

TRUMP WORK REQUIREMENTS

cont from page 1...

This isn't the first time the Trump administration has indicated its intent to implement work requirements for government programs. In January of this year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced they would approve changes in state administration of Medicaid that would require some Medicaid recipients to work in exchange for health care. In February, a draft document was released detailing plans to require tenants in Section 8 housing to meet certain work requirements in order to stay housed. Republicans in Congress are also proposing work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

If fundamentally reshaping the nature of government assistance programs by requiring recipients to work seems like a really bad idea, well, that's because it is. For one, we know these programs don't actually help people. Work requirements were part of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program implemented during the Clinton administration. In 2011, the state of Kansas began mandating work requirements for welfare recipients. Neither program demonstrated an ability to bring people out of poverty. In fact, the only clear outcome from both programs was a reduction in case work and administrative costs.

It's also not clear who these work requirements are supposed to target. For instance, while a number of states are planning to implement work requirements for Medicaid, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation 60% of adults on Medicaid are already working. An additional 14% say they are ill or disabled, 6% are in school, and 12% are acting as caregivers. While the Trump administration would have you believe government assistance programs have, as Trump's executive order put it, "delayed economic independence, perpetuated poverty, and weakened family bonds", that's simply not the case. The vast majority of recipients of Medicaid are already working or sick, fulfilling obligations to family, or in school.

So if work requirements fail to address a problem which, upon closer inspection, doesn't even exist in the first place, why doth Trump persist? For one, work requirements place an additional burden on recipients of government assistance, who in addition to making ends meet, have to do the additional work of proving they are employed or shouldn't be subject to work requirements because they don't meet the administrations definition of "work-capable". By constructing another obstacle to receiving aid, one with deadlines and requirements not all people will be able to navigate, we get closer to the truth: work requirements are part and parcel of a political agenda that places responsibility for poverty, homelessness, and lack of access to services on the individual and seeks to punish them accordingly.

ASK US Anything

HAVE A QUESTION YOU WANT US TO AN-Swer about homelessness or housing in the bay area? ASK us at streetsheet@cohsf.org or (415) 346-3740 and it could be answered in the Next Issue!

VOLUNTEERWITHUS!

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<u>Contact:</u> Streetsheet@cohsf. Org

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

The STREET SHEET is a project of the Coalition on Homelessness. The Coalition on Homelessness organizes poor and homeless people to create permanent solutions to poverty while protecting the civil and human rights of those forced to remain on the streets.

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition's work. We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people: They bring their agenda to us.

AT 468 TURK STREET

STREET SHEET STAFF

The Street Sheet is a publication of the Coalition on Homelessness. Some stories are collectively written, and some stories have individual authors. But whoever sets fingers to keyboard, all stories are formed by the collective work of dozens of volunteers, and our outreach to hundreds of homeless people.

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Introducing HOLLE HONELESS Got a question about life in shelter or

on the streets? Ask Hollie, a brand new advice columnist with the Street Sheet Street Paper.

Why is it so difficult to get into a shelter? How do you use the bathroom if you're homeless? Where can I get free tampons? Hollie has the answers to these questions and more!

Stay tuned for Hollie's first column, coming out May 15th in this very paper. Send your own questions to holliehomeless@cohsf.org

Mary Ann Wright - Saint **OF THE POOR**

JUDY JOY JONES

Mother Mary Ann Wright Saint of the Poor slept sitting up all night so she could feel the suffering of the homeless all over earth's shores

Hearing God's call to take blankets food and clothes to the homeless on the streets in the darkest nights Mary Ann Wright did go

How many souls she fed and clothed the world will never know but her love for the poor lives on through eternity and her saint's halo forever glows

Mother Mary Ann Wright Saint of the Poor sheltering the homeless in her loving arms she was the mother they had never known sent by God alone



The night I found RAMSEY E. DUNLAP myself sleeping in the rain outside

of a Subway sandwich shop in San Francisco any pretense I'd built my life on up until that point instantly vanished.

