



The Voice of Homeless People in Nevada - December 29, 2010

Forgotten Voice is a street paper in which homeless and formerly homeless people, as well as homeless advocates, write and produce. Our mission is to be a voice for homeless people.

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Prince William: "Street newspapers inspire me"

He slept rough on the streets of London to experience first-hand what it is like to be homeless. And now –for the first time since his engagement announcement last month- he speaks up to support street papers worldwide in this exclusive story for SNS. By His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales



Britain's Prince William meets with youths supported by the charity Centrepont, on the charity's 40th anniversary, at one of their centres in central London December 16, 2009. Centrepont is a charity that provides housing and support to improve the lives of homeless people between the ages of 16 and 25. Photo: REUTERS/Luke MacGregor

The exclusive article below is written by His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales for the Street News Service (SNS). SNS is the news agency of the International Network of Street Papers, which supports 115 street papers in 40 countries. The titles help homeless people around the world to earn a living.

"The economic downturn has had a devastating effect on the numbers of homeless rough sleepers in our communities. In London alone, rough sleeping has risen by almost a quarter in just two years, and that figure does not even include those who have been forced out of their homes into temporary accommodation or overcrowded housing.

There are many reasons why someone can find themselves homeless: family breakdown, unemployment, drug or alcohol

abuse, or falling on desperately hard times, often through no fault of their own. But the effect of homelessness is the same for everyone: a crushing sense of hopelessness and despair. The emotional consequences for the individual can be utterly devastating - sometimes more so than the stark fact of being homeless.

Charities, churches, governments and other bodies can all help with the basics - a roof under which to shelter from the elements, heating and security - but without hope, an individual cannot rebuild a life. And for there to be people with no hope living right alongside us is surely a blight on our societies.

That is why the work of the restorers of hope - street newspapers, my own charity Centrepont and other organisa-

tions and individuals who care - so inspire me. They give homeless people the tools with which to rebuild their confidence and, ultimately, their lives.

I have met many homeless young people who are now filled with a passion and desire to achieve in life, simply because they were given a little support at the right time to get back on their feet.

These are people of extraordinary courage. There can be a perception that they have given up and lack courage. Let me tell you, they have not and they do not. I count myself enormously privileged to be associated with such individuals. I salute all the organisations that are there for them."

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RESOURCES

Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth

Services for homeless youth under the age of eighteen or have been in the Nevada foster care system.

Phone: (702) 383-1332

Email: info@nphy.org

Street Teens

Helping homeless and at-risk teens, ages 12-21, in the Las Vegas Valley.

Phone: (702) 215-4171

24 Hour Hotline: (702) 809-3585

Email: StreetTeens@Earthlink.net

Las Vegas Rescue Mission

Reaching the lost and serving the homeless with the Gospel of Jesus Christ since 1970.

Phone: (702) 382-1766

Shade Tree

Shelter for homeless and abused women and children.

Phone: (702) 385- 0072

Email: va2@theshadetree.org or ad@theshadetree.org

The Rape Crisis Center

Provides crisis intervention, advocacy, support and education to those affected by sexual violence.

Phone: (702) 366-1640

Email:

staff@therapecrisiscenter.org

Hearing Impaired Services: 1-800-326-6868, 24 hours a day or if in Nevada call 711.

National Domestic Violence Hotline TTY 1-800-787-3224

Language Line: National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) - free 140 language line

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN)

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) provides support and advocacy for adults and children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in southern Nevada.

Phone (702) 382-2326

Email: afan@afanlv.org

NEVADA HOMELESS ALLIANCE

Nevada Homeless Alliance is a 501 (c)(3) who acts as a convener connecting service providers, faith-based organizations, public and private sectors through events and education, towards ending homelessness in Southern Nevada. The NHA works closely with service providers and volunteers in collaboration with the regional efforts to provide resources, coordination and advocacy for the homeless.

For more information on how you can get involved and for a schedule of upcoming events and meetings, please contact:

nhavoic@aol.com

or call (702) 455-2699

www.helphopehome.org



Help Hope Home

Helping the Homeless in Southern Nevada
www.helphopehome.org