



The Voice Indianapolis



December
2014

SPONSORED BY: THE CREATIVE CHANGE PROJECT

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome!

By: Us

Welcome to the Voice, a newsletter by the homeless voices of our community.

We welcome you back to our seventh (7th) issue of "The Voice." Like always, if you have missed any of our pervious issues click the following link to our website and find them there (<http://indy26aug.wix.com/indyhbr>). On the Home page of our website you will see a designated box for the newsletters, click, and you are there.

Due to the volume of questions, regarding homelessness (which is a good thing), we have changed our newsletter format a bit. We have moved the "Question" section to the end and added a "Charting the Way" section in its place. "Charting the Way," will show homeless stats (locally and nationally) for those who just love numbers & charts and moving the "Question" section to the back now allows us to answer your questions with more than just a single paragraph.

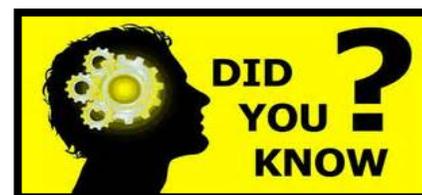
Below is our new format:

❖ Welcome!

- ❖ In the News
 - Man arrested for serving food to the homeless.
- ❖ Special Thanks
 - Second Helpings
- ❖ Did you know?
 - Holidays are very challenging for those living on the streets?
- ❖ Charting the Way
 - How the youth generate money living on the streets.
- ❖ Question
 - What are some things that the general public should know about homelessness?
- ❖ Homeless Graphic Art
- ❖ Food for thought
 - Next Cultural Competency Presentation! (New)
 - Upcoming Photography Exhibition (New)

Again, 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!



Holiday Challenges

Did you know that holidays are very challenging for the homeless community? (Page 4)



Sharing some facts?

(Page 6)



No feeding the hungry?

Man arrested for feeding the homeless (Page 2)

IN THE NEWS!

90-year-old Florida man charged for feeding homeless people....

CNN

By: Kevin Conlon and Catherine E. Shoichet, CNN, Wednesday November 5, 2014

(CNN) -- Arnold Abbott handed out four plates of food to homeless people in a South Florida park. Then police stopped the 90-year-old from serving up another bite.

"An officer said, 'Drop that plate right now -- like I had a weapon,'" Abbott said.

Abbott and two pastors in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, were charged for feeding the homeless in public on Sunday, the city's first crackdowns under a new ordinance banning public food sharing, [CNN affiliate WPLG reported](#).

Now they face possible jail time and a \$500 fine, WPLG said.

Despite some criticism from homeless advocates, city officials have vowed the new rules will be enforced.

"Just because of media attention we don't stop enforcing the law. We enforce the laws here in Fort Lauderdale," Mayor Jack Seiler told WPLG.



He defended the law in an interview with the Sun-Sentinel newspaper.

"I'm not satisfied with having a cycle of homeless in the city of Fort Lauderdale," [Seiler said](#). "Providing them with a meal and keeping them in that cycle on the street is not productive."

But Abbott, who has been helping feed homeless people in the area through his Love Thy Neighbor nonprofit since 1991, said authorities are targeting the city's most vulnerable residents.

"These are the poorest of the poor. They have nothing. They don't have a roof over their head," he said. "Who can turn them away?"

Recently, the city has also passed an ordinance limiting the storage of personal property in public, WPLG said. Then came the restrictions for food sharing.

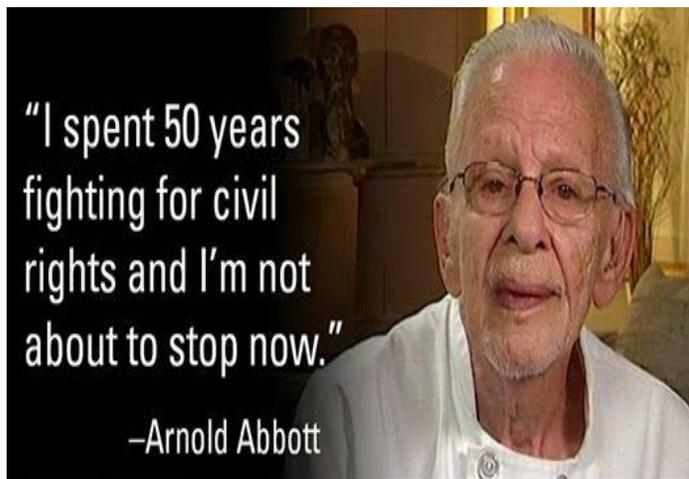
"The city passed an ordinance requiring us to have a Porta-Potty. It's ridiculous. The whole thing was designed to rid Fort Lauderdale of its homeless," Abbott said. "Police told me anyone who touches a pan ... anyone who is involved, will be arrested."

