as a personal, as well as a professional, responsibility to help others. The two see similarities in their students who choose to major in social work. There is always a pull to be of service to others, although the motivations behind that pull are wide-ranging. There is the common thread among them all to be the voice for those whose voices are overlooked. The social work program takes pride in its students' desires to be those voices. In fact, they have the largest group of college students working closely with the homeless at the IRC. Every year students say that the IRC has taught them more about organizations, programming, and certainly client contact than what they have encountered in almost any other placement.

A program like this certainly requires adequate funding and support and it is extremely fortunate to have this support from Cone Health Foundation. This social work program and its services have been such a positive model that funding was provided to expand the program into Rockingham County, and the participants certainly hope to see it continue to expand. They have even received national recognition for their model, and there is currently an article out of Baylor University in Texas that outlines and applauds its effectiveness. It is a model that has been replicated and supported in many different ways, focusing on the importance of relationships. It is the partnership between the UNCG Social Work department and the Congregational Nurses that allows this breadth of services to be provided. It takes true teamwork to tackle the issue of homelessness, and the Social Work department at UNCG offers a many-faceted program through the students' involvement that has impacted so many lives in the homeless community.

For more Information

If you want to help Marquita and/or Cleveland contact us at our email: greensborovoice@gmail.com

Homeless 2000 Years Ago

By Joe Smith



This sculpture is of the 2000 year old man who lived during the reign of Augustus Caesar. He was homeless (by choice) from approximately 27 to 33 AD and then was killed.

This source material for this article comes mostly from the Bible, the most carefully scrutinized words ever written. Multiple documents and archeological evidence have proven them accurate.

Today homelessness is defined as” having no permanent home. “

This article is in no way meant to glamorize homelessness. This person is not to be thought of as some flower child of the 1960’s. Homelessness is a stressful and dangerous lifestyle.

Back then there were no newspapers or printed materials. Only the wealthy possessed handwritten documents. People lived in apartments, houses and tents. There was no electricity, phones, TV, washing machines, or automobiles. It was common for people to walk 20 miles a day. There were no Homeless Shelters, Salvation Army, or Red Cross. Churches had not yet been established, however there were temples off worship.

This 2000 year old homeless man said, “Foxes have their holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head” (a)

He was in great danger. He did not live the good life, was not carefree, and didn’t have all the comforts of home, no regular place to bed down for the night, no soft pillow. He was arrested, and beaten. Many of His friends were poor and undesirable by social standards.¹

He walked away from His parents and began his spiritual journey. Today people are intentionally going homeless to experience what it feels like. College Students camp out for Homeless Awareness Week (HAW) to show solidarity with the Homeless. Others go intentionally homeless for weeks to get a better perspective and understanding of what the homeless face. However, at the end of their “mission” they can go back to their permanent shelter.....“home”. A truly homeless person often sees himself in a hopeless, homeless condition.

Money

His bank balance was Zero. There was no social security net for the unemployed. If you didn't earn, you didn't eat. Begging wasn't likely to get much unless you were disabled. He didn't get Food Stamps, have an EBT or SNAP Card. No Medicare. Medicaid, Medication Card or Bus passes.

The man walked around villages penniless among the residents. He didn't have to pay any income taxes because He didn't earn anything. But being Jewish He had to pay the Temple tax. So what did He do? He sent a friend to go fishing to earn that payment (b). He knew a lot about money and told many stories using money as the subject. He knew about debts, poverty, and investments.

How did He survive? He was poor and wandered from place to place. He didn't see working a job to earn money as His priority; He had another goal in mind (b)

He walked away from the security of his family. His father was a carpenter and artisan who sold furniture in a poor society. Like an African village, you didn't need much money. Those who went with Him had no money either (c). They were all homeless and had left their jobs. They were supported by families who believed in what He was saying.

Some people accompanying him on short trips had the means, and sometimes jobs, to support him - but there were few of these. Some women were big supporters (d). It was humiliating to accept money from a woman, except your wife. Those with him had some kind of money bag (e), but generally they tried to live off the generosity of others.

He told those with Him to deliberately take no money or spare shoes, or clothes in their travels. Whatever they needed should be provided by the people they helped, and they should leave immediately if the people didn't provide for them (f).