Outside of Subway that night I asked myself how I had gotten to that point. I asked myself was there any hope or was where I lay the next phase of my life, again to occupy such a lowly state? The question itself so overwhelmed me I could find no satisfying answer. The answer that initially came to mind was that, in a sense, I deserved—was even expected—to sleep in the rain because I'd grown up poor.

In fact, I grew up not simply "poor" but a particular kind of poor: Southern, black poor. A lot whose socioeconomic positioning is so heavy with despair that the word itself "poor" breaks into halves in the speakers' mouths whereby they swallow the second half (o, r) as they push the first half (p, o) off their lips into the jargon specific po' which they used as a qualifier. Po' folks. That's what we were. Neither poverty nor homelessness are chic. They carry no bohemian cool factor, no San Francisco folklore about

Mimi Von Trustbaby-bored with privilege and status and perpetual front row seats-abandoning her mansion and heading to Haight Street or the Tenderloin to rough it while she finds herself.

And though that night in the rain I'd begun thinking that maybe all po' folks were expected to end up homeless and sleeping outside, deep down in me, next to intuition, in that sacred, quiet spot reserved for hope, I knew that assumption was false. I'd always heard, and continue to hear, that homelessness in San Francisco could be solved if its citizens possessed the will to do so. I know this will exists. It is the same will that got me off the streets and into housing. I'm no longer homeless today because a number of San Franciscans (friends, case managers, activists, non-profit and for-profit workers, myself) had the will to do something about it. The resolution to every problem began first with the willingness to even ask a question in spite of how silly or shallow the speaker thinks the question or how personal and probing the question might actually turn out to be.

In the coming weeks, months . . . years the purpose for the articles of this new column, In the Red, is to ask the citizens of San Francisco what are we truly willing to do (individually and collectively) to finally solve homelessness in our city. Homelessness isn't a joke. It's people lives with which we are

dealing. Homelessness doesn't exist in some vacuum

It's front and center and outside all around us.

for the future and a team, a staff of people who work with the public of all kinds and diversity to resolve whatever conflicts or problems they come across and provide service to them great organization.

I pick up the Street Sheet, I need glasses to read well and the small print can





S'REET,

STORIES FROM READERS & VENDORS



There are two harmful ethics afoot in the United States, the greed ethic and the elitist ethic. The greed ethic goes by the idea that there are not enough necessities to go around for everyone, so some people will have to go without basic necessities, such as food, shelter, clothes, transportation, etc. The elitist ethic declares that some people are more deserving of those necessities than others. People who are often seen as deserving less of them tend to be old people, young people, people from other countries, American Indians, etc.

People with greed or an elitist attitude would tend to go silent around a lot of people who work toward providing necessities such as housing for everyone. So some people work to establish a harmful ethic to convince children and people who don't know better that some people don't deserve certain necessities.

We need to perform a great deal of missionary work to oppose harmful ethics.

be difficult. But the paper helps me get involved in the city and provide an education and information as a resource. They have people from varied types of backgrounds that can be influencing, offering development of security, employment, and involvement in a positive effect on the San Francisco streets and community. Each day I am present I see them in budget talks and hope to someday be at it together. With my past and present situation and my education in communication I can better work through and assist in these conversations, what we would call Housing Not Handcuffs. But directly to the point regarding persons evictions or abuse in public situations I hope to cease this, to stop it entirely and resolve it. It is a challenge but it seems feasible.



Hi my name is Mary.

The best part of my morning is jumping up at 7AM go to the Street Sheet program to make coffee, listen in at meetings, learn the power of good



to get a message across and hopefully

best convey the point. They might just

seem to be poor but in many ways are

They also work with Chicanx Americans and families, young men and women, and some advocate at City Hall. I see them meeting with people from City Hall in the government, through this channel. It's fun! I ask that I build my strength and sacrifice, and hopefully will continue to read, write and speak as best I can and make a difference. Houses Not Handcuffs, Peace not War.