It's a battle Abbott has fought before. In 1999 he sued the city for banning him from feeding homeless people on the beach -- and won, according to WPLG.

He said the threat of charges won't stop him from doing it again.

"I'm not afraid of jail. I'm not looking to go, but if I have to, I will," he said.

On Wednesday, Abbott said he'll be at Fort Lauderdale Beach, ready to serve another meal.



IN THE NEWS

Special Thanks!

Each day, **Second Helpings** volunteers and staff rescue prepared and perishable food from wholesalers, retailers and restaurants — preventing unnecessary waste. That rescued food is used to create more than 3,500 hot, nutritious meals each day that are distributed to 75 social service agencies that feed people in need.

Also, the **Second Helpings Culinary Job Training** program trains disadvantaged adults for careers in the foodservice industry. This helps eliminate hunger at its source. More than 500 adults have graduated from this program, and **Second Helpings** alumni are now working in Central Indiana as cooks, executive chefs, business owners and culinary instructors.



1121 Southeastern Ave, Indianapolis,
IN, 46202 · (317)632-2664



For more information follow the link below:
<http://www.seconddhelpings.org/>



Did you know

By: The Creative Change Project

Did you know that “Holidays” are extremely challenging days for the homeless?

Even though “everyday” living on the street is tough, holidays bring additional obstacles to certain groups living in our homeless community (see chart above of our five basic groups).

The hurdle is “closures.” On all major holidays with the exception of Thanksgiving, most places that serve us food regularly - close down. And the various groups that come out and serve food on a regular basis, usually take off for the holidays - to spend time with family and friends.

As a result, food and water become extremely scarce for the day. Those living in shelters are not affected by the shortage or those living in cars because they

have the means to get back and forth to the shelter for breakfast, lunch and dinner. However, those living outside and those living in abandon houses - that are not in walking distance to the shelter serving food - are extremely challenged.

Holiday closures that come during the winter months (Christmas Eve, Christmas day, New Years Eve, New Year’s Day, MLK and Presidents’ Day) have a tremendous impact on the homeless. Our most critical strategy for winter survival is “spending the least amount of time in the cold.” For example, on most cold days many people may spend the bulk of their day in the public library (10-12 hours). After the library closes they may move themselves to the shopping malls till closing,

HOMELESS FACTS

80%

Eighty percent (80%) of our homeless population suffer from mental health issues.

60%

Sixty percent (60%) of the homeless population have jobs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



and then return to their place of rest.

Therefore, closures of public spaces during the holidays mentioned above, forces many homeless individuals to be outside in the cold all day. Moreover, the agencies that provide services to the homeless and homeless community are close on the holidays too; some shelters services are accessible on these holidays but for those

living in the shelter -except for the food.

