

### Message from Jennifer

I got bored one day (ha ha), and decided to look at the 25% of our residents who had Social Security income. I split them into 2 groups.



11% are over 62 and trying to live on a minimal income, who couldn't or didn't plan for retirement. This is a new trend in homeless shelters. Once they leave their existing housing, they learn they can't afford current rental rates. We've also sheltered many with signs of dementia or Alzheimer's as well as physical disabilities that prevent them from walking all over town to find new housing. As a community, we need to address this issue.



14% are under 62 and receive free supplemental income, typically \$750/month. That doesn't pay rent. The income is for minor impairments, but most are still able-bodied. But of course, they refuse even part time work. So how do they spend their income: hotels, drugs, restaurants, new cell phones, court fines, credit cards, etc.

Is it OK to stay at a shelter for 4 months and only have \$75 left? NOT in my opinion. FYI: it is illegal to receive SS money and live rent-free, and not report it. And --- I still see them pan-handling for more money. Why won't they work? Here's what they say: "Why should I work.... I can live good enough on the streets by coming to places like this."

**Why Not?** If you provide everything for the able-bodied, is that really helping? Why not help them learn a skill? Who will care for them as they learn dependency or become UN-able? Why not require 10 hours of work/week for SS income? That's a win-win. Here's a great question: why are we paying for their drug & alcohol habit? Why not require random drug tests to receive SS income?

We're always grateful for your comments.



### Your Dollars at Work

541.269.5017



This is Lisa and her 13 month old son, Anakin. Her boyfriend, Anakin's Dad, named him after a Star Wars character. She grew up in a broken home and suffered because of her Mom's illnesses: schizophrenia and severe depression. At 16 years of age, her Mom kicked her out of the house. Lisa is just 20 years old now.

In March, her boyfriend talked her into moving to this area, from Vancouver, to work on a produce farm. They weren't there long before the boyfriend got physical with her, and knocked her down.

Lisa tells me she can't ask the boyfriend for child support because he'll get too angry. She says his only goal is live in his van and pan-handle for money. He's denying any responsibility for Anakin. So, Lisa is working with DHS & Child Welfare to help with child support.

Right now, she feels "spread so thin" and doesn't have time to get her GED, but it's something she wants to do, along with getting her CNA license to be a care giver. Meanwhile, she found a part time job and is hoping to save money for housing.

Lisa got very excited when I told her we'd like to help her out. We're looking for a gently used high chair & baby crib, so she'll have these when she's finally able to move into her own housing.

Thank You

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless, maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.

Rescue the weak & needy, deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalms 82: 3-4

Thank You



## Workers for Hire

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### Supplies Needs

Men's razors and color face towels (the white ones are for the kitchen)

### Food Needs

Lunch meat, XL can soups, fresh fruit.

Is it wrong for me to ask for crab? Jokes!

### Clothing Needs

Summer shirts, gently used shoes

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## News & Events

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### My Heart Aches.....

Do you ever find yourself in a fog for a day.....or a week? Not me, I'm fogless!!! Well --- I do try to "choose" joy, but sometimes somebody up and walks off with it!

My heart aches for the lady who was sexually assaulted and can't find any peace or a place of safety in her mind. My heart aches for the man who lost his wife and is stuck in despair and loneliness. I ache for all those who can't get what they want so they respond to me with every wicked word ever spoken.

I ache for those who keep making bad choices and blow all their money on hotels and their addictions. I ache for those who have mental disabilities and aren't able to care for themselves. I ache for every single man, woman, and child who don't have the awesome hope that I have in Jesus.



After my brief, but foggy pity party, I gave myself a good talking to. Then I remembered JOY.....

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. Psalm 28:7

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. Isaiah 49:13

I was so thankful to receive a measure of His joy, that I even re-wrote the rules for the residents with this statement: Be joyful and thankful for the shelter you are receiving. (Because, we're blessed to be in His house).

**P.S.** If anyone would like to learn more about any need, process, rule, problem, class, etc., please let us know.

### **Blessings,**

Jennifer Palmer

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