

**RHODE ISLAND'S ONLY HOMELESS MAGAZINE & RESOURCE GUIDE**

# Street Sights

*Established March 2007 · December 2023 · Issue #140*

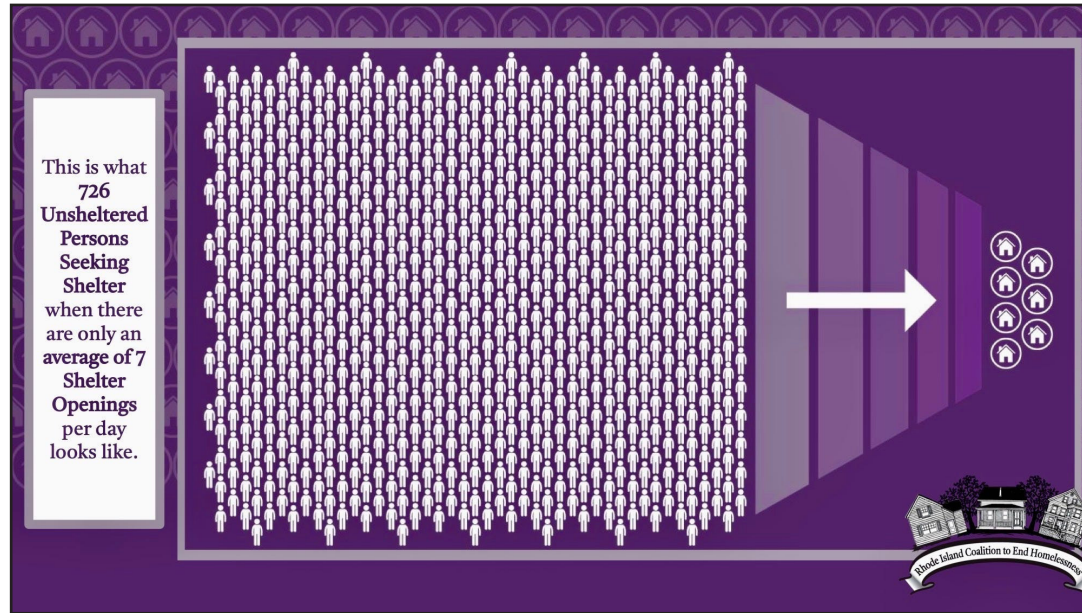


**What Do  
Homeless People  
Do on Christmas?**

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

The Holidays are upon us and still we have hundreds of people living outside. The failure of this is unspeakable. There are no words to express the tragedy this is for our sisters and brothers. As the front page states "What do homeless people do for Christmas? What they do every day. Try and survive, find a meal, a warm place to go. Most Organizations are closed. One unhoused person told me that it doesn't matter what day it is for him. It's all about trying to take care of himself. Stay warm, find food and other necessities.

For all those who control the funding for City and State, you should be ashamed. Knowing that there are still people living outside. It's unacceptable. Outreach, support, and basic needs are what is most needed. There is definitely a need for more outreach workers. Please reach out to *Street Sights* if there is anything we can do, we will try our best. Stay blessed and be safe. I hope you like the new magazine style we have for our paper. Thanks to the Met School in Providence who is working with us to provide our new design for us. Please send feedback to [Streetsights@gmail.com](mailto:Streetsights@gmail.com).



## OUR MISSION

*Street Sights* serves as a forum for advocates, homeless, and formerly homeless people, students, state officials, and the general public to share accurate and honest information about issues relating to homelessness. Our goal is to shed light on a subject not often addressed and, to some degree, ignored.

## CONTACT US

To submit any articles, photos, artwork, poetry, advertisements, or comments please contact us via Email: [streetsights@gmail.com](mailto:streetsights@gmail.com), Phone: 401-499-3596, or Standard Mail: Street Sights 162 Orms Street, Providence, RI 02908. **All Articles are due by the 20th of each month.**

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Opinion articles represent the opinions of the people who submitted them. We welcome your opinion pieces (up to 300 words). We do not publish material we deem to be racist, sexist or classist. *Street Sights* reserves the right to edit material.