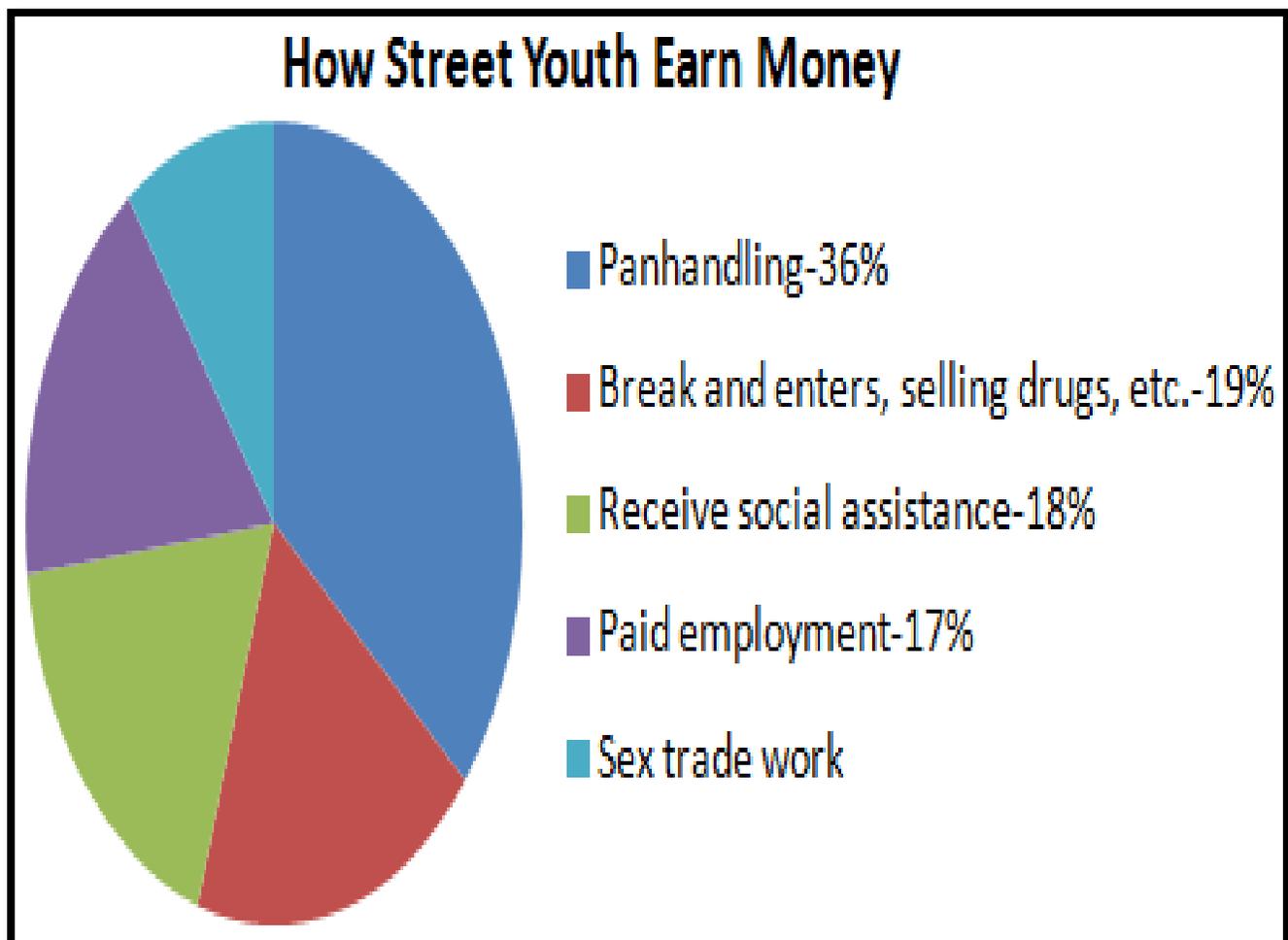
In the spring and summer months we are able to maneuver around holiday closures far better. Currently, we have collaborated with a few groups and individuals to do cookouts every Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day. These cookouts are meeting the need for food and water on these particular holidays. The cookouts are held in Military

Park (temporarily) until we find a permanent location. And food is served beginning at noon and last until everything is gone.

Being centrally located downtown for these cookouts, we are able to serve a large portion of the homeless population. To learn more about how to get involved contact us [via our website.](#)

CHARTING THE WAY:

Source: The Creative Change Project



"Sharing some Facts"

By: The Creative Change Project

Question: Could you share some information regarding homelessness that the general public may not be aware of?

Sure.

On average, homeless families experience homelessness once or twice, for less than a year; families tend to enter and exit homelessness relatively quickly (Urban Institute)

Homeless families are typically headed by a young single mother with 2 to 3 children, who did not finish high school or is unemployed; 42% of homeless children are age six or younger (CCP).

Homeless children suffer more health problems than housed children: 38% of children in homeless shelters have asthma, middle ear infection prevalence is 50%

higher than the national average, and over 60% of homeless children are under-vaccinated (Redlener & Johnson, 1999)

Homelessness often precludes good nutrition; homeless children often experience physical and mental development delays (CCP).

