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STREET SHEET



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OPEN LETTER FROM HOSPITALITY HOUSE RE: SIXTH STREET SELF-HELP CENTER

JOE WILSON

As Hospitality House approaches its 60th year, we reflect on hard-won victories, some difficult losses, and important lessons learned. Friendships and bonds forged in struggle. Champions in our midst. Resilience. Despite the odds, we’re surrounded by ordinary individuals accomplishing extraordinary things, summoning up the best of humanity. Every day. And always, relationships and community matter. People matter.

For nearly 20 years, our Sixth Street Self-Help Center has had at its heart, people, relationships, and community. Possibilities. Opportunities. Connections. Fighting for the Soul of the City. Block by block.

Now, that history - that heart - is being threatened. Last month, we were informed by the Mayor’s Office and the Department of Public Health that the Sixth Street Center would be shut down as of December 31! Relationships? Expendable. Community? Expendable. People? Expendable. Once again, this struggle is not one we chose, it was forced on us.

Our choice is simple: And We Choose to Fight. Fighting for the Soul of the City. Block by block.

As one Hospitality House leader reminded us, “the Sixth Street Self-Help Center is more than a building, it’s a community anchor.” In the past few years alone, the Sixth Street Center has helped hundreds of community residents obtain permanent housing to escape homelessness, or maintain their housing to avoid becoming homeless. Connected hundreds more to behavioral health treatment, individual and group therapy, and engaged hundreds more in community activities and connection. Their neighborhood. Their community. Fighting for the Soul of the City. Block by block.

In the months ahead, we’ll be reaching out to you to join us in this fight. Coming to neighborhood meetings. Writing letters and postcards, sending emails. Making phone calls. Speaking out and speaking up: at Board of Supervisors meetings, the Health Commission meetings. Joining us at the Mayor’s Office. Summoning up the best of our humanity. For our community.

As Cherie Davis, Program Manager of the Sixth Street Self-Help Center reminded us, “...wherever we go, they’ll always be our people.”

Fighting for the Soul of the City. Block by block. In the City of St. Francis.

Joe Wilson is the executive director of Hospitality House.

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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 agendas to us.

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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Street Sheet is published and distributed on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples. We recognize and honor the ongoing presence and stewardship of the original people of this land. We recognize that homelessness can not truly be ended until this land is returned to its original stewards.

ORGANIZE WITH US

HOUSING JUSTICE WORKING GROUP TUESDAYS @ NOON

The Housing Justice Workgroup is working toward a San Francisco in which every human being can have and maintain decent, habitable, safe, and secure housing. This meeting is in English and Spanish and open to everyone! Email mcarrera@cohsf.org to get involved!

HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP WEDNESDAYS @12:30

The Human Rights Workgroup has been doing some serious heavy lifting on these issues: conducting direct research, outreach to people on the streets, running multiple campaigns, developing policy, staging direct actions, capturing media attention, and so much more. All those down for the cause are welcome to join! Email lpierce@cohsf.org

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN OUR WORKING GROUP MEETINGS!

6TH STREET SAYS “NO” TO DISPLACEMENT

ELIZA MACALUSO & KALEVI KAUKONEN

Mayor Daniel Lurie’s administration has terminated its contract with the Sixth Street Self-Help Center, forcing the Center to close by December 31, 2026. The closure comes as City leaders attempt to “revitalize” the Sixth Street corridor.

Hospitality House, a nonprofit that has served San Francisco’s housed and unhoused residents since 1967, operates the Sixth Street Self-Help Center and six other programs. Nearly 20 years ago, the San Francisco Department of Public Health asked the Hospitality House to open a location in the South of Market neighborhood to replicate the successful model of their Tenderloin Self-Help Center.

Since the Sixth Street Self-Help Center’s opening, it has provided mental health and substance use counseling, crisis management, and connections to services for rental assistance, disability assistance, and housing to anyone in need—housed or unhoused. Annually, over 4,200 people utilize the harm reduction and health services that the Center provides. These services have successfully offered lower-income people tangible resources to meet essential health and safety needs.

In addition to essential services, the Center also provides internet access, a mailing address, and message-taking—all measures necessary to schedule appointments for housing placement to prevent recurrent

homelessness.

Lurie’s administration is reallocating the budget and services to the Tenderloin Self-Help Center, at 146 Leavenworth St, also operated by the Hospitality House.

When Mission Local questioned about the termination, Lurie’s press office issued a statement saying, “We’re currently looking at how to activate the space at 169 Sixth Street and bring in resources and amenities that serve and energize the whole community.”