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# Better Lives RI

By MICHELLE

My name is Michelle, I am a single parent of 2 young boys, one of which has special needs. We also had our cat and our emotional support dog (which helped my son tremendously). We have lived in Providence for many years. Our last apartment we had lived there for seven years. I always made sure the first bill each month that was paid was our rent. I have never been late paying rent, and never caused problems with any other tenants. I consider myself a good tenant.

My landlord at the time had come to me and told me that he needed me to leave the apartment as he was having a family member move in. I was given thirty days to pack up, find another apartment that would accept my housing voucher and be out. It was also the middle of winter when this took place. I tried going to court to ask for additional time but was denied and told to be out by the end of the month or the doors would be locked, and I would then lose all my possessions.

I was on the phone calling any apartment that I came across that was for rent. Not many landlords will take housing vouchers and I was not able to apply for many as most had nonrefundable application fees, and with being on a limited budget I did not have money to take chances on not being accepted and losing that money. Time was running out and the fear of being homeless was overwhelming.

I tried to stay strong and not show my children my fear. I was not sleeping or eating and I just couldn't hold back the tears any longer. I felt like I had failed as a parent because at this point we were going to be homeless. I do not have family to lean on for any type of help, as it has always been just myself and my children. I had little to no choice at that point at all. I would pray day and night asking for a landlord to call me back in time.

It was just about the last week of the month, and I had gone to church and prayed, that is when my pastor sat with me and listened to what was going on. She told me to call a place called Better Lives RI to see if there was anything they could help with at all. I called first thing that Monday morning, and that is when I met an angel and her name is Shelly. I spoke with her over the phone for a good amount of time as she listened to me cry and explained my situation. Shelly had me then come in that afternoon and we started

working together. Every staff member there was so welcoming and caring. The executive director even personally came and spoke with me and showed such compassion.

We sat and called what felt like more than twenty different places and nothing was available or would be available in what time I had left. I started to go into panic mode, Shelly just told me to stay positive and that she would continue to work with me to find something, she refused to give up, and more importantly she refused to let me give up. Finally, she spoke with Family Services and together they were able to get me and my children into a hotel. It literally came down to the very last day that I had in the apartment. It honestly felt like I received a miracle. We would have a place to lay our heads and stay warm.

I do not drive, so all I could take with us from the apartment was the clothing that I could fit into some boxes and our personal paperwork. I had to leave behind all our furniture and all other household and personal things that we had. We were allowed to take our cat but could not take our emotional support dog. I felt like a horrible mother as my son was crushed, but I had no other choice. I was lucky enough to find a neighbor who was willing to take him in.

Shelly came and picked up myself, the kids, our cat and whatever we were able to pack up and she brought us to the hotel. She had brought us some food as there was a kitchen to be able to cook, and she brought snacks for the kids. Once we were settled into the hotel, Shelly came by to check on us and to help make any arrangements to help the kids to be able to get picked up for school. Not only was she our case manager, but she made me and the children feel like we had a true and caring friend, to us she became like family but above all she remains our angel.

We wasted no time, and we continued to search for apartments for the next few months. I didn't know how long I would be able to stay at the hotel so I would call any apartment that I saw or call Shelly. I still continued to stress every day. I would go to the office at Better Lives, and again all the staff there was so caring and showed they cared. They all showed me such support.

Finally, we got the call that an apartment that accepted the housing voucher was becoming available, that it was still being worked on but we could come and look to



Left to right: Shelly Vieira, Michelle, Freddy, and Miguel.

see if it was something we would like. Shelly came to the hotel to pick us up and we went to see the apartment. It was absolutely beautiful, twice the size of what we had before. The kids were so excited, I just didn't allow myself to get excited in case it didn't go through. I felt like I could not handle another letdown.

