

# STREET *Zine*

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STREETZine is a program of The Stewpot and a member of **International Network of Street Papers**

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## Housing Funding in COVID-19 Relief Bills

By Nicole Kiser

As Dallas's COVID-19 cases continue to climb, the city faces the possibility of another shutdown and another downturn in its economy. While COVID-19 has affected us all, the most vulnerable among us have faced new challenges. In order to follow new sanitation and social distancing protocols, shelters had to cut beds and services. Dallas, already lacking low-income housing before the pandemic, faced an increasingly pressurized housing crisis as people lost their incomes and became unable to afford their rents and mortgages.

In order to keep the country running, Congress has passed a series of relief bills. These bills provided relief to individuals, businesses, and even state and local governments.

For companies, the COVID-19 relief acts allocated money for disaster relief grants and tax breaks to help keep workers employed. The Payment Protection Program, a program designed specifically to give forgivable loans to small businesses in order to help them to stay open, ran out of its initially approved \$349 billion in less than two weeks. Congress has since approved another \$321 billion that is still being spent.

Money was also allocated to testing, hospitals, community health centers, and other public health response initiatives. State and local governments have access to funds from different programs for their public health response, and they received \$1 billion for administrative costs in The Fami-

lies First Coronavirus Response bill. The CARES Act included another \$150 billion in direct aid to states for the coronavirus response.

The COVID-19 relief acts also provided individuals with stimulus checks as well as expanded unemployment benefits, emergency family and medical leave, and cost reductions for those on federal health insurance programs.

These individual measures alone were enough to keep many families sheltered by allowing laid-off workers to continue to pay their rent with the help of unemployment benefits. However, these relief bills, and the CARES Act in particular, went further. Congress passed a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures for homes with federally-backed mortgages, allowing people time to recover from some of the economic hardship of the beginning of the pandemic.

The CARES Act also passed over \$12 billion in Department of Housing and Urban Development funding. These funds can be used to aid those experiencing homelessness and low-income households at risk for homelessness through eviction prevention assistance, including rapid rehousing, housing counseling and rental deposit assistance. The funding can also be used for emergency shelters, rental assistance and public housing, and local programs and nonprofits can apply for these funds. These programs to help house and keep people housed mitigate the spread and impacts of the pandemic.

The HEROES Act, Congress's lat-

est COVID-19 relief proposal, recommends another \$200 billion for housing and homelessness solutions, including emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures. While the act is not expected to make it through the Senate without some changes, local institutions are already working on new initiatives to help those facing housing challenges.

On July 2, the City of Dallas announced a new program to provide housing assistance to those facing hardship due to the pandemic. Eligible applicants will be chosen through a lottery system to receive short-term, rental, mortgage and utility assistance from the new Emergency Housing Assistance Program. The Stewpot and other local nonprofits have been working with other local nonprofits to provide eviction prevention assistance and rental assistance to Dallas residents. (To learn more about The Stewpot's work in rapid rehousing, read the letter from the executive director of The Stewpot, Brenda Snitzer, on page 5.)

Congress is looking to pass yet another COVID-19 relief bill by the end of July. The House has put forward their first offer in the form of the HEROES Act, but ideas from the Senate and presidential administra-



*The Stewpot during the COVID-19 pandemic  
Photo by Douglas McKenzie*

tion, such as limiting coronavirus liability for businesses and a potential "return-to-work bonus," will likely make an appearance by the bill's final draft. Both houses of Congress seem to agree, though, the relief bill that passes near the end of summer will likely be the federal government's last.

*Nicole Kiser is managing editor of STREETZine.*

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# STREET *Zine*

STREET *Zine* is a program of The Stewpot.



The STREET *Zine* is a monthly newspaper published by The Stewpot, a ministry of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas. The Stewpot provides services and resources for people experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of being homeless. The organization also offers opportunities for a new life.

As part of this ministry, the STREET *Zine* seeks to raise awareness about the issues surrounding homelessness and poverty. At the same time, the monthly publication offers financial opportunity for homeless clients who sell the paper to Dallas residents. Vendors are able to move towards economic self-sufficiency by using the money they receive from selling copies to purchase bus passes, food, and necessary living expenses. Clients also receive stipends for contributing articles to STREET *Zine*.

The content in STREET *Zine* does not necessarily reflect the views or endorsement of its publisher, editors, contributors, sponsors, or advertisers. To learn more about this publication, contact Suzanne Erickson, Director of Educational and Workforce Programs, 1835 Young Street, Dallas, Texas 75201 or SuzanneE@thestewpot.org. And to read more about STREET *Zine*, a member of the International Network of Street Papers, go to [www.thestewpot.org/streetzine](http://www.thestewpot.org/streetzine).

