

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

November 4, 2016

Column #108

Part 4 – Whatever Happened to the Matching Funds Challenge?



HALLOWEEN-WEEK HAUNTED HOUSELESS BEGFOR BREAKFAST

By Wanda Sue Parrott

PROGNOSTICATING the presidential-election outcome, Gross Domestic Pastime of the last two years, is expiring like a burned-out Jack o'Lantern candle; whew!

If you'd observed the same adult-costumed Halloween-week partygoers I saw, clad in Clinton and Trump masks, you'd have heard someone ask, "Which of us white-haired blonds will park our broom at the White House in January?"

By this time next week, what we won't know is the outcome of the homeless question that's rising as Americans' hopes are falling like Old Glory at half-mast: Will homelessness be on the agenda of the new white-haired blond/blonde president?

Faith Is Flagging

An e-mail from reader Yvonne Nunn, award-winning poet of Hermleigh, Tex., reflects in traditional iambic pentameter the sentiment of countless white-haired persons whose faith in non-traditional new America is severely shaken.

GOD SAVE THE USA

The stars now slide from fields of cobalt blue
as aged homeland bears the scars of time.
Judean rules seem far from stripes on cloth;
its history is sinking fast in time.
This freedom we enjoy is in a brew.
How can we stop the threats of bloody coup
when leaders grab the gold to sell their soul
and leave the common man without a home?
She's almost to the ground, this flag of ours.
The stars now slide from fields of cobalt blue.

Begging For Breakfast

Feds aside, homelessness must be handled by city, county, and state governments, as well as local churches, social-service agencies and volunteers. This e-mail, from Myra M. of Marina, formerly of Hawaii, sums up an all-too-familiar haunted houseless scene on the peninsula during Halloween week.

“Hi: Read the article on page 18 (Homeless in Paradise, 10/28/16). Very pertinent to McDonald’s in Monterey, McD’s at Sand City, as I was accosted at both places by homeless people. Bought breakfast for the woman; friend gave a dollar to the man. Thank you for sharing! Aloha, Myra.”

Good News On The Monterey Peninsula

The countdown-to-election day is not without good news!

“We are moving in a positive direction,” Father Michael Reid announced at the Oct. 26 meeting of Friends of Homeless Women, outreach arm of the Fund for Homeless Women. “We have been able to determine that the programs we’ve supported facilitated housing for 43 women. It is 10 percent of the 400 women that were counted on the streets.” Grants for next year will be announced by the end of Dec.

Although Monterey won’t have an emergency/warming shelter available when winter hits, Community Human Services, 590 Pearl St., Monterey, has announced its Safe Place Warming Shelter will be available overnight for young homeless individuals ages 18-24. Contact 831-373-4421 or visit www.chservices.org.

Gathering for Women is planning a day center for women to open part-time early next year, along with their ongoing weekly luncheons at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Carmel that feed between 80 and 100 homeless women and children each Tues. Details to be announced.

Pass the Word Ministry, sponsor of One Starfish Safe Parking Program, thanked contributors for helping raise around \$19,000 at its Oct. 23 brunch.

And the City of Monterey is prepared to announce beneficiaries for the 2016 Matching Funds Challenge grants.

2016 Matching Funds Challenge Recipients

At the Nov. 1 Monterey City Council meeting, Kim Bui-Burton, Director of Community Services, was scheduled to present a resolution to authorize transfer and appropriation of funds for the Monterey Homeless Challenge and Temporary Shelter Needs, as follows:

From the total \$55,881 contributed collectively by the cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Sand City, plus one private donor, an allocation of \$50,083.20 for distribution and \$5,797.80 as reserve for unforeseen winter shelter needs will be earmarked for distribution to these providers of services to local homeless people:

\$5,000.00 to Interim, Inc. for motel room shelter

\$5,000.00 to Community Human Services for homeless young adult program support

\$14,000.00 to the Salvation Army Monterey Peninsula Corps for motel room shelter, bus passes, warm clothing and household items

\$9,600.00 to Pass the Word Ministry for Saturday morning supplies and transportation needs

\$10,483.20 to the Gathering for Women. \$5,000.00 to the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers for 2017 homeless census Support

\$1,000.00 to Al Seikert and Friends for Sunday breakfast support

After a long meeting about leases on Fisherman’s Wharf, May- or Clyde Roberson adjourned the meeting without the resolution’s presentation. I presume it will be continued to the Nov. 15 Monterey City Council agenda,

so this column is evidence of the truth of the old cliché: You read about it here first!. Meanwhile, may America's next President help heal

Or, as my Ozarker Daddy might say, "Under the dye, most old people's hair is white" and Mother might add, "To which, remember, it's just tints from different bottles."

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Contact Wanda Sue Parrott at amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com or leave a message with
The Yodel Poet at 831-899-5887.