Once again Shelly told me to stay positive. I did the best I could with that. Two days later, Shelly called me and said that we were approved and that the apartment was ours. I couldn't believe it, this nightmare was finally over. On the first of the following month, Shelly took us to the main office to the apartment and we signed all the paperwork and we received the lease and our keys. Shelly along with other staff helped move our belongings to the new apartment.

Since then, Shelly and Better Lives RI have continued to work with us. They helped us with some used but beautiful pieces of furniture, pots and pans so I could cook, and other items that we needed. Starting over from nothing isn't easy but we will get there over time. I will never be able to thank Better Lives RI for all they have done and continue to do for me and my children. I thank God every day for bringing Better Lives RI and of course Shelly into our lives. I would tell anyone in need to call Better Lives RI as they go above and beyond to help. Most of all they make you feel like you matter and show nothing but support to those they help and work with. For more info reach out to: Better Lives RI, 12 Abbott Park Place, Providence, RI 02903 (401) 454-7422.

# HOMELESS IN RI: UPDATES

**NOVEMBER 6, 2023/  
RI NEWS TODAY**

RI Housing has hired a new communications liaison – Patti Doyle. Doyle provided this update to RI News Today:

**Pallet Shelters:** “We have not confirmed a location for the pallet shelters as of this writing. We are looking at sites in both Providence and Pawtucket. The Newport Avenue site is not being considered for pallet shelters.”

**Zambarano:** “Facilities are in use. There are currently five families residing there, seven adults and 13 children. The families are from Cumberland, Warwick, West Warwick and Coventry”.

**Memorial Hospital** – “We have nothing to announce today relative to Memorial Hospital...” (Note: Developer Michael Mota, embroiled in legal issues, called a local radio station saying rooms were renovated and ready to be occupied – this could not be independently confirmed, but clear ownership of Memorial’s building is in question.)

**Woonsocket** – “We have nothing to announce today relative to...[Woonsocket].”

**Dignity Bus:** Woonsocket Dignity Bus – From Benedict Lessing, Community Care Alliance, the group charged with operating the Dignity Bus program: “We are awaiting a lease from the City in order to move forward. Funding from the RI Foundation is in place to support 6 months of operating expenses once we have a lease in place.” **UPDATE:** Councilwoman Gonzalez said on Monday she thought the contract would have been signed by now so she is calling a meeting of all parties involved to get it moved along.

Other states – at least 3 other states have now ordered their Dignity Buses and 2 of these programs are underway.

**Emergency Shelters:** Narragansett Plaza, Pawtucket – This site has been identified as a location for an emergency shelter that would provide emergency, temporary shelter in the winter months, with 50+ beds. However, the Pawtucket City Council is upset at plans to locate an emergency shelter at that location, saying that they were agreeing to the developer’s requests “thinking they were getting a “Garden City” shopping plaza instead. (Note: It is unclear if part of this area is actually in East Providence).

**Broad Street, Cranston Family Shelter** – plans are being discussed to locate a “families-only” emergency housing unit at 1890 Broad Street, the location of a low-income housing unit that had an emergency eviction years ago due to building disrepair and the fear that outside entrances and staircases were collapsing.

City of Cranston said a location was in consideration for “families only” but did not identify the Broad Street unit – NBC10 news identified the address. The building is in the process of extensive work, as can be seen by photos, here, and it would be reasonable to guess a year or more would be required to prepare the building for occupancy. Notably, the 2 buildings back up to both a daycare center and an elementary school. The city and the state have said pallet housing will not be directed to Cranston, in light of the 150 emergency beds already at the Pastore Center.