But to Joe Wilson, Hospitality House’s executive director, what the City calls “activation” is more akin to the demolition of neighborhoods under urban renewal policies in the mid- to late 20th century.

“What urban renewal is, is urban removal,” Wilson said, addressing a crowd at an August 19 rally in front of the center. “It’s replacing one class of people with another. That’s you, we say ‘no’ to that.”

Despite stated intent to serve the whole community, the removal of the center on Sixth Street leaves a vulnerable group without essential amenities.

“[The Center] helps to prevent people from falling into homelessness, a super critical role,” said Larisa Pedroncelli, chair of the Latino Task Force’s Street Needs Committee.



Pedroncelli pushed back on the narrative that the Center draws unhoused people to the area. “The Center actually helps prevent unhoused people on the street,” she said. “[Its removal] is not going to get rid of unhoused people. It’s just going to make these issues worse.”

“The Center’s drop-in services keep people from ending up on the sidewalks in the first place. It provides a place where people can rest, use the bathroom and be connected. What happens when those bathrooms and drop in areas disappear? There’s going to be worse conditions on the street,” Pedroncelli added.

The closure’s impact isn’t limited to those experiencing homelessness, Pedroncelli said. Residents in the neighborhood’s single-resident occupancy hotels are also at risk. “A lot of people may end up losing their housing because they don’t know their rights or where to seek rental assistance, disability assistance, or food as-

sistance, especially for seniors,” said Pedroncelli.

The shutdown of the Sixth Street Self-Help Center is part of a larger pattern to “revitalize” the City by removing essential services for low-income and unhoused people. Echoing San Francisco’s history of urban removal policies that have displaced marginalized groups, the decision to terminate this contract mirrors the gentrification policies that have long determined who belongs and who does not. While the language has shifted towards “revitalization,” the ideas remain strikingly similar—removing lower-income people through inequitable budgeting and policy choices that disproportionately affects groups that have long experienced disinvestment.

The need for facilities like the Self-Help Center has only increased as income disparity and gentrification continues to change the landscape of the city, forcing many previously housed San Franciscans into homelessness. These centers are some of the only stable places for people to get the rest they need. In recent years, places serving the unhoused and low-income communities have been shut down: the Tenderloin Linkage Center, the Homeless Youth Alliance, a 280-bed, semi-congregate shelter at 711 Post St., and a 116-person non-congregate shelter at the Cova Hotel.



IT'S TIME FOR A PSH TENANT CONVENTION

JORDAN WASILEWSKI

I want to share something I learned in high school, a parable from South Asia about the blind men and the elephant. Several blind men touched the elephant in different parts of their body and came back with various different descriptions of the animal, which, although accurate, was incomplete. Together, the blind men could have painted a picture of the elephant and all its multitudes. I am also reminded of a quote by deaf-blind disability advocate and socialist Helen Keller, “Alone we can do so little, together, we can do so much”, but sometimes, “together” may not include those who have experienced the other multitudes.

Similarly, I believe that there is a need for a Permanent Supportive Housing Tenant Convention, so we can all come together and shape policy for the future in a way that is authentic, honest, and fosters participation.

When I went to the Tenant Empowerment Week in June, I discovered that there were pre-approved talking points by the Supportive Housing Provider Network’s Resident Advisory Board. Though I had no disagreements with any of the talking points, which were extremely important, several issues were still left out. While these talking points were not devised by one individual, it was a closed process involving a select number of tenants, and I had the feeling

that is why we did not see as much participation because other tenants may not have felt invested in the process.

The closest that permanent supportive housing tenants have felt in having a convention was an SRO tenant convention in 2006, which predates my time in San Francisco, and which was run by the Central City SRO Collaborative, which was, and is, still run by troubled permanent supportive housing landlord, the Tenderloin Housing Clinic. I only know about it because in the SRO mailbox legislation introduced and passed by former Supervisor Chris Daly, the findings stated that “At the Central City SRO Collaborative tenant convention, attended by 300 tenants from more than 100 San Francisco residential hotels, problems with mail distribution in the hotels ranked as one of the most pressing issues for the tenants surveyed”. I have not been able to find much information on these conventions; the Central City SRO Collaborative mentioned these conventions on their website, but offered no specifics.