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STREET *Zine* is a member of:



## A Confessional Statement of Purpose

*In early July, the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas released the statement below to speak to the systemic racism that exists in the life of our nation and community. As a ministry of the First Presbyterian Church, The Stewpot is committed to the hope and freedom this statement speaks of for Black Americans.*

The undersigned, being all members of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, after prayer and deliberation, adopted the following statement:

*Our society has splintered under the weight of systematic oppression. Not a day goes by that we don't see evidence of the pain and suffering caused by the consequences of our country's unresolved past. For too long we have not done enough to bring justice to the truth that Black lives matter.*

*The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Dallas is resolute in our commitment to end racism. We will learn the underlying and complex issues that have deprived Black communities of hope, freedom and, too often, life. For guidance, we will engage with leaders and organizations that have confronted these inequities longer than we have. We will look internally and consider intensely.*

*We will pray with humility and act decisively, clinging to the grace of God in Jesus Christ.*

*We have long advocated for social justice. We will display the same faithfulness and commitment to racial justice, as we work to end racism and move toward reconciliation.*

The statement is a first step - reflecting the Session's desire to seek unity of purpose in the work of the church and in our fellowship. Forthcoming steps involve action, as the statement itself provides. Specific ideas for action, as the Holy Spirit may lead you to form and bring forth, are welcome and appreciated.

Please send ideas to Amy Aamold, Clerk of Session, at [clerk@fpcdallas.org](mailto:clerk@fpcdallas.org).

In Christ,

- Amy Aamold
- Gail Barron
- Kelly Boyington-Voelker
- Rebecca Chancellor Sicks
- Bill Cobb
- Russ Coleman
- Amos Disasa
- Carol Herriage

- Sharon King
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## The Pastor's Letter

By The Rev. Rebecca Chancellor Sicks

*This essay is excerpted and amended from a sermon Rev. Sicks delivered on June 7 at the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas*

I am in this moment full of doubt. The deeply embedded sin in our society that has built walls, fences and systems to push down, hold back and oppress people of color is beginning, again, to show its face. The truth is: We live in a system that was built for white people, a system that was created out of sin, out of a belief that all people are not created equal.

I am aware of my privilege in this country, as one who has lived, moved and breathed with an ease that has not been afforded all of my neighbors. I have doubt that I will say the right thing, doubt that I will preach truth, doubt that I will do more good than harm.

Yet Jesus says to all who wish to follow him, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”

Go, Jesus told the disciples on the mountain

in Galilee. Don't stick with the people from your own family or village, the people who look just like you. Go to all nations, include all people. Teach them what I have commanded you: to love and to serve. Teach them about my grace and where salvation is found.

To be a disciple of Jesus called to be with people of all nations, I have to start somewhere. One step, even if it's on shaky legs.

It's my responsibility to educate myself on the story of racism in our society—throughout our history to the present day. It's my responsibility to listen more than I talk, to use my privilege for good and to grapple with my own racial biases.

Biases, of course, are hard to detect. I recently saw on my social media feed a story about two men—one white, one Black—breaking

***It's my responsibility to listen more than I talk, to use my privilege for good and to grapple with my own racial biases.***

the taboo of being in a pool together in 1969. The story is that of Fred Rogers, host of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, and François Clemmons, who played Officer Clemmons on the

series. With one exception, the story is told on my feed with Fred Rogers being the hero of breaking the taboo.

I don't want to take away from how Mr. Rogers lived out the gospel. But there are two people in this story; it's not just about the good deed a white man did.

It's also about

***The promises of God are for all people, every single promise and every single person. Until justice flows down like righteousness, we have work to do. Until every lost sheep and every Black life matters, we have work to do.***

a Black man: François Clemmons, playing a policeman despite his own complicated relationship with uniformed officers during his youth. As he wrote in *Officer Clemmons: A Memoir*, “I knew that they were not the best friends for a black American boy.” Playing the role, Clemmons wrote, “brought with it a burden that he [Fred Rogers], as an entitled white person, might not fully appreciate.”

Indeed, many of us who are entitled white people may not fully appreciate what Black people see. Nevertheless, the promises of God are for all people, every single promise and every single person. Until justice flows down like righteousness, we have work to do. Until every lost sheep and every Black life matters, we have work to do.

We must live out what Jesus taught us. Dismantling white supremacy is the work of the white people in our country; bringing justice for people of color is the work of white people. That work begins by listening to the voices and stories of people long oppressed. If you're confused and uncertain about your role in creating a better society for all people, allow your doubt to stand side-by-side with your worship of the Triune God.

But don't stop with your doubt and uncertainty. Place yourself in the presence of God—open your heart and listen. Listen to God. Listen to the voices of Black Americans.

Christ lived in such a way that he surrendered his own advantages and privileges. If we want to follow him, it's time we do the same. Christ is with us. The question we have to answer today is: “Will we be with Christ?”

*The Rev. Rebecca Chancellor Sicks is associate pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas.*



# Paused by Pandemic: A STREETZine Vendor's Story

By Poppy Sundeen

For 16 years, Gary Keeton was a fixture in downtown Dallas, where he sold the STREETZine. “I’ve been a vendor practically since the paper started,” he says. He was, in fact, one of the paper’s top sellers, using proceeds to help pay for lodging and necessities.

Then along came COVID-19. With in-person transactions between vendors and readers suddenly posing a health risk, The Stewpot halted street sales just before the April 2020 issue came out. That left Gary and his fellow vendors without the papers—and the proceeds they counted on.

“It’s been hard,” says Gary. “I’d really be suffering if it wasn’t for the First Presbyterian Church and The Stewpot. They get food to me and send me gift cards.”