**Other, Transitional Housing:** Building purchases – the state indicated they want to purchase housing rather than depend on renting large buildings or using hotel and motel spaces. The only definite to date is. Charlesgate Nursing Home – 2 buildings, 1 already in use by homeless, after nursing home patients were moved out – RI Housing is moving to purchase both buildings for use as homeless housing that



**Emergency Shelters :** There could be approximately 20 units in each building. We reached out to the local representative an city council rep for the area as well as the city. The city noted that this building is privately owned. The local rep and city council person did not respond by publication.

might be able to be transitioned into permanent housing.

**Pawtucket Soup Kitchen** – says they are serving more meals this year than ever before – 1115,000 so far – last year, 91,000 – says “90% of the people they serve are homeless, with very few people having housing”.

Homeless agencies to be held accountable. In an interview between Gov. McKee and WPRO’s Gene Valicenti, McKee agreed that all new funding will have a report associated with it to show what they did with the funds. First should be early summer.

**Encampments:** Homeless advocacy groups have petitioned the Mayor of Providence not to take any more action to move out encamped individuals until housing can be provided. This followed the moving out of the “Marriot man”, a homeless man who had been camping outside of the hotel off ramp for over a year. He was arrested because he resisted being moved off the state property – he was later released on bail – and is now residing at a triangular piece of property behind the Providence Place Mall,

across from the 904 residential building. The Mayor has said they will act once a complaint is made to help move out encampments. Individuals from the housing unit have started to complain, but he has not yet been moved out.

**Mass & Cass encampments in Boston** – All residents have been moved out and offered either shelter housing, temporary housing or arrangements to live with relatives, etc. In addition, Massachusetts has been given authority to cut off migrant housing at 7,500 families, which they should be at now. Anyone remaining can go on a waiting list but they won’t be bound by regs to provide sanctuary housing.

**Boston Emergency Homeless/ Migrant Shelters** – Gov. Healey has put former Maj. Gen. Catfish Rice in charge of managing the emergency family homeless shelter system.

**Boston unoccupied office housing** – only 67% of downtown business offices are occupied and a federal program may aid the city in converting the buildings to emergency housing or temporary housing.

# Medicaid Renewals are Back

**By PAM JENNINGS**

What does "Medicaid renewal" mean? Before COVID-19, the State reviewed Medicaid members' information every year to make sure they were still eligible. This process is called a "Renewal."

The federal government paused renewals during COVID-19 to make sure people kept their health coverage. When the Public Health Emergency ended, the federal government required states to start renewals again.

Rhode Island began Medicaid renewals again in April 2023. Since more than 350,000 Rhode Islanders are enrolled in Medicaid, not everyone will be renewed at once.

Renewal notices will go out to different people each month. That means members will get a notice in the mail from the State sometime between now and April 2024.

***What can you do to make sure you don't miss your medicaid renewal? There are four things you can do today to be ready and stay covered:***

1. Update your contact information. Make sure the State has your mailing address, phone number, and email.
2. Watch for your yellow or green notice in the mail. The State may tell you that your coverage is being automatically renewed or will ask you for more information.
3. Take action right away. Please submit your signed forms and any other documents the State requested as soon as possible. You must submit your documents by the date on your notice.

4. Check your renewal date using this website [https://www.ri.gov/EOHHS/medicaid\\_renewal](https://www.ri.gov/EOHHS/medicaid_renewal) or by scanning the QR code below. Enter your Medicaid Card number number and date of birth.



***Information provided by <https://staycovered.ri.gov/medicaid-renewals>***

## Mathewson St Church Updates:

### **OPEN BATHROOMS:**

Our bathrooms are open for public use! At Mathewson St Church we are committed to radical hospitality, which has led us to open our doors during the week to share our restrooms with those in need.