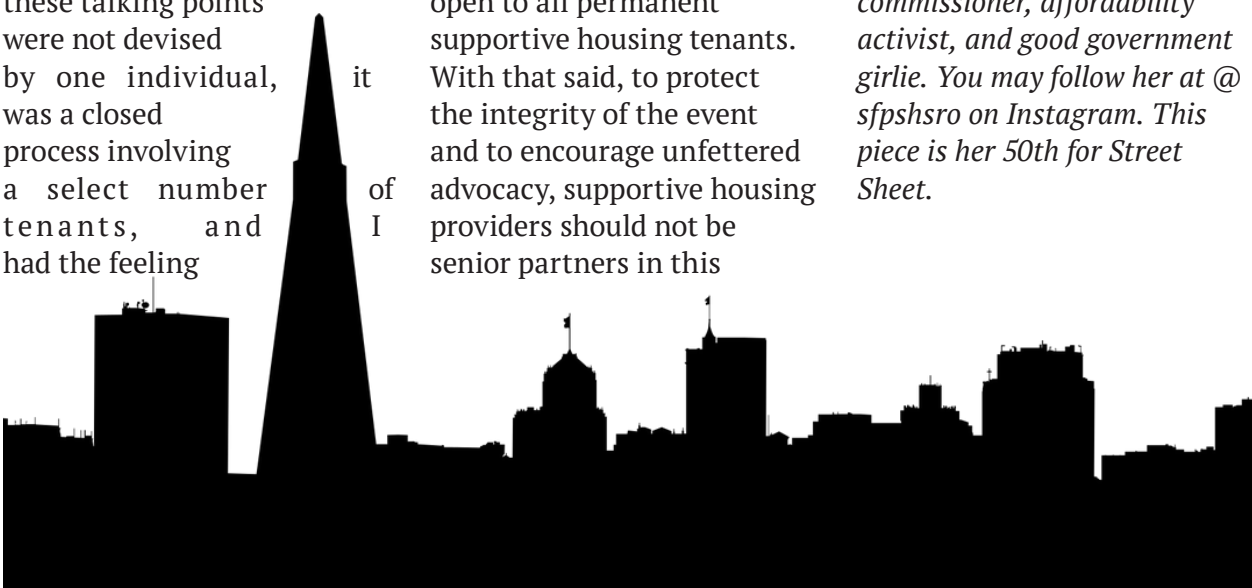
In my decade of PSH residency and advocacy, there haven’t been any SRO tenant conventions, so I believe that it is high time for a gathering open to all permanent supportive housing tenants. With that said, to protect the integrity of the event and to encourage unfettered advocacy, supportive housing providers should not be senior partners in this

convention. There are plenty of organizations, such as Senior & Disability Action, Causa Justa, Housing Rights Committee, and even the Coalition on Homelessness (which prints Street Sheet) that could help organize such a meeting.

So, what would a tenant convention look like? Think of it like the national political party conventions held before a presidential election; one of the understated functions of a convention is to create a platform, which is a set of issues (sometimes known as planks) which the party agrees upon in the coming years. A PSH tenant convention would have breakout sessions in various different subject areas: infrastructure, evictions, policies and procedures, case management, wraparound services, workforce development, as well as responses to city-driven proposals. Like the blind men in the parable, each breakout group could provide its unique perspective and add to a vision of the whole.

And, true to Helen Keller’s words, we could accomplish much together.

Jordan Wasilewski (she/her) is a long-term permanent supportive housing and SRO tenant advocate, former commissioner, affordability activist, and good government girlie. You may follow her at @sfpshsro on Instagram. This piece is her 50th for Street Sheet.



AI, UNEMPLOYMENT SAN FRANCISCO N

San Francisco has long been a city where technological change arrives before the rest of the country. The latest transformation is artificial intelligence. AI is creating enormous wealth and attracting investment, but it is also beginning to change the labor market in ways that could have profound consequences for housing and homelessness.

The central question is no longer simply whether artificial intelligence will eliminate jobs. The more important question is: What happens to people when their jobs disappear faster than they can find new ones—and when housing remains unaffordable?

For San Francisco, that question should be treated as a homelessness issue as much as an economic one.

The AI employment shock is already visible

It would be premature to claim that AI has already caused mass unemployment. Current evidence does not support that conclusion. California’s AI workforce tracker, launched in 2026, says there is not yet evidence of large-scale AI-related layoffs statewide. At the same time, however, the state has found increased unemployment claims among workers in highly AI-exposed occupations, particularly in the Bay Area.

The San Francisco metropolitan area is particularly exposed.

A 2026 analysis of local employment found that approximately 21% of Bay Area jobs have an AI exposure share above 50%, compared with 18% nationally. Nearly 70,000 people in the region work as software developers, an occupation with an AI exposure score of approximately 45%. Office clerks, cashiers, retail workers, managers and other occupations are also substantially exposed.