***“I’ve met so many interesting people,” he says. “I was selling papers near Dallas City Hall, so every month [then-Mayor] Laura Miller would come out and get the paper from me. I got to know the police chief and the downtown police. I got along with everybody.”***

## Trying to fill the gap

The gift cards for vendors are funded by donations made on The Stewpot website where STREETZine currently resides in digital form. (Visit <https://thestewpot.org/streetzine> to view recent issues of STREETZine or to donate.) Gary spends the cards on food and occasionally on parts for repairing his bicycle. “It’s my major form of transportation,” Gary explains.

But while Gary is grateful for food and gift cards from The Stewpot, they aren’t a replacement for the income—or the job satisfaction—he received as a vendor. “I’m dedicated to that paper.”

## A path back into society

Gary credits the STREETZine with saving his life. When he first became a vendor, he was living on the street and battling drug addiction. “I think I would have been overdosed or dead if it hadn’t been for the paper.”

A STREETZine vendor profile featuring Gary caught the attention of the Veterans Administration. “The VA came and found me in tent city.” That’s how Gary, who had served eight years in Vietnam, gained access to benefits he deserved and sorely needed. “They got me into rehab and got me an apartment.”

## A veteran, a father, a witness to history

Gary enlisted in 1969, at the height of the Vietnam War. “I was a squad leader. Served two tours. I’ve seen a lot of things that other people haven’t—some things no one would want to see.”

His return to Dallas was marred by episodes of PTSD. Gary became estranged from his family. Determined to make a life for himself, Gary built a career, married and fulfilled his dream of having a son.

When the marriage ended in divorce, Gary gained custody of son Clayton. “I had to leave him alone a lot to work.” Clayton left home at age 13. “After that, I just packed up my stuff and went to the parking lot across from the bus station to live on streets.”

Gary spent the next 15 years on the streets of downtown Dallas, not far from the spot where he stood on the day of the Kennedy assassination. “I was twelve years old, and I wanted to see JFK. He and Martin Luther King were my heroes.” He watched from a train trestle as the motorcade passed below.

It’s one of the many unique experiences that shaped Gary’s life. “I have enough stories for a whole lot of lifetimes.”

## The cost of COVID-19

For someone as gregarious as Gary, isolation isn’t easy, and as a 70-year old with COPD, he’s at high risk for the virus. What’s more, his lung disease makes it hard to breathe when he wears a mask. “I put on a mask when I go into a store and get my shopping done as quickly as possible.”

It’s a far cry from the social life he had before the pandemic—spending time with fellow vendors at The Stewpot and talking with his STREETZine customers.

“I’ve met so many interesting people,” he says. “I was selling papers near Dallas City Hall, so every month [then-Mayor] Laura Miller would come out



Gary Keeton poses with a STREETZine issue

and get the paper from me. I got to know the police chief and the downtown police. I got along with everybody.”

## Loyal customers—and friends

Many of his customers have gone the extra mile to be helpful. “There was an executive who helped pay my rent for a year and people who gave me things I needed for my apartment. It was a godsend that they helped me out.”

***Gary values the connection as much as the generosity. “That’s one of the reasons I work on the paper. I didn’t want to be outcast. And when you’re a homeless person, that’s what you are—an outcast. The paper helped me be a part of society.”***

Gary values the connection as much as the generosity. “That’s one of the reasons I work on the paper. I didn’t want to be outcast. And when you’re a homeless person, that’s what you are—an outcast. The paper helped me be a part of society.”

Everyone wants the pandemic to end. No one more than Gary. “I want to get back to being a vendor.”

*Poppy Sundeen, a Dallas writer, is a member of the STREETZine Editorial Advisory Board.*



# A Letter from the Executive Director

By Brenda Snitzer

Rapid rehousing is an emerging strategy that you may have read about in the newspaper or seen discussed in TV stories about people experiencing homelessness. As the leader of an organization that is often a first port-of-call for people experiencing homelessness in Dallas, I am excited about the potential of this strategy to help curb homelessness. And I am eager to see The Stewpot become more involved in the rapid rehousing of our clients and others.

The goal of the strategy is to intervene with individuals and families that don't need intensive, ongoing support to exit homelessness and return to housing. The likely participants may have only recently lost their housing and have some means of support, such as a job. At the same time, they do not face a major problem like severe substance abuse or a criminal record. They just need to overcome smaller obstacles to secure housing.

Rapid rehousing is a relatively new approach as funds from the federal and state levels have targeted this segment of the homeless population. The Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) has encouraged several organizations to get funding and move in that direction.

In fact, as more funding has become available, MDHA and the City of Dallas have selected

a number of organizations to pursue rapid rehousing. Austin Street Shelter, for example, has done an excellent job getting people re-housed and continues to grow those numbers each year.

The Stewpot is preparing to pursue rapid rehousing. We would like to adopt this strategy because we see many people who fall into homelessness. Our organization is often the first place people come after they lose their housing in Dallas.

In the meantime, we will continue to help entities like Austin Street provide ID services for clients who need an identity card to get housing. We also will keep referring people to organizations doing rapid rehousing and will do casework services to help them secure a home.