Nearly one-fifth of homeless children repeat a grade in school and 16% are enrolled in special education classes – rates 100% and 33% higher than housed children; much of this is due to their high mobility rate (Institute for Children & Poverty, 2001)

Homeless single adults are more visible and more likely to live on the streets, experiencing longer or more frequent spells of homelessness

Homeless adults suffer chronic physical health conditions such as

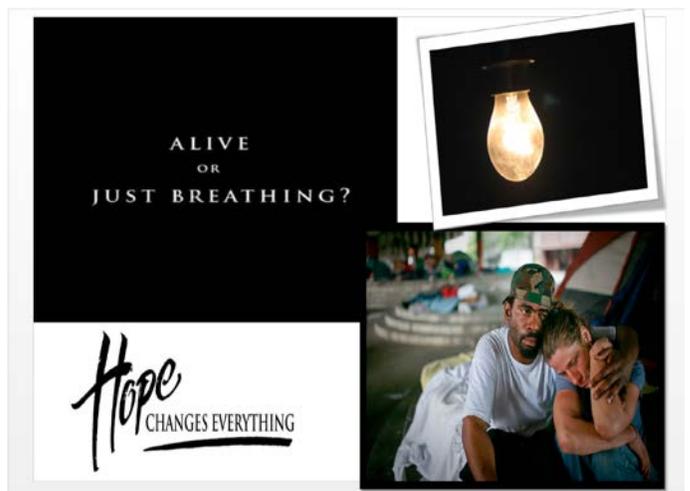
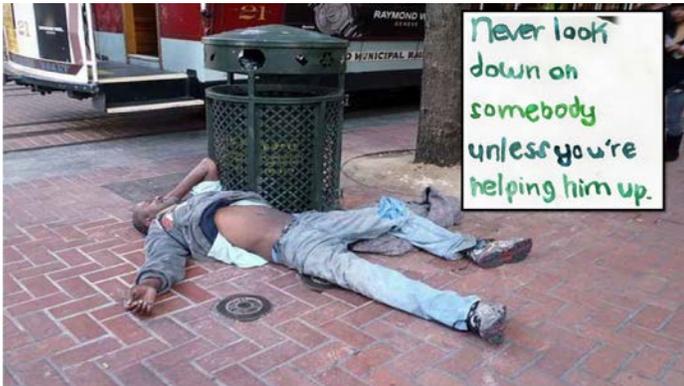
tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, diabetes and hypertension, at a much higher rate than housed individuals; treatment is difficult without a stable living environment (CDC)

Homeless adults utilize public services (e.g. hospital emergency rooms, mental health facilities, jails) more frequently and usually experience higher rates of violence and victimization

A single adult with no children needs to earn at least \$10/hour in order to secure basic necessities; a single parent with one child needs to earn a minimum of \$17/hour.



Homeless Graphic Art



Check out our Facebook page to see more: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Creative-Change-Project/303593586466151>



Laws that criminalize homelessness are often designed to mask visible homelessness, rather than address the root causes of the problem. These bad public policies are ineffective, exacerbating rather than reducing the problem. The misuse of the criminal justice system wastes precious public resources, crowds local jails, and clogs the court system – all at the expense of taxpayers. -

NEXT: Cultural Competency Presentation

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Wall Street Christian Church
208 East Wall Street
Advance, IN 46102
1:00pm to 3:00pm



The Voice
Indianapolis

Downtown Indy
Indianapolis, Indiana
46202



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Like Us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Creative-Change-Project-2/777741175590133>

Visit Our Website:

<http://indy26aug.wix.com/indyhbr>

You Are Invited!



DATE: Tuesday, January 6, 2015

TIME: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

LOCATION: Greenwood Public Library
310 S Meridian Street
Greenwood, IN 46143



Join featured Photographer James Eickman and friends for a special event exhibiting the assorted perspectives of homelessness. Also, meet Homeless Advocate, Maurice Young who will give a brief overview of Indy's current homeless situation.

There will also be a private screening of the Emmy© award winning documentary "The Advocate" – directed and produced by film students from Taylor University.

<http://calendar.greenwoodlibrary.us/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>