That does not mean 21% of San Francisco workers are about to lose their jobs.

It does mean that a significant portion of the local economy is vulnerable to technological restructuring.

And restructuring does not have to mean an immediate mass layoff to create hardship.

AI can reduce the number of new employees companies need. It can eliminate entry-level positions. It can allow one employee to accomplish the work previously performed by several people. It can reduce wages and bargaining power even when workers technically remain employed.

Recent research has already raised concerns about declining opportunities for younger

workers in AI-exposed jobs. San Francisco Housing Department is examining how AI affects wages and work conditions.

This creates a possibility for people to lose their paycheck to pay rent and become losing tenants.

Homelessness risk is not simply deciding whether to rent. Many people, at different stages of an economic crisis, miss rent → evicted → exhausted → homelessness.

If AI accelerates housing costs rising faster than wages, the move faster.

San Francisco is particularly vulnerable because housing is extraordinarily sensitive to economic shifts. Recent reports show that vacant apartments in March and July 2026 were driven by economic factors, including rising housing costs and tech employment shifts, which are relatively modest in the long term, but they are increasing and eliminating jobs.

That creates an economic shock.

AI can make San Francisco’s economy simultaneously more resilient and more exposed to displaced workers.

The people most affected by the AI boom are those in low-wage jobs, companies, equity, and infrastructure.

The people most affected are those whose jobs become obsolete.

If that distribution of economic power in San Francisco could expose the economic insecurity: economic insecurity.

The danger of economic insecurity is primary

This brings us to the issue of homelessness and the role of Lurie.

The administration is recognizing that the current economic system needs a 2025 directive on housing and tenant case management, and the city’s responsibility for service provision and workforce development.

Those goals are

The problem is that the current homelessness policy is

EMPLOYMENT AND HOMELESSNESS: SAN FRANCISCO NEEDS A NEW APPROACH

exposed occupations. The Federal Reserve is also experiencing a recession that is affecting employment, particularly in the tech sector, across workers throughout the region.

Particularly dangerous position is for people who are already living on the street. Losing a job can mean losing a home.

The cycle rarely begins with someone being evicted and having to live on the street. For many, homelessness is the final link in an economic chain: job loss → eviction → temporary housing → loss of savings → homelessness.

Even if job displacement while on the street remain high, that chain could be broken.

San Francisco is especially vulnerable to rising housing costs as rents are already extraordinarily high due to economic conditions. A recent survey found asking rents for one-bedroom apartments increased 14% between 2023 and 2026, while the city's AI-driven tech boom has contributed to increased demand. At the same time, job growth has remained flat because AI is both creating and eliminating jobs.

This is an economic contradiction.

San Francisco is becoming wealthier while making it harder for displaced workers to afford San Francisco.

Who is most likely to benefit from this new economy? It may be the people who own capital, real estate, intellectual property, and highly specialized skills.

Who is most vulnerable? It may be workers whose skills are becoming less valuable.

As automation continues, San Francisco will experience an unusual phenomenon: economic growth alongside growing unemployment.

Of treating homelessness as a street problem

San Francisco's current homelessness strategy under Mayor Daniel Lurie is flawed.

San Francisco deserves credit for trying to reform the existing homelessness system. Lurie's March 2024 plan called for expanding interim shelter capacity, improving treatment, increasing accountability for service providers and strengthening employment programs.

That is reasonable.

But what happens when homelessness becomes primarily focused

on removing visible homelessness from public spaces rather than preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place.

The city has increasingly emphasized encampment enforcement, treatment, sobriety-oriented programs and specialized facilities. Lurie's administration has also advanced the RESET Center, which is intended to provide an alternative to jail or hospitalization for people arrested for public intoxication and connect them with treatment.

There is an important distinction here:

Addressing dangerous behavior is not the same thing as addressing homelessness. A person can be moved from one sidewalk to another without becoming housed, can be arrested without becoming economically stable, can be offered treatment without receiving permanent housing. And a tent can disappear from a neighborhood without the underlying causes of homelessness disappearing.

That distinction matters enormously if AI begins producing a larger population of economically displaced workers.

San Francisco cannot enforce its way out of an economic crisis. The Supreme Court's 2024 decision in *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson* gave municipalities considerably more authority to enforce laws against public camping. That legal authority, however, does not make enforcement a homelessness solution. If the number of people losing housing grows faster than the number of genuinely accessible housing opportunities, enforcement can become a revolving door.