### **CLOTHING & TOILETRY MINISTRIES:**

Our clothing and toiletry ministries are available throughout the week. Our clothing room is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

***134 Mathewson Street, Providence, R.I. 02903  
[mathewsonstreetchurch.org](http://mathewsonstreetchurch.org)***



# The 2023 State of Homelessness in Rhode Island

**"...the data presented here largely represents an increase in the number of Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness," said RI Coalition to End Homelessness interim director Kimberly Simmons.**

**BY STEVE AHLQUIST**

For the second year in a row, the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness [Coalition] presented stark numbers on the state of homelessness in Rhode Island. "The State of Homelessness in Rhode Island is at a critical state," said the Coalition's Interim Director Kimberly Simmons, "While the data presented here largely represents an increase in the number of Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness, I'm heartened by the fact that we have a good representation tonight of elected officials, advocates, providers, constituents, and people with lived experiences so we all can work towards the end of homelessness in the ocean state."

That said, the vast majority of Rhode Island's elected officials declined to attend the event. Senator Samuel Bell (Democrat, District 5, Providence), Tiara Mack (Democrat, District 6, Providence), and Representative David Morales (Democrat, District 7, Providence) were the only elected officials in the room. United States Senator Jack Reed [Democrat, Rhode Island] sent comments by video. Clearly, the well-being of the more than 1800 people estimated to be experiencing homelessness in Rhode Island is a low priority for many in our government.

That 1800 number is interesting. It represents a 72% increase in homelessness since 2019. "Additionally," said Director Simmons, "since 2019, unsheltered homelessness has increased by 370% in 2022. Rhode Island had the 17th highest per capita homeless count in the nation.

"Over the past four years, 18,499 new people have entered the homeless system," continued Director Simmons. "That means one out of a hundred Rhode Islanders call through our CES system, which is the call center. Over the past four years, a majority of those individuals did not have a residence before entry. Over 80% of those who entered the system came

through the call center. This data highlights the need for homeless prevention services: assisting people before they reach unsheltered homelessness, and catching them in places like correctional services or through healthcare and child welfare systems."

In September of this year, there were almost 12,000 calls for assistance, from 2,286 unique callers. People in need of shelter are put on an electronic waiting list called the shelter queue. At the end of last month, "726 persons were waiting in the queues, including 65 households with children, 104 households without children, and 314 single adults," said Director Simmons. "Some of that number, we must acknowledge, are not unhoused. Maybe they are surfing on couches or they could be in a different situation - but they still don't have their own place."

"It is problematic when you have 726 unsheltered people seeking shelter, but there are only an average of seven shelter openings per day," said Director Simmons, noting that this number does not take into account the new shelter beds coming online through the work of the Rhode Island Department of Housing's Winter Shelter Strategy.

When people leave the shelter, they are not necessarily finding permanent housing. "It's important to note that only 31% of people leaving shelter [found] permanent or temporary destination within the last fiscal year," said Director Simmons. "50% of people are leaving shelter for an unsheltered or unknown destination. We lose track of them. People may pass away or they go to family."

At the end of last month, there were 190 households with children, 154 households without children, and 612 households with individuals in the housing queue. They face an average of 113 days in the housing queue, waiting to be referred to housing and 180 days from their housing referral to an actual move-in date.

As bad as all this is, other trends point towards an increase in homelessness. As reported here, last month Providence landlords filed 18% more evictions than in an average pre-pandemic October, and raids on encampments of people experiencing homelessness continue to be driven by

uncaring right-wing media and cowardly politicians.

Sadly, solutions will not come quickly. Director Simmons presented the following actions:

## ***State and municipal leaders can continue to:***

- Develop flexible Housing Problem-Solving resources to prevent and divert homelessness
- Increase the supply of crisis housing and shelter, including innovative models
- Dramatically increase the supply of affordable housing for very low-income households, including permanent supportive housing
- Continue to support state efforts; working together to end homelessness
- Treat housing as healthcare to bridge the gap between health and housing stability

## ***We need the Federal Government to:***

- Expand Housing Choice Vouchers to an entitlement program (so all who are eligible can receive it)
- Increase HUD funding for Homeless Assistance Grants
- Continue and expand regulatory waivers, making programs more effective and nimble.