PHOTO BY ROBERT GUMPERT

STREET, MAY 1, 2018 PAGE 4 SWEEPS HIT SAN FRANCISCO

Mark Farrell's abbreviated term as mayor will apparently be defined by one thing — the removal of tent dwellings from homeless San Franciscans. If so, that definitive moment came April 25, when otherwise unhoused people who have erected tents and other improvised shelters were swept out of an area under the U.S. Highway 101 overpass in the latest of street evictions.

Under orders from Farrell, police and public works crews appeared in full force and began breaking an encampment on Division Street around 6 a.m. This happened five days after Farrell announced that he would send cops, street cleaners and public health staff to the Mission District to move street people off the sidewalk.

"Enough is enough. We've offered services time and time again and got many off the street, but this is a resistant population that remains, and their tents have to go," he told the San Francisco Chronicle.

On the weekend before the sweep, members of the Coalition on Homelessness, which publishes Street Sheet, visited encampments to alert residents. They were also on hand to monitor City workers during the sweep. These clearances have already been occuring frequently, according to updates on the Coalition's Sweeps Watch Facebook page.

The last time the City conducted a large-scale removal of tent dwellers on Division was in 2016 — when San Francisco played host for the Super Bowl celebrations. But the operating procedure in the more recent sweeps differed somewhat: Usually, Homeless Outreach Team workers are on the scene with staff from the other agencies. This time, they were stationed at the corner of Folsom Street waiting for newly displaced while police and Public Works were overseeing the decamping outside a Best Buy store almost one half-mile away.

Similar to 2016, Public Works sprayed the road before clearing the sidewalk and threw out whatever possessions residents couldn't carry away.

Farrell restated his intent to remove camps when announcing a campaign to increase street collection of syringes at an April 23 press conference in the South of Market neighborhood.

"We'll be implementing Prop. Q in a more aggressive way," he said, referring to the 2016 ballot measure he authored as a supervisor. Proposition Q enables City employees to remove tents with only 24 hours' notice.

Farrell's publicizing of increased needle removal was made with the same vigor as his earlier statements on encampments. Couched in public health and safety terms, his language conflated both the emergence of homeless camps and prevalence of syringe litter as threats to the general population.

The City Administrator's office noted ever-increasing numbers reported on both syringes and encampments to 311 calls in the last five years. The office responded to a public records request, finding that service requests on encampments numbered at 888, and syringe calls at 1,009 in 2013; figures from 2017 show reports of encampments at 42,145, and needles at 9,540. Media depictions and elected officials alike often link homeless people with intravenous drug use and criminal activity, and at the South of Market press event, Farrell invoked these maligned images.

TJ JOHNSTON

"At some point, here after months and months of trying, there is a service-resistant population that just wants to be there," he said. "Again, this is the population that contributes to the crime, to the rapes, to the additional public safety issues."

For all Farrell's rhetoric of the availability of homeless services, the Coalition on Homelessness counters with some telling numbers from the City itself, such as 1,300 shelter beds for a population estimated at 7,500, as well as a shelter reservation waitlist that's at least 1,000 people long. Still, Farrell has insisted that the City, with its shelters and Navigation Centers, can accommodate them despite these figures.

> When the Navigation Centers first opened, they were viable options for encampment residents, allowing people to move in with their pets, partners and possessions while they wait for housing. Fast forward three years, the best the City can offer the latest evacuees is a mat at the Next Door shelter for seven days, and they can't bring their belongings inside. But temporary shelter stays are just a band-aid solution, said Coalition organizer Kelley Cutler.