Someone is removed from an encampment.

They move somewhere else.

They are removed again.

Eventually they may receive a citation, an arrest, a shelter placement, a temporary bed or some other intervention. But if they still cannot afford permanent housing, the underlying problem remains. This is particularly troubling in an economy where technological displacement could affect people who have never previously experienced homelessness. The future homeless population may not look exactly like the homeless population of the past. It could include former office workers, administrative employees, customer-service representatives, junior programmers, designers, analysts and other workers who suddenly discover that their previous career path has disappeared.

Shelter is necessary—but prevention is even more important. San Francisco's shelter system is also undergoing significant changes.

The Lurie administration originally promised to add 1,500 shelter beds within six months. By April 2026, reporting found that 863 new beds had opened, but closures meant the net increase was considerably smaller. The administration subsequently shifted its emphasis toward providing the "right" kinds of beds, including treatment and stabilization facilities.

Specialized treatment facilities can be valuable, but San Francisco also needs something much less dramatic: a massive homelessness-prevention system. If a worker loses a job because their position was automated, the city should not wait until that person is sleeping outside before intervening. Imagine instead a system where someone who loses an AI-exposed job can immediately access emergency rental assistance, eviction prevention, temporary income support, workforce retraining, free AI and technology education, job placement, mental-health and substance-use services when appropriate, transitional housing, and eventually permanent affordable housing.

That is a homelessness strategy designed for the economy of the future rather than the economy of the past.

AI policy must become housing policy.

California has already begun considering how labor protections should change in response to AI. The state is examining whether existing worker-notification laws adequately address technological displacement, while proposed legislation would create additional notice requirements for certain AI-driven layoffs.

San Francisco should think even further ahead.

If AI dramatically increases productivity, the benefits cannot simply accrue to companies and investors while workers absorb the economic risk. The city should be asking: Who receives the benefits of automation? Who pays the cost when jobs disappear? What happens to workers during the transition? How do we prevent technological unemployment from becoming homelessness?

Those are not anti-technology questions. They are questions about whether technological progress benefits an entire city or primarily the people who own the technology.

The real test of SF's homelessness policy

Mayor Lurie's administration has emphasized accountability, measurable outcomes and reforming a system that has consumed enormous public resources without

eliminating homelessness. That concern is legitimate.

But accountability should not simply mean measuring how many people were removed from sidewalks. It should mean measuring how many people remained housed. How many people avoided eviction? How many people obtained permanent housing? How many people obtained employment after losing their previous jobs? How many people successfully transitioned from temporary assistance to independence? And, most importantly, how many people never became homeless in the first place?

That last number may become the most important measurement of all.

San Francisco has a choice. Artificial intelligence could produce enormous prosperity, or it could produce a society in which fewer workers are needed to produce more wealth. Those two outcomes are not mutually exclusive, but the danger is assuming that economic growth automatically protects everyone.

It does not.

If AI makes companies more productive while reducing the demand for human labor, San Francisco will need to rethink the relationship between employment, income and housing. Otherwise, the city could find itself with booming technology companies, rising rents, increasing wealth—and a growing population of people who simply cannot find a place in the new economy. That is why homelessness policy cannot be limited to what happens after someone ends up on the street.

The homelessness crisis of the AI era must be addressed before people lose their homes. San Francisco should prepare for technological displacement by investing aggressively in affordable housing, eviction prevention, retraining, income stabilization and pathways into new careers.

Enforcement may be necessary in certain circumstances. Treatment may be necessary. Shelter is necessary. But none of those things substitute for the fundamental goal: keeping people housed. If San Francisco waits until AI-displaced workers are sleeping in tents before helping them, the city will already have failed.

The smartest homelessness policy for an AI-powered economy is not simply to move people off the streets. It is to make sure they never have to live there in the first place.

The author requested this piece to be published anonymously.

THE KINDNESS INFLUENCERS

VEERA VEHKASALO

Content about helping people experiencing poverty and homelessness is trending on social media. But is that a good thing?

“I feel like a horrible mom.” A young woman with a stroller wrapped in blankets is crying in the video. They are standing in front of a store on a street in Minnesota, US. It is winter. There is a one-year-old child in the stroller, and neither of them has a home.

A young man chats with the woman and gives her some food. The man asks her how she is and how she ended up on the street. Another man arrives on the scene. The first man asks, “What is your biggest prayer right now?”

“Find somewhere for him safe to stay. Get a job so I can be able to take care of him,” the woman says, wiping tears from her eyes.