The good news is that people who are only recently experiencing homelessness are more used to being housed. It can be difficult for someone who has been chronically homeless to be housed, and to stay housed, due to years of trauma or mental or physical challenges. Those recently experiencing homelessness also more likely to have more skills and support to remain housed.

None of this work happens simply. Rapid rehousing requires a whole city approach. It requires people who provide funds, who work with landlords and who can persuade landlords to take people who have been recently homeless.

But rapid rehousing matters because we need

a multi-faceted approach to homelessness in Dallas. We have so many people in our city living in poverty, and we have such a lack of affordable housing. What's more, with the pandemic, people are at risk of losing their job and then housing.

**But rapid rehousing matters because we need a multi-faceted approach to homelessness in Dallas. We have so many people in our city living in poverty and we have such a lack of affordable housing. What's more, with the pandemic, people are at risk of losing their job and then housing.**

We need a system that works to prevent people from becoming homeless and helps people who are newly homeless return to housing as quickly as possible. For those who are chronically homeless, we need wraparound services that help them become ready for being housed or staying housed.

The ultimate aim is to get clients into permanent supportive housing. But the first step is to make sure their lack of housing is brief and infrequent.

*Brenda Snitzer is executive director of The Stewpot.*



## Did You Know?

The Stewpot has distributed \$162,500.00 worth of groceries this year.

Just last month (June 2020) they distributed \$47,100.00 serving 230 families with fresh produce and pre-made meals!

## VOLUNTEER Appreciation



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*Debbie Johnson*



## Did You Know?

Between January and June of this year the Stewpot Food Recovery team recovered 349,777 POUNDS of food?!

That's about the same weight as 26 African elephants!



# Understanding COVID-19's Impact on Food Security and Nutrition

By Samira Sadeque

*It's estimated that at least 83 million, and maybe even as high as 132 million, more people may go hungry this year as the coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the vulnerabilities and inadequacies of global food systems. IPS spoke to Katarzyna Dembska and Dr Marta Antonelli, top researchers at the Barilla Centre For Food and Nutrition, about how the events of this year may leave those on the breadline with even less.*

While it is too early to assess the full impact of the global COVID-19 lockdowns, at least 83 million to 132 million more people may go hungry this year—690 million people were classified as hungry in 2019—as the pandemic has highlighted the vulnerabilities and inadequacies of global food systems.

This is according to the State of Food Security And Nutrition in the World 2020 report jointly launched by United Nations agencies this week. The report also noted “the nutritional status of the most vulnerable population groups is likely to deteriorate further due to the health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.”

Experts say that during the pandemic a myriad of factors, including reduced access to high-value foods, higher food prices (especially for nutritious, perishable foods) and the higher consumption of ultra-processed foods, has led to a risk of declining dietary quality globally.

“Understanding who is the most affected by the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic is essential to build momentum for action, to guide decision-making and to engage and empower the vulnerable as agents,” said Katarzyna Dembska, a researcher at the Barilla Centre For Food and Nutrition (BCFN). “This requires robust tracking and investments in monitoring systems and predictive analysis. Data has to be easy to access, interpret and used by policymakers and other relevant stakeholders, to enable evidence-based decisions.”

Dembska further echoed a message from the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, an alliance of philanthropic foundations working together and with others to transform global food systems, stating the importance of shifting away from a “feed the world” or “productivist” narrative, “based on assumptions that we need to ‘double food production by 2050’ and focused on providing food and calories.”

“A new narrative needs to be adopted, aiming at nourishing a growing global population and focusing on the quality of food, so that it contributes to human and planetary health,” she added. At the launch of the report, Dr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO), highlighted the need for low-cost production.

“We have to produce food with low cost of raw materials, that’s where we need innovation,” he said. The report had noted that healthy diets are at least five times more expensive than diets that meet dietary energy needs, with the former remaining unaffordable to an estimated 3 billion people.

“We have to encourage people, especially small farmers, to produce more and better, [and] to shorten supply chains. If you can shorten the supply chain, it’s better for the environment and there’s also less dependence.”

The report noted that the world was not on track to achieve zero hunger by 2030 and malnutrition among children remained a challenge and needed to be prioritised. The report’s key messages stated that countries needed to mainstream nutrition in their agricultural policies, noting also that nutrition-sensitive social protection policies would be

**The report had noted that healthy diets are at least five times more expensive than diets that meet dietary energy needs, with the former remaining unaffordable to an estimated 3 billion people.**

required to provide healthy diets to vulnerable populations.

IPS spoke with Dembska and Dr Marta Antonelli, head of research at BCFN. Excerpts of the interview follow. Some of the answers have been paraphrased for clarity purposes.

**Inter Press Service (IPS): How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected food sustainability measures around the world?**

**Marta Antonelli (MA):** The measures to control or mitigate the pandemic have affected food supply chains, with slower harvests and disruptions (both production and processes) due to the lack of seasonal labour force, especially for high-value supply chains; higher price volatility, which may adversely impact low-income and countries dependent on food imports; potentially reduced pools of capital for smallholders which provide about 80 per cent of the food supply in Asia and Africa; higher food losses due to trade disruptions, blockages to transport routes and lockdowns; risks for the life and livelihoods of all workers.