Clothing

Tradition says He wore a valuable robe, made without a seam. After He died Roman Soldiers gambled for His robe. It is said His robe was the sign of a loving mother.²

There are many types of poverty: financial, spiritual, relational, political, etc. People who are poor in one area are often poor in others. You can't address one area without the others. Today people who are homeless are often cut off from relationships that could benefit them in many ways.

Didn't He actually have a home in Capernaum?

He was born in Bethlehem. There are no specific words that say exactly when. Traditionally His birth is celebrated on December 25th. As a young child He was taken to for Egypt to escape being killed.

Afterwards He lived in Nazareth and then made Capernaum his "hometown" (g). This doesn't mean He had a permanent dwelling there. For instance we say homeless people in our area are from Greensboro NC, their hometown.³

Final Thoughts

So what can we learn about homelessness from this 2000 year old homeless man? When we hear the word 'homeless,' we can get nervous, frightened, repulsed or even want to look away from that homeless person.

The 2000 year old homeless man advised us how to treat the poor and homeless (h):

*I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me,
in prison and you visited me.*

We all have a little voice that speaks to us. Call it instinct, or call it your conscience. Science cannot locate where the conscience resides but theorize it is somewhere in the brain.

What does your conscience tell you to do about homelessness?

Song: "You Did Not Have a Home"

by Rich Mullins

*"Oh You did not have a home
There were places You visited frequently
You took off Your shoes and scratched Your feet
'Cause you knew that the whole world be longs to the meek
But You did not have a home
No You did not have a home*

*And You did not take a wife
There were pretty maids all in a row
Who lined up to touch the hem of Your robe
But You had no place to take them so
You did not take a wife
No You did not take a wife*

*Birds have nests foxes have dens
But the hope of the whole world rests
On the shoulders of a homeless man
You had the shoulders of a homeless man
No You did not have a home*

*Well you had no stones to throw
You came without an ax to grind
You did not tow the party line
No wonder sight came to the blind
You had no stones to throw
You had no stones to throw*

*And You rode an ass' foal
They spread their coats and cut down palms
For You and Your donkey to walk upon
But the world won't find what it thinks it wants
On the back of an ass' foal
So I guess You had to get sold
'Cause the world can't stand what it can't own
And it can't own You
'Cause You did not have a home*

*Birds have nests foxes have dens
But the hope of the whole world rests
On the shoulders of a homeless man
You had the shoulders of a homeless man
And the world can't stand what it can't own
No, You did not have a home"*

*Birds have nests foxes have dens
But the hope of the whole world rests
On the shoulders of a homeless man
You had the shoulders of a homeless man
And the world can't stand what it can't own
And it can't own You
'Cause You did not have a home" ⁴*

Footnotes:

1. Jesus the Homeless Man by Jim Lucas November 1, 2013
2. Jesus and Money Dr. David Instone-Brewer 2001 Matt 6: 24-34
3. Dave Barnhart May 30th, 2013
4. Song Lyrics by Rich Mullins

Bible (NKJV) References:

- (a)Matt 8, and Luke 9, (b)Matt 15: 21-28, (c) Mark 10: 28-30, (d) Matt 17: 24-27, (e)Luke 8: 1-3, (f)Matt 10:9, (g)Matt 4: 13, (h)Matt 25: 31-46 (edited)

A Story of Resilience in Homelessness

By Brandon Heffner

Karen, 54 years old, is dressed professionally and uses direct eye contact when she speaks to me as she sits erect in her chair sipping coffee at the Green Bean on Elm Street. Many people who first see her do not realize that she is one of the many homeless individuals in the city of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Like the introduction: "There are eight million stories in the naked city" of the film-noir classic *Naked City*, directed by Jules Dassin, Karen's is just one of these stories, but her story is one of resilience, confidence and determination.

She recently became homeless after a disagreement with a sister who subsequently changed the locks of her Cary apartment home leaving Karen with no opportunity to remove her belongings (clothes, computer, lap top and school files). Karen tells this writer "I was very hurt and confused not knowing why my sister did this. I then became bitter and angry thinking of all kinds of ways to get even. After four days of deciding where I was going to live and what I was going to do I simply prayed and got over it." These things are material, Karen states and her "plans of revenge" were simply taking up too much negative energy.

She hopped aboard a train not knowing where she would go but she got off in Greensboro where she once lived. An hour after she left the Greensboro Depot she entered into the doors of the Weaver Center and found there was a space in the program which just became available. Despite her situation, Karen finished her studies for Wake Technical Community College while at the shelter (one class was dropped, because she could not access a computer for her work and exams during the time she was locked out of her home).