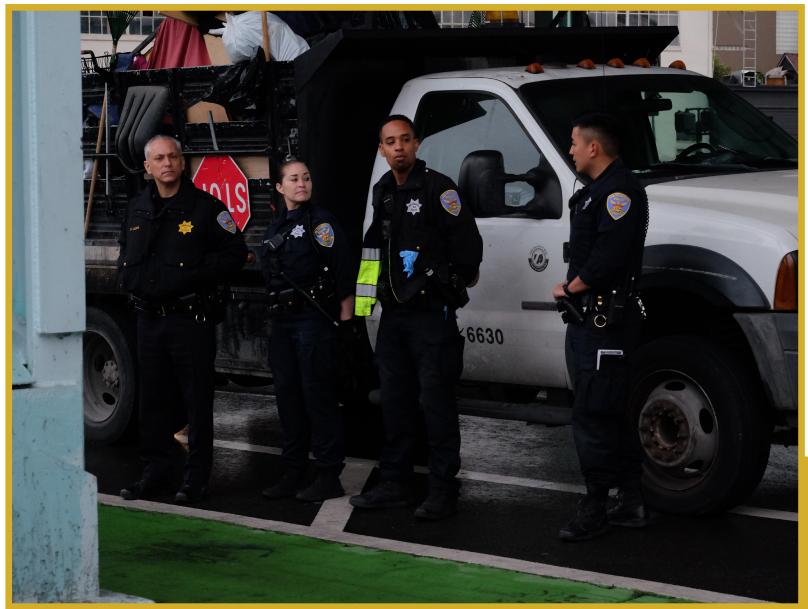
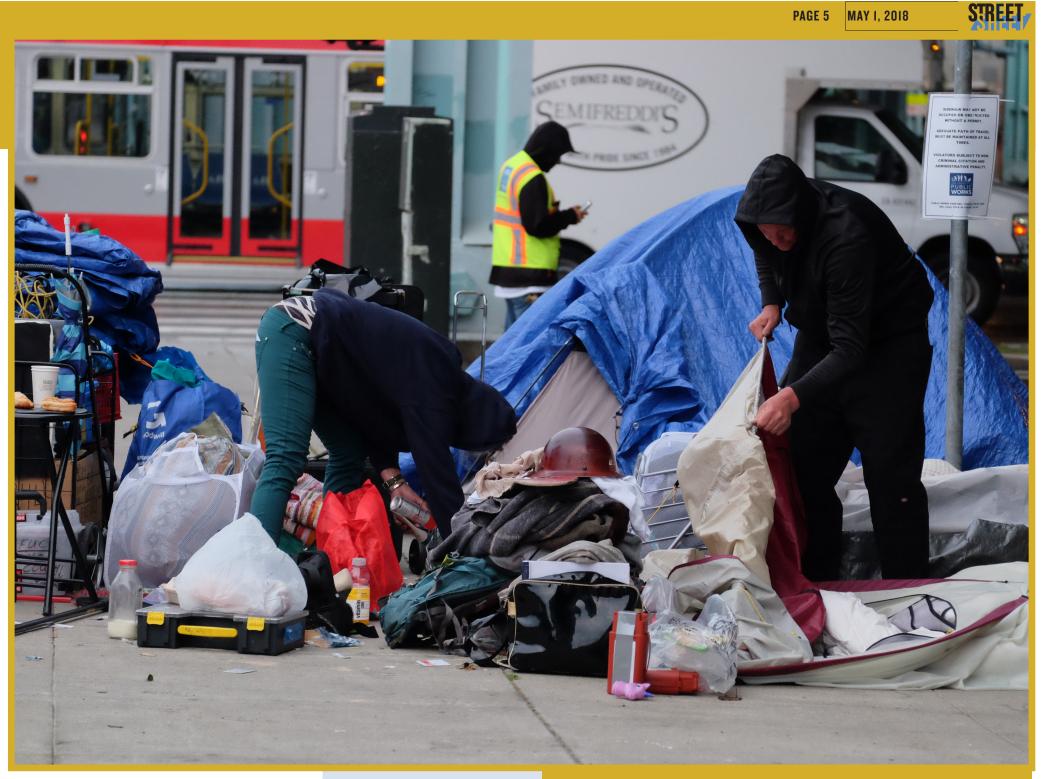


Photo by Jim Youll Description: Four police officers stand in front of a DPW truck filled with homeless peoples' confiscated belongings during a sweep on Division Street



"Folks aren't advocating that tents are adequate housing. We aren't advocating for encampments as the solution," she said.