*Continued on page 11*



**Food markets were closed as many countries across the globe went into a lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The reduced access to high-value foods and higher food prices for nutritious foods has led to a risk of declining dietary quality globally.**

**Credit: Jorge Luis Baños/IPS**



# View from the Street: How Food Distribution is Helping Families Stay Afloat

By Sarah Disasa

The Stewpot is widely known in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex for its meal service to the homeless community. However, I learned recently that The Stewpot also distributes food to families to provide stability and budget relief, thus helping families avoid homelessness.

Since 2012, The Stewpot has been distributing food to families in need once a month. These families are connected to The Stewpot through The Stewpot's Children and Youth Programs. Usually around 100 families are served, but in late June, the numbers increased one week to 150 families.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, The Stewpot has remained steadfast in its mission to serve. Meal service has continued at The Bridge, serving three meals every day, and food distribution has increased from once a month to three times a month. The food for distribution comes from Crossroads Community Services and the North Texas Food Bank. Before the pandemic, close to 40 volunteers distributed the food. Now, several Stewpot staff are covering the bases to make sure that these families receive the food they need.

**Hilda explained that she does not need to go to the grocery store for additional items because she receives everything that she needs, including fresh fruit, milk, bread, meat, canned goods, cereal, spaghetti, snacks and even toiletries.**

I caught up with one of the families who participates in The Stewpot's Food Distribution Program. Hilda, a mother of three children, ages 6, 7 and 12, shared how important food distribution has been for her and her family. "Now you're going to make me cry. When we started struggling, we just had to call and let them know we needed help," she said. "They've been here since day one." Hilda first learned about the Food Distribution Program six years ago when her children began taking part in Saturday Kids' Club, which is The Stewpot's pro-



gram for children and youth.

This mother of three said that the food they receive is enough for her family, including her mother and father who also live with her. In Hilda's case, the program is not filling in the gaps; instead, it takes care of all of their food.

Hilda explained that she does not need to go to the grocery store for additional items because she receives everything that she needs, including fresh fruit, milk, bread, meat, canned goods, cereal, spaghetti, snacks and even toiletries. Her youngest loves the fresh fruit best; the middle child is excited for the snacks; and the oldest enjoys it all.

As a single mother, Hilda previously worked to support her children and parents by cleaning homes. She has been out of work since March when social distancing began. When asked about her job and returning to work, she explained that she wants to return to work saying, "I wish. I really wish."

But in the meantime, Hilda is doing her best to keep her children busy and safe at home during this time of social distancing. She said that they have been exercising at home, playing outside and doing things as a family. She recognizes the importance and the need for her children to be social. "They need to be a part of something," she said, explaining that her children miss participating in the Saturday Kids' Club activities. Those activities will begin virtually in the next few weeks, which she is looking forward to. She is also hop-

**Cars lined the street for food distribution at The Stewpot**  
**Photos by Douglas McKenzie**

ing that her children will be able to return to school in the fall.

Even with so many uncertainties right now for Hilda, she ended our conversation with certainty and confidence: "We trust in God. He's doing it."

*Sarah Disasa is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas and the STREETZine Editorial Advisory Board.*



