

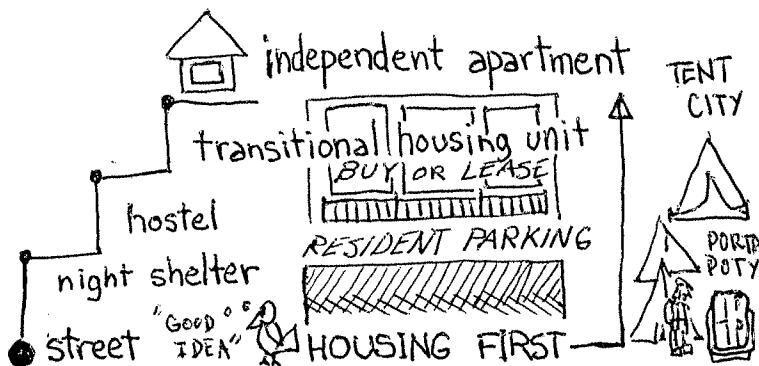
# PEER NEWSLETTER "The Messenger"

Spring 2021 Aptos CA

Editor-in-Chief: Stephan DuBose

Local homeless advocates are good sources of inspiration and information. Hope that highlighting info from national level sources is helpful. *Solving Homelessness Starts With Awareness*: "Homelessness is not a life sentence. In fact, it is a solvable problem. We have learned more in the past ten years about how to solve the homelessness problem than we did in the previous twenty to thirty years..." said David Pirtle, Faces of Homelessness Speakers Bureau. Michael Stoops, National Coalition for the Homeless, said "If it is just about sharing food, sheltering, acts of kindness and mercy, that's all well and good. But if that is all we do, we will be doing this same stuff indefinitely. Homelessness increased on my watch. We need to decide to end homelessness in America, to move beyond charity to social justice. People who experience homelessness can eat 8 times a day on Thanksgiving. What about the other 364 days in the year?" "We know what works," said Pirtle. "Housing must come first: rapid rehousing to those who lose their homes, more emergency programs like rental assistance and mental health care. These work and are in fact cheaper than other forms of assistance. We need to expand these efforts. We have made huge strides in the past ten years, and we need to take even bigger steps."

\*(info from SAMHSA)



## Wisdom of the Masters:

*"It is not your darkness that you are afraid of, but your light --"* Guillame Musso (paraphrased)

*What do you appreciate most about your home?*

## GRATITUDE is a POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Grateful that so many persons have been well housed in our community. Grateful to the workers, staff, and advocates that have been leading and supporting these efforts for a long time. Grateful to so many agencies: 180/180, Shelters and Resource Centers, Community Action Board (CAB), County Social Services and Mental Health, HPHP, Salud Par La Gente and so many others. Grateful to Watsonville Vet's Hall Shelter for their caring and generous staff and for the amazing resources made available. Grateful to the community and the public for making this a place that we can still call home.