"Housing is the solution. We are saying that we need to look at the reality of the situation, to be honest. We are in a housing crisis. The City doesn't have the necessary resources."

PLEASE CALL **MAYOR FARRELL** AND SF SUPERVISORS, AND **TELL THEM TO STOP THE CRUEL** AND INHUMANE **ENCAMPMENT SWEEPS IMMEDIATELY!**

Photo by Jim Youll

Description: Two homeless people hurry to pack their tent and belongings as police and DPW conduct a sudden sweep on Division Street

Mayor Farrell: 415-554-6141 San Francisco Supervisors: Sandra Fewer: 554-7410 Catherine Stefani, 554-7752 Aaron Peskin, 554-7450 Katy Tang, 554-7460 London Breed, 554-7630

Jane Kim, 554-7970 Norman Yee, 554-6516 Jeff Sheehy, 554-6968 Hillary Ronen, 554-5144 Malia Cohen, 554-7670 Ahsha Safai, 554-6975

SERVICE REQUESTS TO 311 BY PHONE, MOBILE AND WEB SERVICES

Category	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
Needles	1,009	2,318	3,796	6,265	9,540	22,928
Encampments	888	1,622	4,682	23,824	42,145	73,161
Total	1,897	3,940	8,478	30,089	51,685	96,089

Source: City Administrator's office

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HOUSING OUR CHILDREN: MONIQUE TRINIDAD ROJAS HOMELESSNESS IN THE **SF** Unified School District

The San Francisco Mission District has notably been the city's cultural neighborhood. The murals on the building echo the obstacles that many residents have overcome to be there, and the pride they continue to maintain for their heritage. While the neighborhoods have been through many changes throughout the last century, nothing has hit them harder than the gentrification that is over taking the city. Although the cost of living has has been steadily rising in the Bay Area since the 1980's, the past decade has brought a drastic increase in housing prices with people in the lowest income neighborhoods being hit the hardest. Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8 school lies in the heart of the Mission District, where lack of affordable housing has lead many of these students to homelessness.

Buena Vista Horace Mann (BVHM) is the first two-way Spanish-Immersion school in the city which not only highlights the large population of latino students who live in the area, but the desire of families wanting their children to learn Spanish as well. According to the California Department of Education, the school currently serves 589 students. Out of these students, administrators state that 64 of them are without secure housing. This also does not take into account students who are perhaps not identifying as homeless due to social stigma or fear of legal repercussions, meaning there could be even more families with insecure housing. Families experiencing homelessness at BVHM up to this point have not had a stable place for their children to go outside of school hours, making it difficult for them

riencing homelessness each night. The idea is that the gym will only be accessible as a shelter to families between the hours of 7pm and 7am, while remaining open to the school throughout the surrounding hours of the day. Not everyone agrees that turning the gym space into a part time shelter for the students at Buena Vista Horace Mann is is the best solution. Some fear that BVHM gym would not provide adequate shelter conditions, as the school itself have been long overdue of repair. Although the proposed shelter would only be available to students of BVHM and their families, some worry about the safety of the children, feeling that their own experiences living in shelters has added more trauma to their lives due to lack of mental health resources, limited accountability of staff, and lack of protection of their rights. Several parents who are experiencing homelessness have expressed that additional low income housing would be a better solution for students and their families.

But for other families, the possibility of shelter, pending housing, is appealing. They feels that while families deserve more than a gym floor, we need to have better shelter options until that housing is available. At this point in San Francisco there is simply nowhere for the students and their families to be

housed. With over 2,000 students experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, only 3 limited stay shelters in the entire city dedicated to families, and a total of 1,400 shelter beds maxed out to capacity, families have limited options as to where to go. Families that are undocumented also have less access to these already limited resources in San Francisco, making temporary housing almost impossible for them to attain. When people are experiencing homelessness, the main focus becomes survival, getting their basic needs met, and finding alternative ways to make a living. They are more susceptible to danger, violence, and overall trauma in their lives, and children are even more vulnerable to this type of environment.