**A food distribution sign outside of The Stewpot**  
**Photo by Douglas McKenzie**



# Urban Creatures

By Jennifer Nagorka

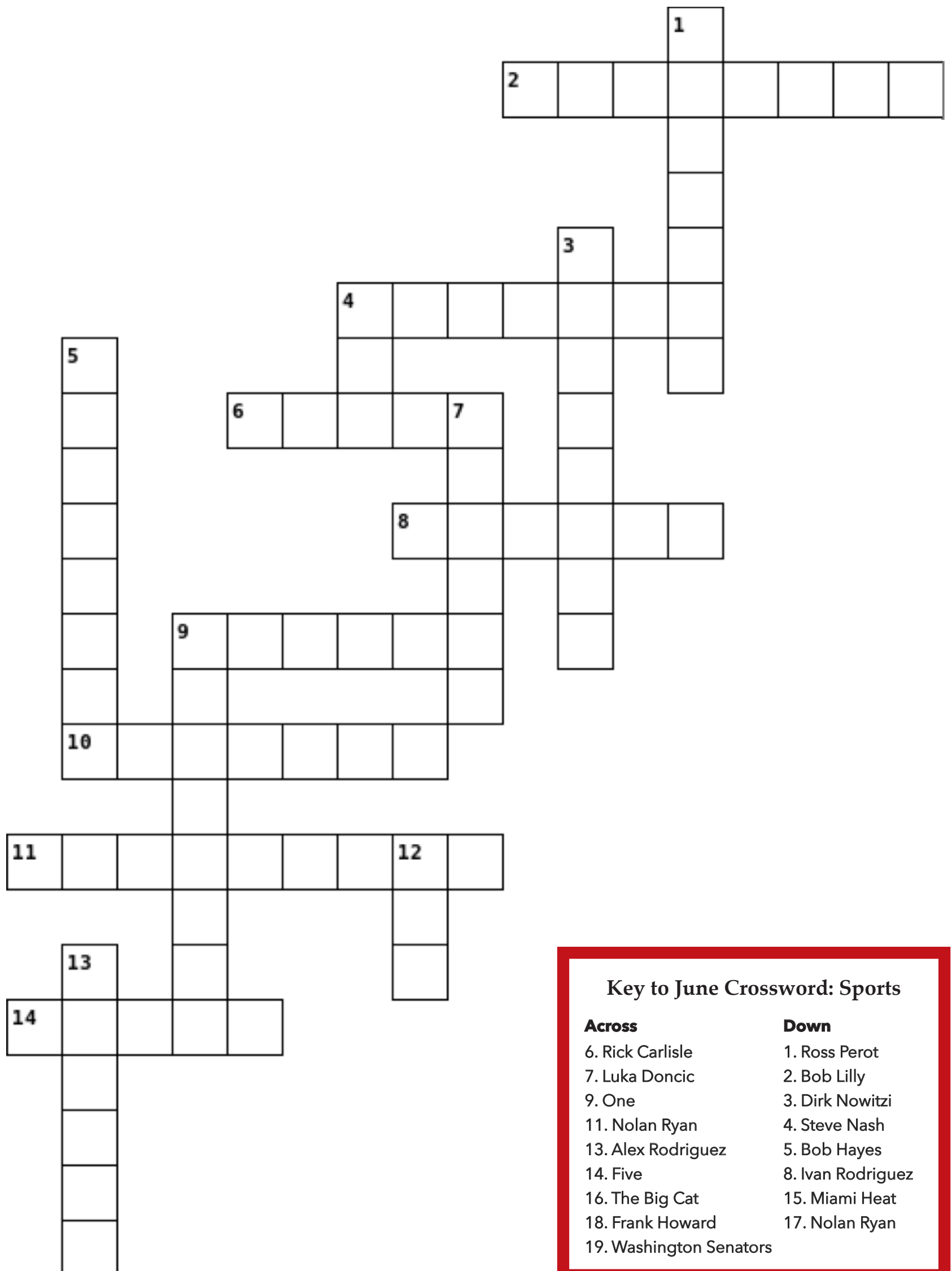
**Across**

- 2. Bushy-tailed rodent that likes to eat nuts
- 4. This nocturnal critter wears a bandit's mask
- 6. Fluttering, flying insects attracted to lights at night
- 8. A domesticated one of these is "man's best friend"
- 9. This mostly wild canine roams suburbs and cities and howls at night
- 10. These build silken traps to catch insects to eat
- 11. Huge numbers of this insect can hide in cupboards and walls
- 14. Quiet rodent often caught in snapping traps

**Down**

- 1. These pesky birds like to roost on the window ledges of tall buildings
- 3. Whiny, blood-sucking insect
- 4. The reigning rodent in big cities
- 5. Noisy, messy black birds
- 7. Some of these slitherers are harmless, some are not
- 9. These nighttime chirpers make sounds by rubbing their wings together
- 12. The old-fashioned solution to a mouse problem
- 13. Long-tailed marsupial plays dead when caught

*Puzzle made at CrosswordLabs.com*



## Key to June Crossword: Sports

**Across**

- 6. Rick Carlisle
- 7. Luka Doncic
- 9. One
- 11. Nolan Ryan
- 13. Alex Rodriguez
- 14. Five
- 16. The Big Cat
- 18. Frank Howard
- 19. Washington Senators

**Down**

- 1. Ross Perot
- 2. Bob Lilly
- 3. Dirk Nowitzki
- 4. Steve Nash
- 5. Bob Hayes
- 8. Ivan Rodriguez
- 15. Miami Heat
- 17. Nolan Ryan



# Around The Stewpot: Mental Health Services

By Nicole Kiser

The last several months has caused unforeseen stress on the entire nation. Experiencing the fear and anxiety wrought by a global pandemic is already traumatic, and the COVID-19 pandemic brought additional hardships. While stay-at-home orders helped reduce the spread of COVID-19, they also disrupted the routines of many.

As the economy shifted, work shifted from an in-person to a remote, or possibly non-existent, affair, leaving many with the additional pressures of economic hardship. Social-distancing restrictions prevented people from engaging in their typical de-stressing activities, limiting concerts, sporting events, and all other social gatherings.

**The collective trauma of COVID-19 has affected the world, but service providers like The Stewpot supply ways to cope with its impacts.**

As a result, The Stewpot's counseling program has seen increased growth. The Stewpot has worked with the nonprofit Metrocare Services for years to help provide mental health services to clients struggling with mental illness, developmental disability, or severe emotional problems. Only within the past year has The Stewpot began including individual and group counseling services for clients in its own casework services.