## ***We need Rhode Islanders to:***

- Call for more affordable housing options and shelter in your city and town
- Ask us to present to local municipalities our State of Homelessness presentation
- Volunteer with local providers to help our unhoused neighbors



*Steve Ahlquist is a progressive reporter based in Providence, RI*

# To Cut Costs, RIPTA Would Have to Slash 40 Unfilled Driver Positions

**BY CHRISTOPHER SHEA**  
**RHODE ISLAND CURRENT**  
**NOVEMBER 10, 2023**

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) appears to have slashed its looming budget deficit in half — from \$30 million to \$40 million, under prior projections — to \$18.4 million under estimates presented to the Board of Directors in a meeting on Thursday.

The catch: The transit agency wants to permanently remove 40 unfilled bus driver positions as a means to cut costs. Which is not the route transit advocates, union organizers and some of the agency's governing board want to go. The board ultimately postponed a vote on the draft budget to a future meeting, though the request has already been submitted to Gov. Dan McKee for consideration in his proposed fiscal year 2025 tax-and-spend plan. Rhode Island's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30.

"We've known about the fiscal cliff for many years," Patrick Crowley, a board member, said during the meeting Thursday. "It's only this year we're seemingly asked to approve a budget that the first attempt to deal with the cliff is on the back of the operators."

The budget request projects \$123.8 million in revenue — a 12% reduction from the \$143.1 million budgeted this fiscal year. That decline is attributed to a \$16 million drop in federal COVID-related relief aid. State subsidies are also projected to be down by \$1 million. The agency projects spending \$142.4 million in fiscal year 2025.

RIPTA CEO Scott Avedisian wrote in the agency's budget memo that ridership for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 was 31% lower than before the pandemic. Avedisian told the board Thursday that the proposal to eliminate the unfilled bus driver positions stems from the agency "not getting new drivers at a rate that would fill every position."

"If we could find the drivers, there is money put in there for funding," Avedisian said. "But this comes up to the whole collective bargaining unit."

Lack of drivers has plagued RIPTA in recent months. In October 2022, the shortage temporarily forced cancellations of morning service to multiple Providence schools and reduced service frequency on 19 fixed routes.

That shortage could get worse, said Walter Melillo, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 618.



**Rhode Island Public Transit Authority Board Chairman Peter Alviti, center, speaks at the board's Nov. 9 meeting. Left is board member Michelle Wilcox and right is former chairman Normand Benoit. Behind the board members, with his hands covering his face, is transit advocate Grant Dulgarian.**

Photo by Christopher Shea/Rhode Island Current.

Melillo said there are 378 fixed-route drivers, 15% of whom are now eligible for retirement. Of the 109 Flex Ride operators, who provide transit service to some of Rhode Island's rural communities, Melillo said 19% are eligible to retire.

### *A tough road to recruitment*

"That itself is a crisis," Melillo said. "If you don't fill the vacancies, the frequency of the lines are nonexistent." RIPTA has tried to recruit more drivers through monthly career fairs. Melillo said the real solution is to raise starting pay by 20%. The starting hourly pay of \$21.71 for RIPTA drivers is below national averages, which were \$25.92 for transit and intercity bus drivers in May 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"To get people in the door, you have to have some kind of incentive," Melillo told board members. Department of Transportation Director Peter Alviti, who also heads RIPTA's board, asked Avedisian why the union pay hike was not included in the budget proposal. Normand Benoit, the previous RIPTA board chairman, reminded Alviti that change would have to be done through a collective bargaining agreement, not the budget proposal.

"So then you do that prior to making your budget request," Alviti said. "Bring those discussions far enough along so that you

have a reasonable expectation of them being implemented." Transit advocates urged board members to reject the budget request because of the proposed staffing cuts.

"Having this infrastructure fail would be catastrophic to all Rhode Islanders," said Progreso Latino Policy Director Michelle Rivera. "We cannot afford to let RIPTA crumble and fail."

