



SPONSORED BY: THE CREATIVE CHANGE PROJECT

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome!

By: Us

The Voice is a newsletter by the homeless voices of our community. We thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to change.

The purpose of this newsletter is to raise awareness and educate the general public on real homeless issues and the truth about living homeless.

Our hope is that we can persuade readers to facilitate or attend a Cultural Competency Presentation which will profoundly change the way you view homelessness.

We hope you enjoy our work!

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"4 Myths about Homelessness"



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City bans sitting, lying on sidewalk





“Durango City Council bans sitting, lying on sidewalk”

By: Mary Shinn
The Durango Herald, (May 2018)

Durango City Council unanimously approved an ordinance Tuesday that prohibits anyone from sitting or lying down on downtown sidewalks, curbs and other public areas.

The law will provide another tool for law enforcement to improve the atmosphere downtown and the safety of residents and tourists, Councilor Dick White said.



“I think this is achieving what we are trying to achieve” he said.

The crowd was split on the issue. Some residents praised the council for backing the ordinance, and others were concerned the rule was targeting panhandlers and homeless residents.

Councilors defended the ordinance and said that it would not discriminate against panhandlers or anyone else.

“People can stand with a sign on Main Avenue all day long and they are absolutely within their

First Amendment rights,” White said.

The rule bans sitting and lying on sidewalks from 7 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. along Main Avenue from the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad depot to 12th Street. The new ordinance would also apply to Narrow Gauge Avenue, the alley east of Main Avenue and East Second Avenue from College Drive to Ninth Street.

In addition to sidewalks, the rule, which will go into effect this summer, also prohibits sitting or lying down on streets, railways, alleys, parking

spaces or other publicly owned property used for pedestrian or vehicle travel.

The ordinance does not apply to anyone experiencing medical emergencies, downtown visitors with disabilities, children in strollers and those attending parades, festivals, performances or other special events. Residents are also allowed to sit on furniture installed by the city or a business.

After receiving a warning, offenders of the new law could face fines. The first fine would not exceed \$100, and the second fine would not exceed \$200. A municipal judge could impose a lower fine, if appropriate, City Attorney Dirk Nelson said.

The ordinance was based on similar laws that have held up to

legal challenges, including ordinances in Colorado Springs and Tempe, Arizona, he said.

“I wouldn’t have brought an ordinance to you that I didn’t think was legally supportable,” he said in response to questions from councilors.

Ted Hermesman was among the business owners who backed the ordinance to improve safety downtown.

“Sidewalks are there to be walked on as a way of transportation,” he said.

Lynne Sholler questioned the times the ordinance would be in effect and the areas it would cover.

Downtown is not usually crowded at 7 a.m. or 8 p.m. she said.

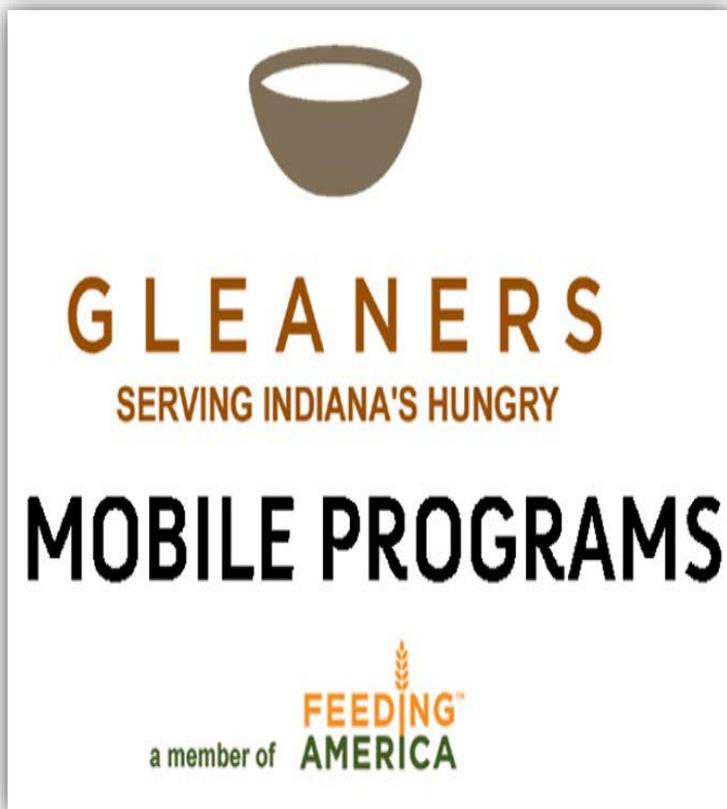
“The concerns about congestion are overstated,” she said.