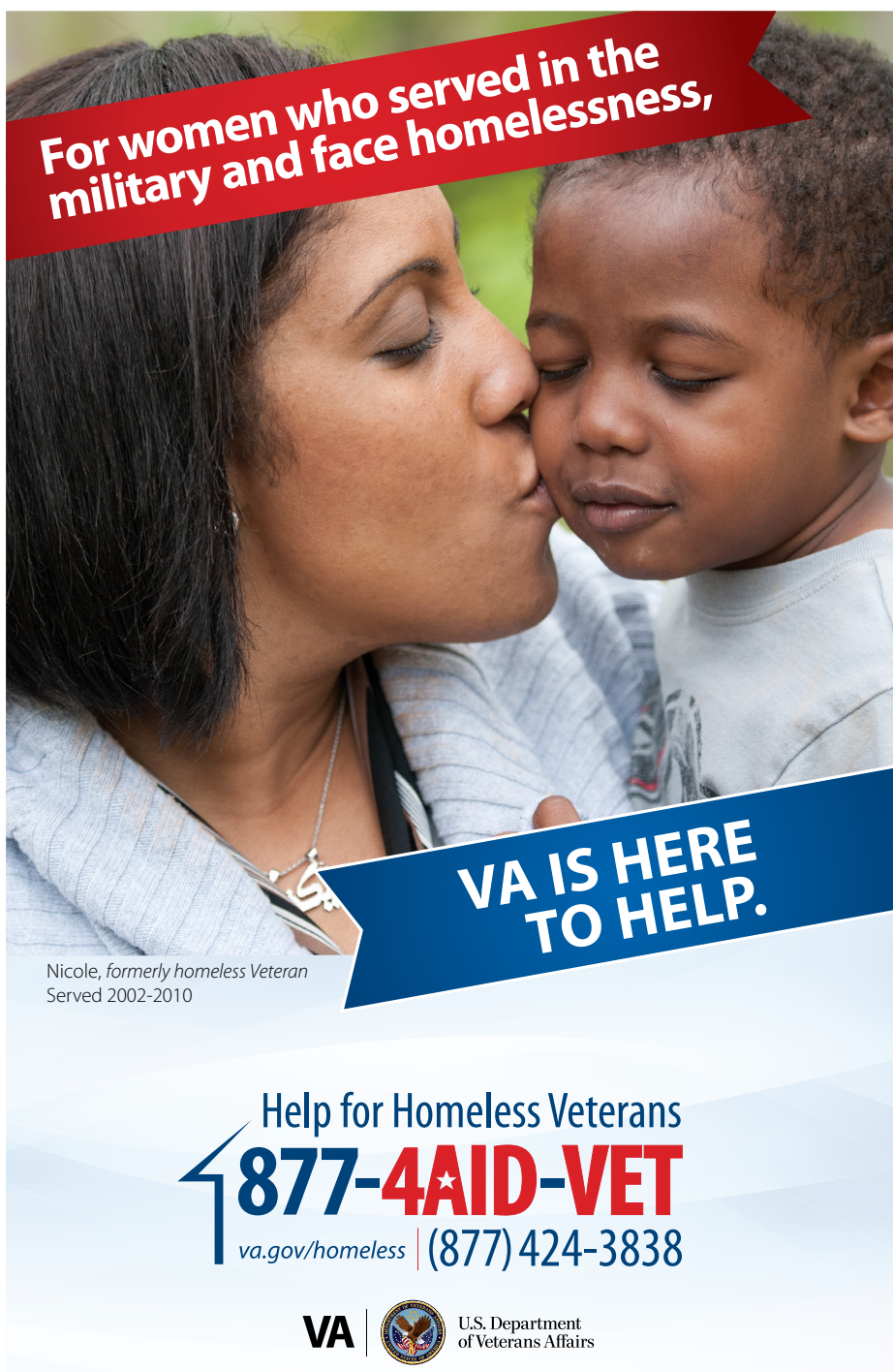
Though the program has had to shift to remote ser-

vices, it has expanded to also assist those who have no insurance or access to low cost counseling, by providing free sessions through a secure telehealth platform. The Stewpot has also developed a partnership with CitySquare. The two nonprofits work together to assist victims of domestic violence and to provide virtual group therapy sessions.

As The Stewpot has expanded its mental health services outward, it has also looked inward as well. The Stewpot leadership has encouraged employees to join its group therapy sessions or to reach out if they would like help seeking individual counseling services.

The collective trauma of COVID-19 has affected the world, but service providers like The Stewpot supply ways to cope with its impacts.

*Nicole Kiser is managing editor of STREETZine.*



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Nicole, formerly homeless Veteran  
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# Soul Soup

By James D. Burns

When the stew is in the pot  
Flavorful and steamy hot  
Grab a dipper, help to feed  
Others who are much in need

While the masses look away  
Thinking of busy day  
Pleas admire the few who care  
For the hungry ones out there

Everybody has a life  
Full of struggle, pain and strife  
But the few who rise above  
Show us all their saintly love

Put your heart before your head  
Gather up the loaf of bread  
Think of others over all  
Stewpot heroes standing tall

*James D. Burns was a friend and former client of The Stewpot.*



**Food prepared for The Stewpot's food distribution program  
Photos by Douglas McKenzie**



**Employees distributing food to cars  
Photos by Douglas McKenzie**



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*Continued from page 6*

As the pandemic evolves, the impacts on food security and nutrition have also been observed. For example, reduced access to high-value foods, such as fruits and vegetables; higher food prices, especially for nutritious (perishable) foods; reduced food affordability and accessibility, with particularly adverse impacts on low-income households; higher consumption of ultra-processed foods, as access to healthy food becomes more difficult; increased household food waste due to food hoarding during lockdowns.