Liza Burkin, organizer of Providence Streets Coalition, called the proposed cuts "a driver cliff."

"Our drivers are providing an incredible public service and deserve to be compensated fairly," she said.

Burkin urged the board to ask the state for a spending plan that includes current staffing levels. RIPTA's board has previously discussed, but never voted on, a non-binding resolution asking the governor and Rhode Island General Assembly for full funding.

"It's a chicken and an egg," Alviti said. "There is no egg unless you've got the money. There'll never be an egg."

McKee spokesperson Olivia DaRocha said in an email Friday that the governor's office has not reviewed RIPTA's budget request yet. Board members Robert Kells, Heather Schey, and Marcy Reyes were not present at Thursday's meeting.

# Evolving Overdose Crisis Shakes Previously Effective Treatments

## *Synthetic drugs are killing more Americans as they render treatment options less effective*



Photos of fentanyl victims are displayed at The Faces of Fentanyl Memorial at the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration headquarters on Sept. 27, 2022, in Arlington, Virginia. Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images.

**BY TAYLOR SISK**  
**RHODE ISLAND CURRENT**  
**NOVEMBER 17, 2023**

BURLINGTON, Vt. – “You can’t inject a horse tranquilizer and think nothing bad is gonna happen” to you, said Ty Sears, 33, a longtime drug user now in recovery. Sears was referring to xylazine, a sedative used for animal surgeries that has infiltrated the illicit drug supply across the country, contributing to a steady climb in overdose deaths.

Sears divides his time between Burlington and Morrisville, a village an hour to the east. In Burlington, he visits clusters of drug users, offering water, food, and encouragement. He has been there, been down, done time, and struggled to adhere to treatment regimens. But this, he said, is different: first, fentanyl – estimated to be 50 to 100 times as potent as morphine – and now xylazine, and the life-threatening wounds and sores it can cause.

Sears implores those he encounters who suffer the effects of these drugs to look at what they’re doing to themselves. But to little avail. “They say they’re unable to get out of it – that they don’t have a plan to get out of it.”

Worse, those who seek help breaking their addictions face treatment options rendered less effective by the prevalence of fentanyl, xylazine, and other synthetic drugs. Vermont’s pioneering efforts in establishing a statewide program for medication for opioid use disorder, known as Hub and Spoke, now face significant new challenges.

Launched in 2012, Hub and Spoke put prescription medicines at the center of the treatment strategy, which many addiction specialists say is the most effective approach. Vermont offers methadone treatment at regional hub sites for those with the most intense needs, while smaller community clinics and doctors’ offices – the “spokes” – provide care such as dispensing the opioid withdrawal drug buprenorphine.

Advocates and experts in Vermont honed the model, and today hub-and-spoke systems or variations are in place nationwide, including in California, Colorado, Maine, New Hampshire, and South Carolina. But the rise of fentanyl, xylazine, and stimulants is undercutting the effectiveness of addiction medications.

Commonly administered doses of buprenorphine, better known as Suboxone – the brand name for a combination of buprenorphine and naloxone – have proved less effective against fentanyl, and commonly used doses can trigger violent, immediate withdrawal. Neither Suboxone nor methadone is designed to treat addiction to xylazine or stimulants.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that of the more than 111,000 drug overdose deaths in the U.S. in the 12 months ending in April, more than 77,000 involved fentanyl and other synthetic opioids. The nation has also seen a significant increase in overdose deaths from the co-use of stimulants and opioids. Vermont has experienced a spike in the use of cocaine and, more recently, methamphetamine.

“There was a time when we couldn’t have pictured things being worse than heroin,” said Jess Kirby, director of client services for Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform, which offers services to counter substance use disorder. “Then we couldn’t picture things being worse than fentanyl. Now we can’t picture things being worse than xylazine. It keeps escalating.”