Some residents opposed the ordinance because it wouldn’t address poverty, which they described as the underlying problem.

“I think this is a Band-Aid. I think this ordinance is going to merely cover a wound that is festering in our city,” resident Linda Daniel said.

White described homelessness as a challenge that will require collaboration between the city and other organizations to address.

“It is going to take a community-wide effort on a scale we have not experienced,” he said.



Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana
3737 Waldemere Ave.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46241

Thank you ...

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Thank You
for your service

The Mobile Pantry Program expands Gleaners' capacity to distribute food by removing barriers that prevent access to underserved areas. Designed as a food pantry on wheels, the Mobile Pantry works to fulfill the needs of families and individuals that fall outside the reach of other agencies in the area.

A truckload of food is distributed to clients through a farmer's market-style distribution where clients choose to take what they need. A typical Mobile Pantry distribution provides enough food for 150 to 300 households

For more information contact:

<https://www.gleaners.org/programs/mobile/>



“Four Myths about Homelessness: Voices from a Tent City”

By: Karen A. Snedker and Jennifer McKinney

An increasing number of people are sleeping outside in tents, doorways, and under bridges. In England, 4,751 people “slept rough” on a single night in autumn 2017, an increase of 15% from 2016. In the United States, 192,875 people were unsheltered on a given night in January, a 9% increase from 2016.

Both the UK and the US, and many other countries around the world, are witnessing a visible rise in tent encampments, legal and illegal. Tent cities have been reported in London, as well as in Milton Keynes, Bristol, Cardiff, Manchester, Oxford and Sheffield. Across the US, tent cities are growing in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, St. Louis, Las Cruces, Indianapolis and Honolulu.

In the US, the city of Seattle is as an important – but relatively overlooked – part of this trend. Seattle recently declared a state of emergency on homelessness and is expanding legally sanctioned tent cities, setting it apart nationally and globally. Seattle’s Tent City 3 is the oldest sanctioned tent encampment in the US. The democratically organized encampment operates under a strict code of conduct and moves between churches, neighborhoods and universities every 90 days in accordance with a city charter.

Between 2012 and 2018, Seattle Pacific University has hosted Tent City 3 three times. During their stays we conducted interviews with over 60 residents. The data challenges what we think we know about the causes of homelessness



Tent City 3. Courtesy of Seattle Pacific University/Chris Yang, Author provided

and the character of the people who experience it.

Myth 1: People who are homeless have greater pathologies

The stereotypical image of a person who is homeless is a mentally ill, disheveled man who self-medicates with drugs or alcohol. While single men are the most likely demographic to be homeless, in the US, families with children represent one-third of the total homeless population – falling into homelessness because of job loss, domestic violence, divorce, evictions and health crises.

In the case of those very visible homeless suffering from mental illness or addiction, these health problems often begin after losing their homes, due to the stress of living on the streets. Wade’s life, for example, unraveled after his daughter was seriously injured and his trucking company failed. With his company gone and without health insurance, Wade “started drinking ... and became despondent. It caused my divorce ... that was the beginning of the end”.

Alcohol and drugs often come after the fact, used to numb the pain, loneliness, and depression of homelessness. In Tracy’s case, being raped while homeless resulted in mental health issues, which she treated through drugs and alcohol:

I wanted counselling, and so the caseworker set me up to see one of their shrinks and it was actually going to, we had a plan ... but I did not qualify for help because I self-medicate ... but I self-medicate because I can't get the help.

In academic circles, medical intervention and treatment is often seen as the solution to homelessness. While this is sometimes true, it is an incomplete understanding.