..and still she stands tall as she survives yet another test.

This January, she will be taking classes at North Carolina Central University, where she hopes she will receive her bachelor's degree in social work (her life's passion) within the year. Although Karen would like to focus on school and school alone—as many of us, including myself, have had the luxury of doing—basic finances and finding a place to live is her priority but she keeps a positive outlook as she looks for dental resources to improve her image and enhance her confidence at interviews.

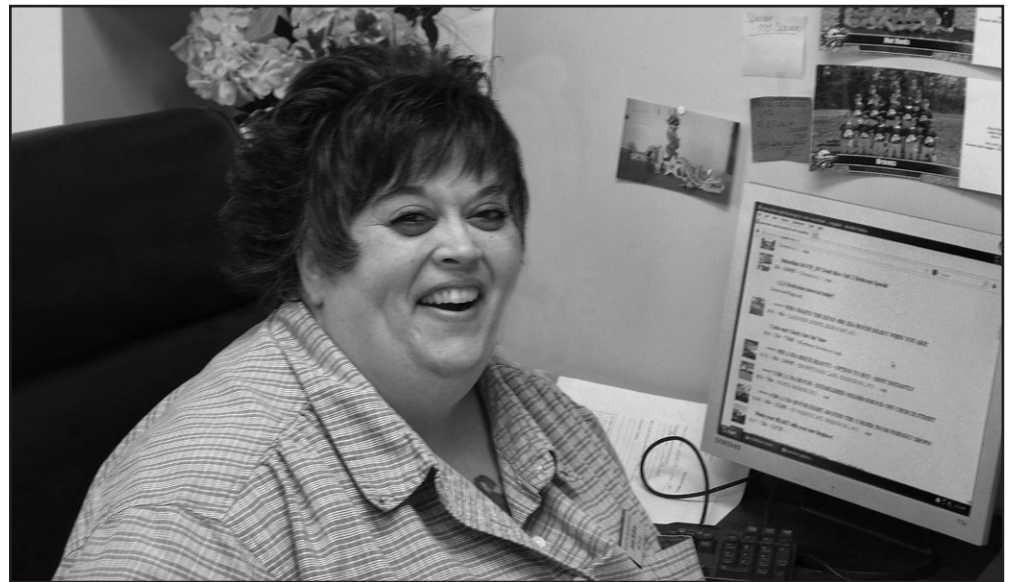
So what keeps her positive attitude intact? To Karen, keeping busy is vital to success whether you are a homeless, unemployed and homeless or just plain restless "There are so many things and people in this world which will knock you off your track, jeopardizing your goals," she says. "I was at the bus stop and someone handed me a blunt. I said, 'No thank you.' Someone says, 'Let's go get a beer,' and I say, 'No thank you.' It can get some folks frustrated, and they wind up doing those things just to do something during the day." It is important to stay on point with yourself. This is vital to self-preservation and your own individual success and growth.

"I'm a resilient person," she says. "I get knocked down - I get back up even stronger! I have very little clothes, but every day I get up and get dressed in a professional manner as if I did have a job because when that door opens I want to be fully dressed and ready to receive my blessings. Karen's favorite mantra: You cannot change some things or even most things, but you can change your own reaction to them.

Karen expects to graduate in May 2015.

Jenny Hudson: IRC Office Manager

By Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater



Jenny is known for her open smile and welcoming manner as she helps IRC guests navigate available resources for those experiencing homelessness. She says, "Everyone who comes through the door has a crisis, and I have to put on a smiling face because sometimes the people who come to us have experienced nothing but negativity on a daily basis." As the IRC office manager, Jenny's in charge of helping to obtain NC State identifications, birth certificates, high school transcripts, transit authority IDs, and bus passes for those seeking health care or shelter. She works with guests to get financial assistance of fifty dollars or less, to get food assistances at area pantries, and to direct those needing affordable housing to agencies that focus on shelter such as the Greensboro Housing Coalition. Obviously Jenny knows the resources available in the community for those in crisis; but, she says, that she's learned "It's not my responsibility to save everyone. This has been a hard lesson for me to learn."

