

# HOMELESS IN PARADISE

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Column #132

Hear Our Voice! - Part 12



## GETTING KIDS IN RESISTANCE TO TRUMP'S BULLYHOO

By Wanda Sue Parrott

**KEEPING** up with Trump has stretched Pink Pussyhat Movement's 10 Actions/100 Days teams' imaginative maxi-minds.

If Action Seven, "We Belong Together", seems brain-boggling, it is!

It entails a week of activity to get kids on the resistance bandwagon by forming Unity Circles.

For instance, a school principal has all students form a circle around the school by holding hands, or a teacher has children form a ring in the classroom.

A pastor invites adults and youngsters to join hands during Sunday service. A family joins hands before dinner.

Homeless, couch-surfing, and housed children all participate. Meaningful words are exchanged.

Such circles precede the nightly dinners for Interdenominational Homeless Emergency Lodging Programs (I-HELP) for around 25 men and 12 women on the peninsula.

Number of actual houseless children in Monterey County won't be known until the 2017 Point-in-Time Homeless Census is released in May or June.

Problem with Unity Week isn't numbers. It's timing.

If it must be done by the 100<sup>th</sup> day of Trump's presidential honeymoon, oh oh! This is day 88!

But if Unity Week can be any time, constraint and memory may both vanish, so here's a flashback of the past quarter year.

### **Brief Review: From Bully Pulpit To Bullyhoo**

The Women's March on Washington on Jan. 21 spawned the movement to produce ten actions during the new administration's first 100 days. As participants, we pressure politicians from the grassroots level and, thus, change destiny one individual at a time.

Think about it.

What's your point? Mine is homelessness.

I started by sending three postcards a day to our two senators and one congressman in Washington, D.C. Now I send one postcard per representative every week to ten days.

Interest hasn't waned, but energy diffused due to distractions like bully pulpit threats to healthcare, sanctuary city issues and bombings in Syria and Iraq, plus current bullying to North Korea.

### **Where Do We Go From Here?**

Reflect on how we got this far.

Under the banner theme Hear Our Voice! resistance movements rapidly evolved around the nation and the world, with splinter groups springing up and spreading out. Some lasted a week or two; others, like Indivisible, are still growing nationally as refugees increase internationally.



Spinoff slogans include Hear Our Votes! And the new one, We Belong Together, which memorializes the Kids Week of Action centered around the concept of unity and family, and the belief that children have a critical role to play, as explained in this Invitation from the Women's March and Sister March Team dated April 17, 2017:

Unite with children and families across the country, empower young activists and commit to making communities a welcoming place for all.

This action is part of a collaboration with National Domestic Workers Alliance, WeCount!, PowerU, the American Friends Service Committee, #LoveArmy, MomsRising, FLIC, Make it Work, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, UndocuBlack Network and the Women's Refugee Commission.

There are four ways you can participate:

#### **Create Or Join A #Webelongtogether Unity Circle In Your Community:**

During the week of action, we encourage kids and youth to form circles and link arms around spaces they seek to make safe and welcoming for all, such as schools, parks, playgrounds, city halls and congressional offices, to demonstrate how young people are uniting against dangerous policies that threaten to tear communities apart. Invite local leaders to join your circles--teachers, school officials, mayors, city council members, for example--and commit to enacting or fighting for policies that support and defend young people in their communities.

#### **Host Your Own Unity Circle:**

Educate yourself and engage with young people about how discriminatory policies are affecting their lives, especially kids of color and refugees.

#### **Write Postcards To Elected Officials:**

Gather a group of friends or plan a classroom activity to write postcards to your local elected officials. Ask them to support laws that keep families and communities together.

#### **Invite Friends And Family To Participate In The We Belong Together Kids Week Of Action:**

Share your story on social media and use the hashtag #WeBelongTogether to publicize this action.

According to the team, “The past six actions in our 10Actions/100 Days Campaign have been an incredible experience of learning, organizing, mobilizing and most importantly, RESISTING together. Thank you for continuing this new path of women-led activism with us and send us your feedback for this and future actions at [actions@womensmarch.com](mailto:actions@womensmarch.com)!”

For complete details, and contact links for information, see:  
<http://www.womensmarch.com/webelongtogether>

In light of the promised 10-actions, we now have seven. In twelve days, the honeymoon ends.

Want to bet on whether we get our final three actions? Is the power of my favorite hat pink?

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