Myth 2: Homeless people do not want regular work

Individuals are often blamed for their own homelessness. People who are homeless are frequently seen as lazy, lacking a work ethic and irresponsible. Yet our research shows that many people who are homeless continue to work. Some 25% of Tent City 3 residents were working full or part-time, another 30% were actively seeking employment and 20% were retired or unable to work due to disability or other health issues. Rather than being lazy, a lack of jobs, limited skills or education, and low wages kept them homeless. As George told us:

If they lowered the rent, I could live here. It's that rent. It's not good, it's too high. Some people got two jobs and still can't afford a place with that rent.

This is especially true in light of the recent financial crisis. “Anybody out there is just one paycheck away from being homeless,” suggested Alonzo.

Myth 3: People choose to be homeless

Stories from Tent City 3 residents are full of economic travails, family disruptions, and health crises as precipitating causes of homelessness. In fact, based on a 2018 survey in Seattle, 98% said that they would move into safe and affordable housing if available. There are rare cases of personal choice favoring a homeless lifestyle – evading work and responsibility – but this is not the norm.

For some, childhoods riddled with strife and instability – from living in the foster care system

to living in abusive families – led directly to homelessness. Miguel told us how he came from a typical alcoholic home:

I was put in foster care on and off and ... I became a problem kid, you know, and everything like that and started drinking and drugging when I was 11 years old.

There are choice examples of people “choosing” to become homeless, such as Candi, who did so after her daughter died:

This time I can honestly say I chose it ... I chose to put my daughter away peacefully rather than pay my bills. It was by choice, I chose to bury my child.

While this is an extreme example, very limited choices are typical. We should be skeptical of stories about choosing to be homeless. Such declarations are assertions of agency avoiding the pain, loss, and failure and attempts to “salvage the self”. Residents expressed wanting a way out of homelessness.

Myth 4: Social services are handling the problem

Local governments, non-profit organizations and churches mostly address homelessness by providing basic needs, such as food and shelter, but they do little to help people actually find homes. Even with Seattle’s progressive politics and expanding economy, the city has neither the resources nor the plans to adequately address the scope of the problem, which continues to increase.

Jen recounted how she lost her apartment after her partner was hospitalized:

If you tell them you're homeless, they send the social worker in, and she basically had no idea. She was like 'here, here's a pamphlet', and I was like, 'great, thank you, that's really helpful'.

The resident’s sarcasm signifies the lack of useful services and resources for people, especially inadequate housing and social workers. Frank, a single father, shared the support the he and others desperately need:

So, I'm at the bottom, I can't do nothing but go up. And I know I can't do it by myself. I need caring people to support me.

Public perceptions about homelessness matter. They can both broaden our understanding or serve to reinforce our biases. While residents of Tent City 3 may not be typical of the entire homeless population (they are more likely to be white, exhibit less serious mental illness and fewer suffer from drug and alcohol dependency issues), they shed light on an increasing population of the working poor, who cannot afford housing.

Stories from tent cities reinforce much of what scholars of homelessness have long reported – that broader social systems (economic inequality, weakened social safety net, weak labor market, and rising housing costs) are the primary causes of homelessness.