Jenny's had hard lessons to learn herself since she has been homeless at two different junctures in her life. She was once a client at the IRC and then a volunteer there before getting her paying job as the office manager. She knows homelessness from the inside and understands how a guest feels because "she's been there too." One of the toughest lessons she has had to learn is to accept the responsibility of why she was in the situation of being homeless and to not blame it on someone else. She admits that some clients at the IRC do not accept responsibility for their situations and some even choose to remain homeless, and "I have to respect this and not try to change them but meet them wherever they are in their journey."

Jenny's journey has not been an easy one; between the ages of 18 and 42, she spent almost seven years on the street. A series

of good mentors, starting with her own parents, have supported Jenny in becoming the person she is today. "I think the fact that I grew up in a very structured, loving family has helped me stay positive. We were told that you can't let roadblocks get in the way of what you can do in life," she shared. She acknowledged that not every guest at the IRC has been fortunate enough to have had a strong family life. In fact, many have only experienced generational poverty so that's all they know. Their family history is to go out, sell the drugs, and hustle to make money to put food on the table. When there is a young man who has been raised in a family that consists of gang members, all he's going to know is to become a gang member. It's a vicious cycle."

Jenny's job at the IRC has also supported her personal development. She's had mentors there, including the director, Liz Seymour, and her co-worker, Tiffany Dumas. Now Jenny is struggling as a single parent of a fifteen year, old but is grateful that she has had an opportunity to tell her story by speaking at area churches, businesses, and schools. In those speeches she stresses that there are stereotypes of the homeless that need to be changed. Like Jenny, not all homeless are adverse to working. "Many have tried looking for work and because of the recession, have not been able to find anything. Many of the guests at the IRC have a work history. Each case is different," she stresses. So our agency needs to say to every guest, "Come on in". Jenny's favorite quote, which she sometimes shares at the morning meetings at the IRC, is

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery. Today is a gift. That's why they call it the present.

The Interactive Resource Center is proud to have Jenny on its staff for all the resources she brings there, including her cheerful self.



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.

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. This month I bring to you a variety of Short Takes from all aspects of homeless life with a truth serum. Take a look and read!

I am a single mother who became homeless after being married for ten years and suddenly separated. I went through changes which caused my life to turn upside down. I had looked everywhere for a resource which would help me get back to normal. I finally found the Interactive Resource Center on East Washington Street. They were very helpful when I first arrived. Yes, I was very nervous because I, a single female, didn't know anyone and I did not speak English well. I trusted in God to guide me and I prayed a lot for that guidance. I was referred to the Women's Shelter where they had an extra bed. It was there that I learned not only that I was not the only single, homeless woman in Greensboro that there are many more in the same situation. That made me feel stronger and a little more comfortable. The people at the shelter helped lift a huge burden from my shoulders and lightened up my heart. I also found out that no matter where you come from or your religion, race or life situation, we all have something in common. We are just temporarily displaced.

I've learned that even though there is a large language barrier, I continue to learn. My English speaking skills are much better because people help me with my words. Being around smiling people at the Women's

Shelter and the IRC has helped me gain confidence and new friends. Yes, sometimes it is hard to understand the American culture as well as the other diverse nationalities I had been in a multinational marriage and raising my children in that different cultures can be a problem. When think you have tried everything, you soon find out that only God can fix your problem. He is where I am placing my faith now because of my children. Sometimes it is hard to trust and believe because of my situation. I still see a barrier, a wall that stands in the middle....between me getting better and staying where I am. It has still gotten better because of my faith. I have learned that no matter where I came from that I do not have to be afraid of my marriage situation because I don't want to leave my children here in the United States because if they got sick that would be another problem because of the international marriage situation.

Anonymous Homeless Mother

We were staying with my husband's sister and she got a wild hair and kicked us out. At that time, both of us were working and when she kicked us out, I lost my job. My husband was still working but having a harder time finding a ride to work. We were staying at a hotel. he ended up losing

his job and that put us out on the streets. Now we live in a tent. We are now seeking employment and hopefully to get our lives back on track. We have ended up making new friends and realized, just by listening to their stories, that we're not alone! We try to look out for each other. We came to the IRC, and they have helped us out so much. We needed blankets, and they provided them. Whenever we need to wash clothes or take a shower or just to keep warm, they are there, and we thank God for that!

Rebecca and Paul Dunlap

I want to write because I have to get it out. The voices and memories, the dreams and fantasies, my hopes and fears. Ideas that need to be released into the open light of existence. The chance to get these words of paper for people to see and to read. To hold them in their hands.