**IPS: The report states: “the number of people affected by hunger in the world continues to increase slowly. This trend started in 2014 and extends to 2019”. How is global hunger linked to food sustainability?**

**MA:** Transforming food systems encompasses changes across all the three dimensions of sustainability: social, economic, environmental. There is evidence that the quality of diet worsens with increasing levels of food insecurity. Low-income- and lower-middle-income countries rely heavily on staples like cereals, roots, tubers and plantains, which represent the largest share of food available (over 60 per cent in some cases), and often fruit and vegetables are not enough to meet the requirement of a minimum intake of 400g/day.

A sustainable food system ensures access and affordability of nutritious food at all times, thus preventing hunger, while at the same time preserving and stewarding the natural resource base.

**IPS: At the State of Food Security And Nutrition in the World 2020 report launch, Henrietta Fore, executive director of the UN Children’s Fund, said one of the reasons behind low-birth rate is “sub-optimal diets for mothers and many of the mothers are adolescents.” How is food sustainability important to the issue of maternal diets and health?**

**Katarzyna Dembska (KD):** Women represent 43 per cent of the total agricultural labour force

worldwide, with shares close to 50 per cent in some regions of Asia and in sub-Saharan Africa. However, despite their crucial role in guaranteeing food security in their household and community, they suffer from important disadvantages and inequalities, from lack of land rights, to reduced access to credit or inputs, unpaid work, insecure employment and exclusion from decision making and political representation.

Within households, food insecurity may not be evenly distributed, with studies finding that women are more affected by food insecurity than men, mainly due to the fact that women are responsible for caregiving and food provisioning in their households, often allocating food to others before themselves.

In addressing women’s inequalities, it is essential to move towards a food policy that addresses right to food issues beyond food production support, food aid and export bans prevention, that guarantees adequate nutrition, especially to the marginalised, whose main issues are access and inequality, that has broad political and social support, and is easily implemented.

**IPS: How will COVID-19 affect food sustainability concerns for women and children specifically?**

**KD:** The societal disruptions and economic shocks arising from COVID-19 control and mitigation measures have been severe, particularly for vulnerable groups.

The Global Nutrition Report states that today, 613.2 million adolescent girls and women aged 15 to 49 years suffer from anemia; 20.5 million newborns (14.6 per cent) have a low birth weight; stunting still affects 149.0 million (21.9 per cent) children under five years of age, and wasting affects 49.5 million (7.3 per cent) children under five years of age.

All these numbers could grow rapidly due to COVID-19 restriction measures and social and economic aftermath. As of late May, 368 million school children were missing out on daily school meals on which they depend, and estimates pre-

dict the pandemic could push about 49 million people into extreme poverty in 2020, and every percentage point drop in global GDP is expected to result in an additional 0.7 million stunted children.

**IPS: The report states that having enough to eat is important, but what people eat also needs to be nutritious. Addressing the issue of affordability is crucial to address hunger and malnutrition. What are currently some of the key concerns about accessibility and affordability to nutritious food?**

**KD:** Those who are food insecure usually spend most of their income on food. The effects of the pandemic on the economy has reduced their ability to purchase food, so there is a risk in a decline in dietary quality, not only resulting from compromised employment, but also from the revocation of schemes such as school feeding programmes, and shocks on the demand and supply sides resulting in the breakdown of food markets.

**MA:** Affordability is a key aspect of food security and a key determinant of food access, which depends not only food cost but also on the disposable income spent on food.

Among the major impacts of COVID-19 on food systems, we should mention rising food costs, especially in urban centres that are home to over half of the world population, as rural supply was unable to reach properly urban demand.

Increased food prices have a direct impact on the quality of diets, preventing access to fresh fruits and vegetables, but also dairy, meat and fish due to the failure in reaching wholesale and retail markets, with loss of income for those operating in the food sector, especially for smallholder farmers and small-scale producers, and led to disruptions in production. FAO has crucially pointed out that the cost of the diet increases incrementally as the diet quality increases, a key issue that needs to be tackled worldwide as healthy diets are not affordable for three billion people in the world.

*Courtesy of Inter Press Service / INSP.ngo*



# Street Newspapers - A Voice for the Homeless & Impoverished

## What is STREETZine?

STREETZine is a nonprofit newspaper published by The Stewpot of First Presbyterian Church for the benefit of people living in poverty. It includes news, particularly about issues important to those experiencing homelessness. STREETZine creates direct economic opportunity. New vendors receive ten free papers. After the first ten, vendors pay twenty-five cents for a paper to be distributed for a one-dollar or more donation. Vendors typically profit seventy-five cents from each paper. Vendors are self-employed and set their own hours. Distributing STREETZine is protected by the First Amendment.

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Self-Help For People Living In  
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They are required to wear a vendor badge at all times when distributing the paper. In order to distribute STREETZine vendors agree to comply with Dallas City Ordinances.

If at any time you feel a vendor is in violation of any Dallas City Ordinance please contact us immediately with the vendor name or number at [streetzine@thestewpot.org](mailto:streetzine@thestewpot.org)

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Solicitation by coercion; solicitation near designated locations and facilities; solicitation anywhere in the city after sunset and before sunrise any day of the week. Exception can be made on private property with advance written permission of the owner, manager, or other person in control of the property.

A person commits an offense if he conducts a solicitation to any person placing or preparing to place money in a parking meter.

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- Public transportation stops;
- Self service car washes;
- Self service gas pumps;
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