CHARTING THE WAY

Homeless statistics

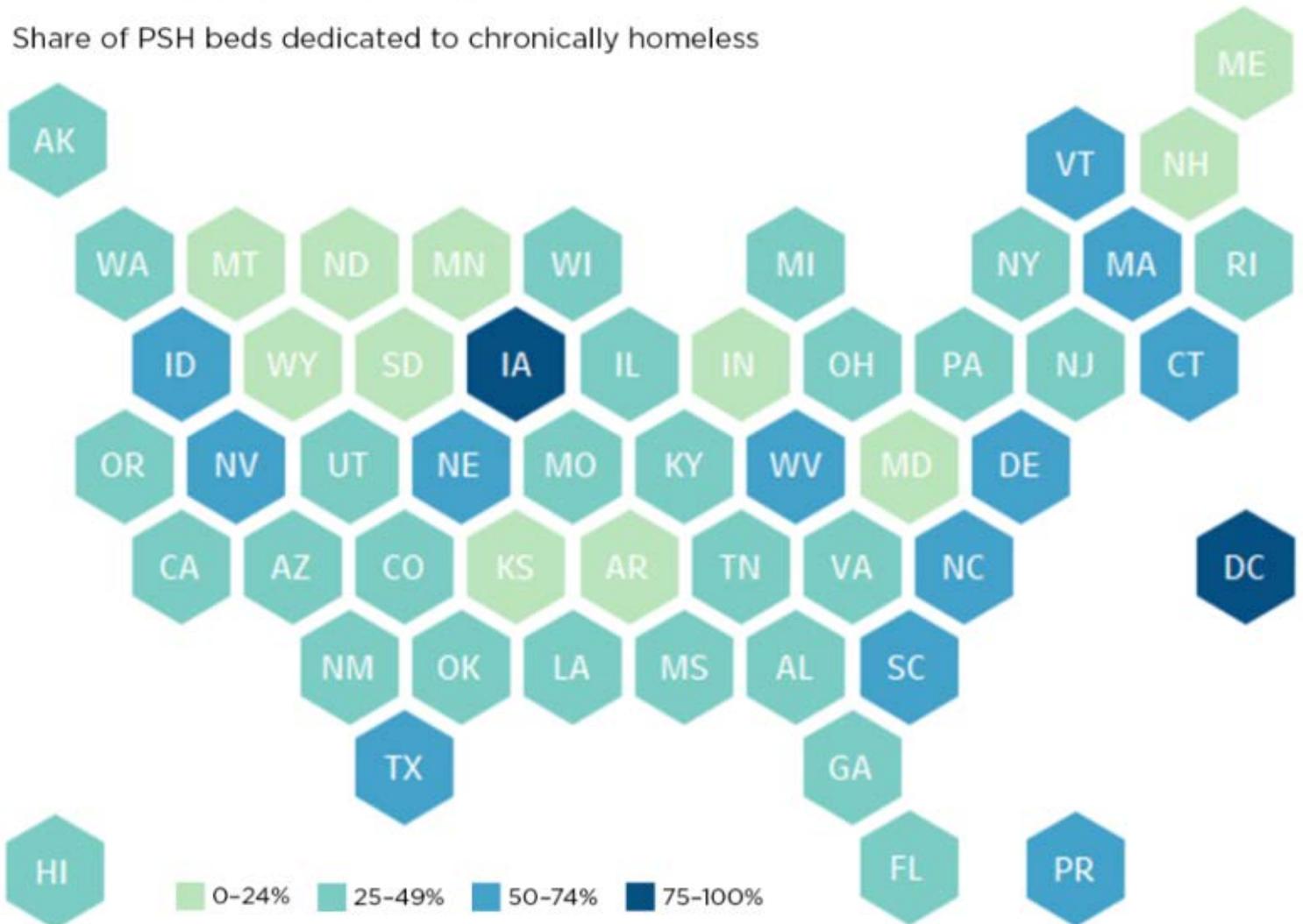


Permanent supportive housing (PSH) is a proven solution for the most vulnerable chronically homeless people. PSH ends a person's homelessness by pairing housing with case management and voluntary supportive services. Investments in PSH have helped decrease the number of chronically homeless individuals by 28 percent since 2008.

Despite the progress, only 42 percent of PSH beds across the country are dedicated to people experiencing chronic homelessness. As a result, fewer resources are available for those with the most intensive needs.

Only 42% of Permanent Supportive Housing Beds Nationwide are Dedicated for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

Share of PSH beds dedicated to chronically homeless



Source: Housing Inventory Count Report in the 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, Part 1

HOMELESS EXPERIENCE: Alumni

During our weekend experience living on the streets, I was eager to know why people had chosen to live homeless. Why did they not seek housing and get themselves off the streets.

The first young man I talked to was about 25 years old. To my surprise, he had a job. He worked for a staffing company that contracted the set-up and tear down of events at the convention center. Making only \$9 per hour and getting less than 20 hours a week, he seemed somewhat trapped in his situation. He certainly didn't make enough for traditional housing. Averaging about \$150 per week (after taxes) or \$600 per month, accessing housing became a real challenge for him. Affordable housing and /or low income housing was an option for him but the waiting list was extremely long. Especially because he had no "personal issues." He didn't have a drinking or drug problem, he didn't have any mental health issues nor was he disabled in any way. It appears that people with these issues take priority getting into these affordable and low-income housing units.