In the end, the two men give the woman in the video a bundle of cash. The woman is touched, hugs them and perks up. She enthuses that she can go to a hotel for a while to sleep and to take a shower. Maybe even get a job interview once she has cleaned herself up.

“We’re going to help you a lot further. We don’t want to post a video of you and just leave you,” says the other man.

“And all the money will go to you. So that you can change your life because you deserve it.”

The men are the social media influencers Joshua Liljenquist and Samuel Weidenhofer. They posted a video of the encounter on their social media accounts, set up a crowdfunding campaign, and then the money flooded in.

In the weeks after, they raised over half a million dollars for the woman, Sheena, and her child. In the next video, they take Sheena to the house that they bought for her in Minnesota with the money and tell her that there are still hundreds of thousands of dollars for her. In this video, there’s a closeup of Sheena in tears.

Liljenquist and Weidenhofer are so-called kindness influencers. They post videos of themselves doing good deeds and helping others, mainly people experiencing homelessness and poverty. They are hugely popular.

In December, Liljenqvist (social media profile: joshlilj) had 6 million followers on Instagram and 10 million on TikTok, while Weidenhofer (itssozer) had 2.6 and 7.8 million followers on the same channels. They had even more followers on YouTube.

At the moment, social media is bursting with this kind of “kindness content” – that is, videos about acts of kindness produced for social media by different influencers.

Most of the videos are from the US. Liljenqvist and Weidenhofer, as well as Jimmy Kellogg (Jimmy Darts) and Zachery Dereniowski (mdmotivator), who also have amassed millions of followers, film a large part of their videos in America, although they are not all from there.

Sometimes the acts of kindness in the videos are just small acts: a hug for someone who needs one, or a few kind words. The videos often introduce people living on the street, who are given shoes, tents,

clothes, or whatever they might need at that moment. In one video, a young man is delighted to receive a heat pump on a freezing night. Someone in a neighbouring tent just froze to death, he says.

Sometimes the acts are more generous, like an entire crowdfunding campaign to get a car, an apartment, or other essentials.

Some kindness influencers have large accounts, others are modest, but in general, the videos are engaging. The number of likes, shares and comments is huge in places. Sometimes, the amounts of money raised are also huge.

In the autumn, Weidenhofer’s video about 88-year-old Ed Bambas raised \$1.6 million for the man. All it took was a video of Weidenhofer getting to know Bambas at his workplace, casually approaching him as if in passing. After the old man tells his moving life story, the social media influencer gives him \$400 and tells Bambas that he will set up a crowdfunding campaign so that the man can finally afford to retire. At the end of the video, the old man who has lost his wife cries, again in close-up.

(In December, Zachery Dereniowski also made headlines in the Finnish media when a crowdfunding campaign for Ahmed Al-Ahmed, the man who stopped the shooters in the Bondi Beach attack in Australia, raised hundreds of thousands of euros.)

“You are angels.”

“There are still great people in this world!”

“You are doing an excellent job!”

Kindness content is popular. The comments posted on the content creators’ social media channels are, almost without exception, hearts or praise and thanks, like in the examples above. Many media outlets also praise the creators for making kindness popular again and helping people.

However, this does not convince everyone. The US media outlet AP News calls kindness content “controversial”, and in one of its stories, British public broadcaster the BBC discusses why kindness influencers are often criticised.

“Many influencers have a genuine desire to do good, to help people, and to use their influence in some positive way,” notes Hanna Reinikainen, a researcher of social media influencers at the University of Helsinki. But she still takes a critical view of this kind of content.

The videos produced by kindness influencers combine many things that work on social media, prank culture, and content that tugs on the heart strings. This is exactly the kind of “sticky” content that works well on social media and keeps people glued to social media videos, Reinikainen says.

Regardless of the motivations of the creators, the business logic of the commercial social media platforms is always present in the work. Reinikainen reminds us that influencer marketing is fundamentally commercial and a means of getting visibility and attention. And all content is used to grow a personal brand and the influencer’s own commercial potential.

Reinikainen estimates that creators with millions of followers earn big money through sponsorship agreements, visibility and advertising partnerships. Some social media platforms also pay their content creators based on the number of views and followers.

What if the content and views are obtained by often filming unsuspecting people in their most difficult moments? Unexpectedly talking about life’s biggest traumas with a complete stranger? Getting someone up from their mattress and taking them to the store by the seat of their pants? Filming them crying?

“Some pretty bizarre contradictions pop up quite quickly,” says Reinikainen.