When children have nowhere to go after school, it becomes virtually impossible to keep up with the rigors of academics. Many students have to completely drop out of school to help support their families by any means necessary. Some choose to join gangs for their own safety and protection. From one parent's perspective, while turning a school gym into a shelter is not the ideal situation for students and families experiencing homelessness, it is a much better alternative than living in the streets. Students can have a shelter over their head

while remaining close to school. The idea is that they will be able to fully participate in school without having to worry about where they will stay, or how they will get food each night.

Whether San Francisco residents are for the idea of the proposed shelter or against it, the biggest take away is the criticalness of researching your mayor's platform on homelessness, and the importance of voting for who you agree with. Bernice Casey, parent of two at Buena Vista Horace Mann, is glad to hear that people are having conversations and questions around the issue of homelessness in San Francisco. She reminds us "there has been a lot of rhetoric from candidates around ending homelessness." Her advice is to make your decision based on who you think we will make the most impact on the issue of homelessness and come out to vote. "Whether or not you are against the shelter being built, you can make a difference by coming out to vote on June 5th." Regardless of the outcome on the proposed shelter, Casey hopes that when everything is done, the families who are homeless at the school feel safe and that they are still part of the community. "My ultimate goal is that no one leaves the school because they are stigmatized for being homeless and that no one wants them there."



to succeed in their academics. As the amount of highly mobile families continues to rise in San Francisco, BVHM has taken it upon themselves to create a solution to help their own students.

The school proposes to use one of their two gymnasiums as a shelter for their students and families expe-

Since 1989, the STREET SHEET has been an independent media organization that provides a powerful platform to homeless people to reclaim and shift narratives about homelessness in San Francisco. visit www.cohsf.org and click "Donate Now" to help keep it that way!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT QUIVER WATTS AT QWATTS@COHSF.ORG

STREET SHEET THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

MAY	may	may	may
[4	5	8
CELEBRATE International Workers Day	STOP URBAN SHIELD VICTORY PARTY! WHERE: REEM'S, 3301 E. 12TH ST. SUITE 133, OAKLAND All are invited to join the Stop Urban Shield coalition for a night of food, drinks and dancing. Accessibility info: *Patio and cafe are located directly off of the Fruitvale Bart and accessible via ramp.	ICE ON TRIAL: PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL AT WEST COUNTY WHERE: WEST COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY, 5555 GIANT HWY, RICHMOND @11AM Survivors of ICE detention will share testimonies about the physical and psychological consequences of being indefinitely caged and abused in intolerable conditions.	AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORKSHOP FOR ARTISTS & ARTS WORKERS WHERE: SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION COMMUNITY ROOM, VETERANS BUILDING 401 VAN NESS AVE, SUITE 125 Learn about the affordable housing application process, free financial coaching and free tax preparation!
may	may	may	may
g	16	17	19
MAMAS IN THE MOVEMENT: CELEBRATING MOTHERS ON THE FRONT LINESWHERE: SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER 934 BRANNAN STAn evening filled with powerful performances to honor these incredible women, a photography exhibit highlighting Coleman's movement mamas, and a delectable spread of local fare.	STREET SHEET OPEN MIC WHERE: ADOBE BOOKS Street Spits is an open mic that encourages anyone and everyone, especially unhoused and poor artists, to share poetry, songs, performance, whatever is in their heart. This is a fundraiser for the Street Sheet newspaper.	HOSPITALITY HOUSE'S 33RD ANNUAL ART AUCTION WHERE: MINNESOTA STREET PROJECT 1275 MINNESOTA ST, SAN FRANCISCO Annual Hospitality House art auction fundraiser. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$75 at the door.	BOCCE BALL WHERE: AQUATIC PARK BOCCE COURTS, SAN FRANCISCO Annual COH fundraiser. Stay tuned for more information

Moments In Tenderloin Food Justice History

SF FOOD NOT BOMBS

Food not Bombs is an international network that uses otherwise wasted food to cook and publically serve food, to whoever is hungry. The group considers its work to be a form of protest against the militaryindustrial complex and in support of universal access to food, regardless of ability to pay.