Melea G. Lail

How I became homeless. I thought I was going to be with the woman for the rest of my life but she had other plans. It started on December, 2011 when she told me she wanted to break up and end an eighteen year marriage because I could not find work. Then I moved in with a family member but it did not work out so here I am today, homeless but thank god that I came to the Interactive Resource Center and met some good people that are willing to help me get to where I need to be with my life and my kids. A lot of people don't realize how they blessed they are through the resources at the IRC.

Shannon White

Right Mind/Left Hand

I am in my right mind.
But my hand tells me I am left.
But my hand tells me that I am still left.
All my family is all right.
But my hand is still on the left.
Doors, tools, handles are all right.
But my hand is still going to the left.
And this is all right with me.

Melea G. Lail

I became homeless in Hickory, NC on 10/1/13, and that is when I came to Greensboro, NC. It was there that I came to a place called the IRC, where the staff helped me find places to live. I made a lot of friends at the IRC who made sure I got to my different locations where I could sleep and take showers, and I was able to wash my clothes. I love the staff at the IRC. And I thank God every day for all the help I received at the IRC. Now I am going to a new location to stay and continue to better myself.

Franklin Matthews

All my family, my mother, all her sisters, and also my father with his brothers took what they wrote and put it into songs. They started by writing down the words. My mom came up with the music. While she wrote it down, my father started writing the words. Then he went to his guitar and put the words to music. My aunts never used any musical instruments. They sang a cappella while my uncles came together and came up with the music and lyrics. This is how I got firm with my writing. I took different talents from the people in my life. They all wrote in their own way, and now, so do I. It is just as powerful because it is one spirit at work that works for God.

Joy Shultz



The First Annual Chicken Walk was a Success!

By Kristen Creed

The much anticipated Chicken Walk finally came together Saturday morning on November 16th. It was a foggy, misty morning with rain a constant threat, but luckily the weather held up. Arriving in Center City Park, one couldn't help but notice the several human sized chickens walking around, nor the large chunk of our community sporting their Chicken Walk t-shirts. The large yellow Bojangle's truck was stationed to the back past the bubbling fountain, and the band, Warren, Bodle and Allen were just warming up under the large awning. The first annual Chicken Walk meant especially more

to the citizens of Greensboro, since we are so close to Thanksgiving. Community members really banded together and thought of those less fortunate who may not have a proper Thanksgiving. The volunteer Chicken Walk Chairman, Amy Murphy said, "The Chicken Walk was an amazing event! The turnout was great and we look forward to the second annual Chicken Walk in 2014! It was awesome to see members of our community from all walks of life coming together in a new way to raise awareness of homelessness. Every person present, regardless of their circumstances, seemed to feel a part of our

community at the Chicken Walk." The total amount of money raised for the IRC comes to over \$10,000, which is more than enough to have the IRC's doors open during the weekends this winter season. What big hearts the people of the Triad do have! It truly is important for us all to keep the homeless in mind, especially around the holiday season. The Chicken Walk turned out to be a tremendous success and the IRC is truly grateful for all who came out to help raise awareness of homelessness and helped them reach their goal. Thank you!

Bill and Anna Heroy

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Absolute Success in
The Elimination of Homelessness for
MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN
in Greensboro, NC

A City of Compassion!

THE GREENSBORO VOICE THANKS OUR "LISTENERS"

Stephanie Thomas
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Carol Owen
Jim Ingram
Nancy Myers
Parker Washburn
Jim Ingram
Thaddeus Seymour
Lee Wilder
Bob & Nancy Norfleet
Will & Victoria Duffy
Paula & Joe Yost
Laurie White
James & Karen Evans
Robert Dudash
Teresa & Bill Hicks
Eileen Prufer
Carolyn Graves
Laura Mims
Alan Benson
Bob Langenfeld
Mr. & Mrs. ED Mann
Anne & Sam Hummel
Dr. Denise Baker
Charles Austin
Kathy Sohn
Carolyn Owen
Carol Mack
New Generation's Lion's Club
Whitney Vanderwerff
Tom Kirby-Smith
John and Anne Haydock
Lynn Bustle
Allison Swafford
Joyce Powers
Steve Schlosser

WE ARE GRATEFUL
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Second Chances: Rodney White's Message

by Nadirah Goldsmith

On a pleasantly peaceful and warm Wednesday afternoon in September I arrived at the Interactive Resource Center, prepared to participate in a staff meeting when unexpectedly I witnessed an army of volunteers rearranging the facility for an event that would begin within the next hour. The Federal and State probation offices, in partnership with Dismas Charities organized this Community Resource Fair at the Interactive Resource specifically for men who were recently released from prison and or those who were ex-offenders. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness the odds of experiencing homelessness in a year are 1 in 200 for the general population but for people being released from prison the odds of becoming homeless increase to 1 in 11.