Although the videos highlight im- continues on page 7...

continued from page 6...

portant experiences and the reality of homelessness, the discussion is quite superficial and focuses on the individual, she adds. Structural reasons are not discussed. For example, why is a one-year-old on the street, or how can an 88-year-old who has worked his entire life not afford to retire?

“The videos show what life can be like for people experiencing homelessness or those who have limited means. But they don’t tell us about the structural reasons, or all the reasons people end up like this,” Reinikainen summarises.

They tend to go no further than “individual sob stories,” as she puts it, and the idea that everything can be fixed by handing out large sums of money out of the blue.

Erja Morottaja, communications manager at Vailla vakinaista asunto ry, agrees that the mindset in the videos is fairly simplistic. “Money brings the solution. Quick videos, quick solutions, and onto the next one,” she summarises.

For example, simply having an apartment or a large amount of money is not always enough to end homelessness. Morottaja reminds us that many people need support with daily life or treatment for the underlying problems that cause homelessness.

The videos often involve “pranks”, which are popular on social media. Someone secretly pays for another person’s purchases or surprises them with something fun while filming them. Or someone may ask a person who looks poor for help, like a couple of euros for a bus ticket or some other support.

If the person helps and gives of the little they have, the content creator reveals that they are actually planning to give them money or something bigger. This is also related to the idea that help must be earned.

Morottaja sees it as a positive that people are reminded of the importance of kindness. Something good can come from friendliness and helping others. “It is needed at this time. We have forgotten how to show compassion toward other human beings,” she says.

At the same time, she thinks that the content is problematic, not only in terms of its solution models, but also from the viewpoint of intentions and power structures.

Morottaja reminds us that a person

who is indebted to an influencer may agree to the publication of a video, especially when something unexpected happens, but not everyone necessarily understands what they are agreeing to.

Most major content creators don’t say at the start that they are filming the encounter but claim that they will ask permission to publish it afterwards. Even if that is the case, how many people would dare to refuse after receiving help? Or understand how much publicity a shopping spree at Target will get?

Morottaja notes that privacy protection and dignity are often forgotten in these videos. For example, organisations usually have strict rules about how their visitors are presented on social or other media, especially where faces and names are concerned; they seldom publish anything that a severely intoxicated person says because the organisation may regret it later. Journalists also carefully consider what to publish about people in vulnerable situations, especially anything that can identify the person.

There are no such limits on social media. The videos on many accounts introduce us to very intoxicated substance users, young people who grew up in orphanages, half-dressed people experiencing homelessness, or people who have just been woken up on the street...

From time to time, there is even worse content on social media. Morottaja recalls the so-called “bum-fights” that were trending in the early 2000s where people experiencing homelessness were encouraged to fight and the camera was rolling. Something like that would probably be censored to some degree by the major social media channels these days. But emotional clips about kindness are the perfect material for difficult times.

When people who have suffered trauma are interviewed without preparation and in surprising situations, they easily say all sorts of things on camera. This provides the kind of social media material that will make anyone cry. And brings more views.

But the videos leave you with a tacky feeling. And maybe a few hundred thousand euros to one lucky person, while others are left on the streets.

*Translated from Finnish via Translators Without Borders
Courtesy of Iso Numero / INSP.ngo*

BECOME A VENDOR MAKE MONEY AND HELP END HOMELESSNESS!

STREET SHEET is currently recruiting vendors to sell the newspaper around San Francisco.

Vendors pick up the papers for free at our office in the Tenderloin and sell them for \$2 apiece at locations across the City. You get to keep all the money you make from sales! Sign up to earn extra income while also helping elevate the voices of the homeless writers who make this paper so unique, and promoting the vision of a San Francisco where every human being has a home.

TO SIGN UP, VISIT OUR OFFICE AT 280 TURK ST FROM 10AM-4PM ON MONDAY-THURSDAY AND 10AM-NOON ON FRIDAY

CONTRIBUTE TO STREET SHEET

WRITING: Write about your experience of homelessness in San Francisco, about policies you think the City should put in place or change, your opinion on local issues, or about something newsworthy happening in your neighborhood!

ARTWORK: Help transform ART into ACTION by designing artwork for STREET SHEET! We especially love art that uplifts homeless people, celebrates the power of community organizing, or calls out abuses of power!

PHOTOGRAPHY: Have a keen eye for beauty? Love capturing powerful moments at events? Have a photo of a Street Sheet vendor you’d like to share? We would love to run your photos in Street Sheet!