In August of 1988, San Francisco Police arrested 9 Food not Bombs activists for serving food without a permit at the Stanyan Street began a years-long battle between Food not Bombs and the City of San Francisco over the right to serve free food in public without a permit. Eventually the fight was centered around Civic Center Plaza and the steps of City Hall. After almost ten years and over 1,000 arrests, San Francisco Food not Bombs won the battle and the ability to "legally" feed hungry people. Food not Bombs chapters around the country have had to continue the fight however with chapters in San Jose, Santa Cruz, Orlando and Fort

the group serves food at 6pm every thursday in the 16th/Mission BART plaza.

EVAN CROSS

The Free Farm

The Free Farm was an urban farm active for five years at the corner of Gough and Eddy Streets. Started by long-time San Francisco urban farm guru Tree Rubenstein, the Free Farm was a true community farm: the land was worked by the community, as a community and for the benefit of the community. All of the food and Treat Avenue, food is distributed for free in Parque Niños Unidos.

Tenderloin People's Garden

Located on the corner of Larkin and McAllister Streets, the Tenderloin People's Garden is a unique food justice project that's part of the urban agriculture program of Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation. Farmers Sarah and Alex work with neighborhood residents and other volunteers to farm a small patch of land surrounding a utility building. Additionally, the farm is home to healthy cooking demonstrations, two monthly farm stands where food is distributed for free and a vocational training program, teaching tenderloin residents new skills in the therapeutic environment of the garden. The Tenderloin People's Garden is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am-12pm as well as every Tuesday and Thursday from 3pm-5pm. Produce is available every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

STREET

entrance of Golden Gate Park. This



Lauderdale facing arrests and other police harassment in recent years.

> As recently as 2012, there were five different Food not Bombs chapters active in San Francisco, three of them feeding the people of the Tenderloin and South of Market every week in United Nations Plaza. Currently

Image by Bec Young of Just Seeds Description: a group of people work on a garden grown on the farm was distributed weekly at two by-donation, slidingscale farm stands, one at the farm itself and one at The Free Farm Stand in the Mission.

Eventually growing over 5,000 pounds of organic fruits and vegetables, the farm was evicted by the "landowner," Saint Paulus Lutheran Church, to make room for an allegedly imminent development project. That project has yet to break ground and the land remains vacation and unused.

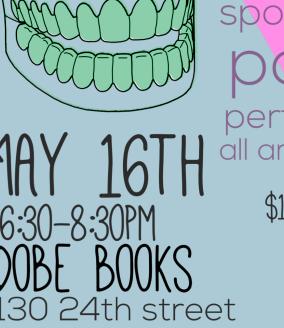
The Free Farm Stand continues to this day. The stand combines produce harvest from backyard gardens and fruit trees with unsold produce from a local farmer's market. Every Sunday from 12pm-3pm at 23rd Street

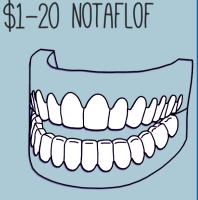
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 3481 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94188

Name: Linda Cosby Place: Compass Time without a home: 5 years, never on the street Age: 48 We can always have a permanent place. But if you have a permanent place and you in a household where everything's negative, nothings organized, it's not home to me.

What happened? I think I moved around negative people, people that was in my life, that I brought in my life, caused me and my children to experience things they should never have experienced. That's what brought me to being homeless Without a home it seems like you have nothing to live for because you need something in your life to survive. Not having a home is not survival to me. It's not just having a house over your head, it's you're not able to do the things that,...that you should be doing; you're not able to function the way you're supposed to.

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MAY 1, 2018

STREET MAY

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