Upon learning that perhaps my meeting had been cancelled, I was inspired to linger around and assist the Employment Recruiter of "Step Up Ministry" and learn more about the other organizations represented. After assisting Mr. Anthony Bass with organizing his information table, I strolled by the various exhibitors and inquired more about their unique offerings to the community. As the IRC opened its doors to the participants of the Resource Fair, I observed a new seating arrangement emerge across the spacious day-room; in the center of the square outlined by several exhibitors. As both young and older men made their way around the room, visiting and talking with the various organizations, one by one they begin to occupy the empty seats.

Shortly thereafter, a facilitator begin to call everyone's attention front and center while acknowledging the collaboration of all the groups present and the IRC for agreeing to host such a community initiative which included access to legal, employment and emergency resources. Assistant Executive Director of the IRC, Will Howard then came forward to acknowledge a few special exhibitors after which the host preceded to talk about the purpose of the occasion. The keynote speaker was then presented; a middle-aged man of color, impeccably dressed in business attire

introducing us to the premise of his address with a fresh crisp \$20 dollar bill. Enthusiastically he asked the audience by a show of hands how many of would take the money if offered to them. Next he proceeded to crumble, drop, step on and practically crush the note of legal tender as he continued on with the same question; who would still want the bill?

Rodney White's example of the "down-trodden" bill "cleverly" summed up his phenomenal delivery and astonishing testimony of being a convicted felon; serving 15 years of an 18-year sentence for drugs and firearm charges. After being released from prison, he became an award winning sales person, motivational speaker, facilitator, and radio host. Hearing and witnessing Mr. White speak and instantly garner the undivided attention of many men present that afternoon was not only impactful but I could appreciate his transfer of insight, humor, commanding examples and audience involvement which left a soulful imprint. I saw connections being made as Rodney instantly transported his audience to a new door of hope laden with second chances. Mr. White reminded each of us present that although we may make the wrong choices and suffer through challenges; we must remember our value, and not allow those unfortunate circumstances to define who we are or prevent us from our innate ability to rise above temporary conditions.

As the audience of men began to sit up straighter, I noticed their smiles were a little brighter and I could sense them individually contemplating their own resurrection from a previously broken state. Rodney was able to share his unique gift; to develop and deliver practical solutions to people in transition and growth. His strength is in providing simple strategies that enable individuals and organizations to pursue their goals with confidence and clarity.

Mr. White went on to describe how he created a success-orientated company comprised of transitional and reentry specialists whose mission is to improve the quality of life for ex-offenders and inmates who require a motivational program

designed for their specific needs. They provide motivational workshops and training in re-entry and life skills that are essential to the successful transition back to society for ex-offenders. The Rodney White Group utilizes the educational backgrounds and life experiences of ex-offenders who have made a successful transition and recovery from prison

In his "R.E.A.D. to Succeed," from prison to paradise motivational program Rodney delivers a message that inspires and teaches a very simplistic way of problem solving in times of change and reentry. When asked about his approach to life, Rodney responds by saying that "Every setback is a setup for a great comeback." He is a consultant and mentor with R.O.O.T.S (Reinventing Ourselves Outside of The System) an offender based reentry program started within the Richmond City Jail.

The mystery of life never ceases to amaze me with its ability to lead you along the way, stop for a detour; yet re-direct you onto an even more engaging journey. That would be the only way to describe what unfolded and un expectantly transported me into the minds, hearts and souls of a vulnerable population of primarily African American men.

As a woman, witnessing the collective community investment and support available, along with Rodney's testimony and observing the men in attendance was more heartfelt than I would've imagined. As Rodney delivered his presentation he mentioned the young professional man beside our table representing the "Former Offender Initiative program, "unknownst to us; an ex offender who now worked with this local agency while also attending graduate school.