**VISIT WWW.STREETSHEET.ORG/SUBMIT-YOUR-WRITING/
OR BRING SUBMISSIONS TO
280 TURK STREET**

***PIECES ASSIGNED BY THE EDITOR MAY
OFFER PAYMENT, ASK FOR DETAILS!***

How to be an Ally to people experiencing Homelessness

Be a good neighbor. Introduce yourself!

Ask what their name is, how their day is going, or comment on the weather, like you would with your other neighbors. Build up to having more meaningful interactions. Ask how you can be of assistance. Here are some common needs:

- 

Hygiene: Offer access to water for drinking, hand washing, and bathing. Share a list of bathrooms: sfpublicworks.org/pitstop
- 

Trash: Let them know the street cleaning day. Ask if they need extra trash bags. Trash can be left on the curb and will usually get picked up by the leading truck.
- 

Substance use: Visit harmreduction.org to learn about available resources. Treatment can be accessed in-person at 1380 Howard Street.
- 

Charging: Offer a power source for charging phones and other devices.
- 

Mail: When trust is built, consider offering them your mailing address for their important mail. It is crucial to set boundaries and clarify expectations.

Advocate for real solutions.

Call your Supervisor and the Mayor’s office and pressure them to open more “Pit-Stop” bathrooms, hotel rooms, safe campsites, and permanent affordable housing.

Organize neighbors to provide mutual aid. Reach out to groups such as Cole Valley Haight Allies or Rad Mission Neighbors. Host a speaker to talk about real solutions! The Coalition on Homelessness can help.

Educate yourself! Read the Street Sheet and make sure you know the basic facts: Most homeless people were San Franciscans before they lost their housing, and the reason we have mass homelessness is that rents have increased while naturally occurring low income housing has disappeared, and the city hasn’t prioritized budget dollars to fill that gap.

Things not to do:

Do not call the police on people who aren’t causing or threatening violence. Thousands of homeless people end up cited and incarcerated every year for simply sleeping, and several unhoused people have been shot by police in the last decade. Police contact can prolong a person’s homelessness.

Do not call 311 to sweep away people experiencing homelessness. People who are working towards getting housed need to start over when their belongings are thrown away. You can call 311 to help with trash pickup, illegal dumping, or a blocked doorway, if you can’t sort it out with your homeless neighbors.

Support outreach organizations:

The Coalition on Homelessness, North Beach Citizens, Homeless Youth Alliance, Dolores Street Community Services, Night Ministry, Faithful Fools, Project Homeless Connect, Glide, Youth With A Mission, Larkin Street Youth Services, Homeless Prenatal

For more information, visit
The Coalition on Homelessness at:

COHSF.org



- Psychiatric crisis?** Check in with them before calling Mobile Crisis at (415) 970-4000

Medical emergency? Call 911. Make it clear that this is a medical emergency and not a police emergency.

Medically compromised but don’t need an ambulance? Call street medicine: (828) 217-5800

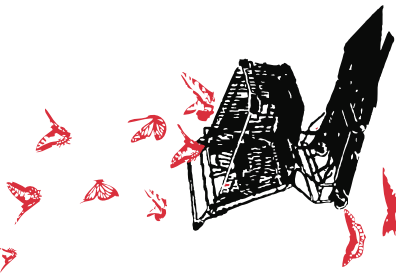
Interpersonal conflict? Call your neighborhood Community Ambassadors, listed at: sfcap.org

Unhoused people in need of shelter or other services can show up by 6pm at Mission Action to see if they have a bed: 1050 South Van Ness
-

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Coalition On Homelessness
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San Francisco, CA 94102
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www.cohsf.org
streetsheetsf@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco

WHAT TO DO IF ICE
COMES TO YOUR DOOR



DO NOT OPEN DOORS

ICE CAN NOT COME IN WITHOUT A SIGNED WARRANT. TELL THEM TO PASS THE WARRANT UNDER THE DOOR BEFORE YOU OPEN.



REMAIN SILENT

ICE CAN USE ANYTHING YOU SAY AGAINST YOU IN YOUR IMMIGRATION CASE, SO CLAIM YOUR RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT!



DO NOT SIGN

DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING ICE GIVES YOU WITHOUT TALKING TO AN ATTORNEY!



REPORT THE RAID

CALL RAPID RESPONSE HOTLINE: 1-844-724-3737

TAKE PICTURES, VIDEOS & NOTES



FIGHT BACK

GET A TRUSTWORTHY ATTORNEY & EXPLORE ALL OPTIONS TO FIGHT FOR YOUR CASE. PROTECT YOUR FAMILY & NEIGHBORS!