I then asked, why not stay at the mission? He explained that sometimes his work ended well into the night hours. Finishing up about 1 or 2am. The mission has a curfew for those staying there he said. This created a conflict for him so sleeping outside became his only other option.

Next, I talked to an older gentleman who was on Social Security Disability. He was on the low-income waiting list for housing. He stated that he had been on the wait list for about three (3) years. He then said he chooses to sleep on the streets because motels are too expensive and the shelters only give you so many days per month (10). Thus he decided to set-up a tent and wait. He did say he was saving money so that he can get new things for his apartment when his name comes up on the list.

Lastly, when we were at a feeding downtown there was a lady with two (2) kids. I didn't want to seem nosy but I was interested in hearing her story so I approached her and started a conversation. A little suspect of me, she was reserved at first but as we ate and chatted she became a bit more open. She said she was "couch surfing." Staying here, staying there until she could come up with a plan. She said the summer was hard for her because the kids were out of school. She had two little girls, one seemed to be about 9 and the other one about 7. She said there was little she could get done with the kids with her all day. Without a babysitter, she said, going to appointments and interviews was extremely difficult. She explained that during the school months it was easier to maneuver with the kids at school. The one thing (I noticed) she had going for her was having a car.

After we completed our weekend experience and talking to all the people who would share their story with me, I came to this conclusion, "people are not on the streets by choice but because they lack choices." Our City should really look into this matter of homelessness, not the surface stuff, but the heart of the matter. I think if there are people working and/or have an income, accommodations can and should be made for these individuals. I was certainly of the opinion that employment cured poverty (at least homelessness). This is not the case – Why? (And how do we fit it!)



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10:30am**

FREE SHOWERS



WHEELER MISSION
Ministries



MONDAY – THURSDAY

8 – 11:30 am



520 E Market Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(Males Only)

Did You **KNOW**

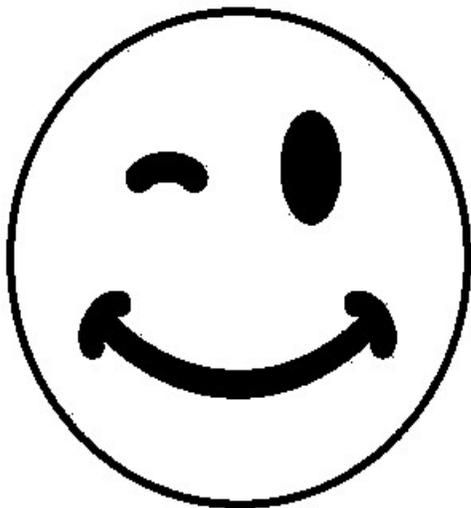


Did you know most minority groups in the United States experience homelessness at higher rates than Whites, and therefore make up a disproportionate share of the homeless population. African- Americans make up 13 percent of the general population, but more than 40 percent of the homeless population. Similarly, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and people who identify as two or more race make up a disproportionate share of the homeless population.

Hispanics make up a share of the homeless population approximately equal to their share of the general population, while Whites and Asians are significantly underrepresented.

(Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness)

a bit of Humor....





how to help the
HOMELESS



What do you really know about
Homelessness?

HOMELESS

Cultural Competency
PRESENTATION

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The **HOMELESS** EXPERIENCE



DATE: TO BE ANNOUNCED (tba)

TIME: 5pm Friday (Begin) – 2pm Sunday (End)