We can't always recognize outwardly who's been given a second chance but over 100 people who attended this event gained access to great community resources, inspiring speakers, empowering panel discussions so that even if they'd been trampled by life; they were now inspired to begin a new journey of reestablishing their selves to society and most importantly restoring their value and self-worth.



INTERACTIVE
RESOURCE
CENTER

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.



www.facebook.com/gsoycenter



[@gsoycenter](https://twitter.com/gsoycenter)

gsodaycenter.org (336)332-0824

Community Resources

SHELTER

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)
1600 E. Wendover Avenue
336-389-9880
Hotline: 336-558-1695

MEALS

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 Mul-lin 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
1600 E. Wendover 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
2200 East Market Street Suite B
336-510-9292

Malachi House II
3603 Burlington Road
336-375-0900

OTHER RESOURCES
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 Sistas Outreach
336-501-6570 or 965-8739
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

Community Resources

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

Renewal Center for Battered Wome

Brenda McGibbone, Nessbaum Ceter
336-988-7622

Food Banks

Food is a commodity and a necessity. Many people who are in need of food and Nutrition do have places to go. The homeless can receive meals at several places listed in the resource section and many food banks operate in Guilford County. Here is a list of the food banks in the County.

Guilford County - Food Pantries

201 Church Avenue, High Point
(336) 883-4127
This organization offers referrals and information. They partner with local churches, food banks, and pantries across the region to provide help to the needy.

Grocery Assistance Program

The Servant Center
1312 Lexington Avenue, Greensboro
(336) 275-8585 x310

Triad Health Project

620 English Road, High Point
(336) 884-4116
While focused on health care, a pantry is also open on site.

Salvation Army

812 Anthony St., Burlington
(336) 227-5529
This location also serves the low income, unemployed, and struggling families in Guilford County. Various social services are offered, including a free food pantry, thrift store, clothing closet, and help for rent and bills.

Open Door Ministries of High Point

400 N. Centennial Street, High Point
(336) 885-0191

Greensboro Urban Ministry

Emergency Assistance Program
305 West Lee Street, Greensboro
(336) 553-2657
Call them if faced with a crisis. Numerous resources are available, including baby formula, meals for senior citizens and more.

Loaves & Fishes

Christian Food Ministry, Inc.
509 S. Lexington Avenue, Burlington
(336) 570-4668
Offers free meals, groceries, food, and government surplus items.

Christ Wesleyan Church -
One Harvest Food Ministries
2400 S. Holden Road, Greensboro
(336) 299-8062

One Harvest Food Ministries -
Gospel Baptist Church
5945 N. Church Street, Greensboro
(877) 818-1778

One Harvest Food Ministries at The Grove

3827 Yanceyville Street, Greensboro
(336) 285-8807.
Site is open limited hours. Call for food and referrals.

The Tree of Freedom

By Joy SchultzI

I am as wind through the trees.
Like an anchor in the sand,
Hold onto me.
I see you in life.
I see you in death.
I see you in the deep waters
As you live your life.
I see the ones hat are swept away
As in death.
I see the ones fighting life
Trying to to go against the flow of the waters.
Hold on.
My strength comes from the Lord.
When the waters rise
When the rain pours down
When the winds push the rrain
Waters my way,
I will look at the olive tree
in the waters for that tree
will hold me.
I will hold on.
My time will come
I see the light
I see the rain but
In the rain is the sun and promise of
A rainbow.
I see the son of man
Coming down the water
in a boat.
I see His hand reaching for me
and the olive tree turns
into a dove, now that I am
Free!

DONATION

THE GREENSBORO VOICE

The Greensboro Voice Newspaper gives homeless and low income people the chance to develop their artistickills by having their stories, poetry and artwork published in our newspaper.

We assist our writers in finding their voice while helping our readers understand what it's like to battle homelessness, addiction, and mental illness.

But in order for The Greensboro Voice to be able to publish these stories we need your support. We are asking our readers to help us raise \$10,000 this fall so we can keep this newspaper running.By making a donation to the Voice you will be ensuring that the stories of the homeless are heard across the city.

Your donation will help with:

- Writing materials
- Printing and publishing costs
- Program costs
- Stipend for homeless and low income writers

Donating is easy

Please take a moment and send a check payable to:
The Greensboro Voice,
1852 Banking Street #9252,
Greensboro NC 27408

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

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

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

Help start the conversation!