

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

June 1-7, 2018

HUMPTY DUMPTY HOUSING - Part 15



WHERE WILL THE MISSING CHILDREN LIVE AFTER THEY'VE BEEN FOUND?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

USING a fairy tale to publicize lost kids seems a thin stretch until you ask:

If the 1,500 missing children separated from their families at the border are found, where will they go?

Where are they housed now? In cramped quarters with someone like the old woman who lived in a shoe who had so many children that she didn't know what to do?

If yes, does she provide them to traffickers (pimps) who hire them as laborers or sex slaves?

Or sell them to cheap childless adults?

Presuming the kids make it safely into the United States, will they be well-housed? Or living like human alley cats rooting through garbage? Or field mice lying at night in lettuce fields?

Which Option Would You Prefer If You Had To Choose?

Would you live in a literal shoebox-sized place with no personal space?

Right now, 20 field workers live mattress-to-mattress in Pajaro Valley where each pays \$115 per month to sleep on the floor of a small house they rent for \$2,300 per month.

Salinas and Seaside are full of similar situations; as many as thirty men, women and children share crowded little houses.

Babies and toddlers sleep on closet floors.

For details about housing in the Pajaro Valley area, contact Pajaro Valley Shelter Services (PVSS), whose aim is ending homelessness, at 115 Brennan St., Watsonville, CA 95076, www.pvsjelter.org, 831-728-5649. Or e-mail Kimberly Ferm, executive director, at Kimberly@pvshelter.org.

Or would you prefer to live unencumbered, like Jose Manuel (featured in the April 27, 2018 edition of this column) who was left behind after his parents were deported when he was six.

The child spent much of his time sleeping in the fields with a serape as a blanket. At 15, he was accepted by the Continuation High School in South County, after choosing to become a man.

Missing children have no choice. We do.

How We Can Help

A young man who calls himself “Tokyosand” posted a “How Can I Help?” blog last Monday. It went viral.

Excerpts include:

One month ago, an official from DHS admitted under questioning in a congressional hearing that [the agency could not account for nearly 1,500 unaccompanied minors](#) who arrived at the border, nearly 19% of the minors in their custody.

Then on Monday, the news hit that [the government is forcibly separating children from their families at the border](#).

Then yesterday, the ACLU released a report with horrifying details as to the [abuses that children in custody at the border are being subjected to](#).

Contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives. Their job is to conduct oversight of DHS—they must hold DHS accountable.

Simply say, “I am outraged by how our government is treating children at the border. What is my Senator/Representative doing about this?”

Find your out-of-state Senators [here](#). Or for California senators use these addresses:

Dianne Feinstein, (D—CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510, (202) 224-3841 or www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me.

Kamala Harris, (D—CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510, (202) 224-3553 or www.harris.senate.gov/contact.

Find your out-of-state Representative [here](#) and/or contact webmaster to send e-mail. Or for your local California representative use this mailing and phone contact info:

Jimmy Panetta, (D—CA), U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515, (202) 224-3121.

*If you use **5 Calls** to contact your representatives, they have a script on their system for this issue already. Go to <https://5calls.org/>.*

Other Facts About Actions

ACLU: The ACLU is gathering signatures to petition Kevin K. McAleenan, Commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection to stop the government from abusing immigrant children. You can find the petition [here](#) or at <https://action.aclu.org/petition/cbp-stop-abusing-children?>

ICE: Contact ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) directly. Write to them [here](#) or call 1-866-DHS-2-ICE or visit <https://www.ice.gov/contact/oce>

NEW 1: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has recommended guidelines for human rights at international borders. The reported actions our DHS is taking do not comply with these guidelines. You can contact the UN Office for Human Rights [here](#) or at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/ContactUs.aspx>

NEW 2: Amnesty International has been calling for an end to the U.S. policy of separating children at the border. Their call to action can be found at the end of this post [here](#) or visit <https://www.amnestyorg.usa.org/>.

Attention, Sand City!

Locally, time is running out to ask the Sand City to approve redevelopment resolutions only if provisions for truly affordable low-income housing are guaranteed.

If Sand City loses its space for building shelter for those who most need it, more than just needy children will suffer.

The council votes June 5. Send e-mail now to Mary Ann Carbone, mayor, www.sandcity.org or call 831-394-3054.

Even shoebox housing beats no housing at all!

###

Photo Courtesy of Clip Art.

“There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.
She had so many children, she didn’t know what to do.
She fed them some broth without any bread;
Then whipped them all soundly and sent them to bed.”
~ Mother Goose

Copyright 2018 by Wanda Sue Parrott
Contact amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com or call 831-899-5887