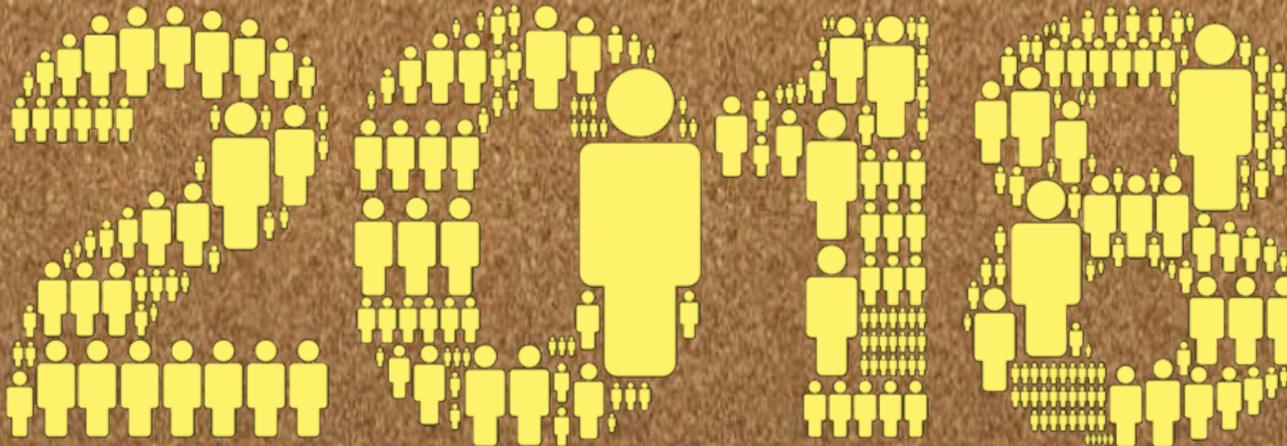
LOCATION: Downtown Indianapolis

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Have you ever wondered what it's really like to be homeless and live out on the streets? Come see firsthand the situations that homeless individuals face daily by "[Walking a Mile in my Shoes.](#)" This new program will allow you to:

1. Engage with the homeless of our community
2. Meet those who serve the homeless community
3. Acquire knowledge regarding the growing crisis of homelessness and
4. Become aware of the public's attitudes towards people who are homeless

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GLEANERS

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(Community Action Relief Effort Mobile Pantry Program)

No ID Required Open to the Public



Please bring your own bags or boxes!

LOCATIONS – June 4th through August 25th

*UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Mondays - 4 to 6 p.m.

Mt. Zion Apostolic Church
4900 E. 38th St., 46218

Thursdays - 4 to 6 p.m.

Christ Our King Church
2701 N. California St., 46208

Tuesdays - 4 to 6 p.m.

Kroger Parking Lot
(Across from IMPD Southwest District HQ)
2630 W. Michigan St., 46222

Saturdays - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

North United Methodist Church
3808 N. Meridian St., 46208

Wednesdays - 4 to 6 p.m.

Save-A-Lot Parking Lot
3739 E. Washington St., 46201
*Closed Wednesday, July 4th

Saturdays - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Fervent Prayer Church
10512 E. 38th St., 46235

CARE Info: 317.829.1800

*CARE Mobile distributions are subject to cancellation due to rain and severe weather.

Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc.
3737 Waldemere Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46241
317-925-0191 | www.gleaners.org



In partnership with the City of Indianapolis public safety agencies





Fresh, affordable food is coming to the Transit Center!

Starting Monday, July 9, fresh produce will be available for purchase during a 6-month pilot project partnership between IndyGo, the City of Indianapolis, and Brandywine Creek Farms.

The market will be open Monday - Thursday from 3 - 6 PM.



H.O.P.E. TEAM MONTHLY MEETING



Join Us!

Tuesday, July 10, 2018
Indiana Interchurch Center

1100 W 42nd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46218

Host:

2nd Floor Conference Rm

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Founder: Kim Boyd, President

klb2600@gmail.com



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1121 Southeastern Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46202

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Homeless Resource & Services

"The world is beautiful outside when there is stability inside"



FREE MEALS



FOOD PANTRIES



SURVIVAL GUIDE



SERVICES

The purpose of this site is to share resources and services with those advocating for individuals transitioning "in or out" of homelessness. We need your help to keep this guide current. If there are agencies to be added or removed, information updates or changes, please contact us at indy26aug@gmail.com. Or call (317) 762-5890. Thanks!



The Voice Indianapolis

Downtown Indy
Indianapolis, Indiana
46204



The Creative Change Project

125 W South Street, #2927
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206