In Vermont, the Hub and Spoke program is part of the statewide Blueprint for Health, with hubs in relatively populous areas of this largely rural state.

A patient enters the system for assessment and initial induction at one of nine hubs, and then, once stable, is transferred to a spoke. If that patient relapses or needs more intensive care, they can be transferred back to the hub. The spokes typically offer Suboxone – most effective for those with mild to moderate opioid dependence – but not methadone, which is more regulated.

Kirby – who began using opioids in her early teens, has been in recovery for about 15 years, and is Ty Sears’ longtime case manager – said a benefit of the hub-and-spoke model is that it offers support to primary care doctors and other practitioners who might otherwise be hesitant to prescribe medications to treat addiction. Federal officials recently relaxed rules governing which doctors can prescribe buprenorphine.



# Health Care for the Unhoused: *High Rates of Smoking and Little Help*

**BY IRENE GLASSER, PH.D.**

In the last two issues of *Street Sights* the lead articles have directed our attention to the low cancer screening among people who are unhoused. This month we'll look at another area of unmet need: help for people who are unhoused and are thinking about quitting smoking cigarettes.

What percentage of people who are unhoused smoke? The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Percentage estimates that, as of 2019, between 68% to 80% of the unhoused population smokes in contrast to the total US rate of smoking among adults of 14%. This health disparity between the unhoused and general population should be a cause of concern.

According to the CDC, cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease, disability, and death in the United States. Smoking causes cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung disease, type 2 diabetes, and other chronic health conditions. Smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of premature birth and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Secondhand smoke, which affects 58 million Americans who don't smoke, also causes stroke, lung cancer, and heart disease in adults.

Cigarette smoking is especially lethal among people who are unhoused. Research by a team led by Travis Baggett, MD, MPH,

an expert on homelessness and smoking, found that in unhoused people 50 years old and over, tobacco accounted for 26% of all deaths, outpacing deaths due to alcohol and drugs combined. The research of Dr. Baggett can be found at the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Publications page: [bhchp.org/institute/publications](http://bhchp.org/institute/publications).

Currently, three sources of help for Rhode Islanders who wish to quit smoking are the Rhode Island Nicotine Helpline (Quitline), CODAC Behavioral Healthcare Tobacco Cessation Services of RI and the nine Community Health Centers in RI (see the Rhode Island Public Health Brief entitled "Homelessness and Smoking Cessation" [ripha.org/Data-and-Advocacy-Briefs](http://ripha.org/Data-and-Advocacy-Briefs) for a full discussion of RI services).

The educational and advocacy organization, Tobacco Free RI, sponsored by the American Lung Association of Rhode Island, is another good way to learn about quitting resources in RI (see [tobaccofree-ri.org](http://tobaccofree-ri.org)).

However, we know of no current smoking cessation services that are offered inside Rhode Island's homeless shelters, warming centers, meal sites, day respite or other organizations that serve unhoused people. Locating tobacco treatment services within the organizations that already serve the unhoused community is the approach that is

advocated as a way to reach this underserved community. The National Health Care for the Homeless Council is an excellent source of information about reaching unhoused populations [nhhc.org](http://nhhc.org).

Can Rhode Island afford to offer culturally appropriate health services for unhoused people who smoke and want to work on quitting? Each year the American Lung Association rates the tobacco control in each state. In 2023 Rhode Island received an "F" in Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Funding because RI was spending only 14.1% of the CDC Recommended Level of spending according to the American Lung Association.

A 2021 Rhode Island Public Health Brief entitled "Funding for Tobacco Programs in Rhode Island" discusses how RI pays for tobacco prevention and treatment in depth (see [ripha.org/Data-and-Advocacy-Briefs](http://ripha.org/Data-and-Advocacy-Briefs) for the full report). A commitment in RI to find a way to spend money on tobacco prevention and cessation directly in the unhoused community could save lives.



*Professor Irene Glasser, PhD, is a writer for Street Sights RI*



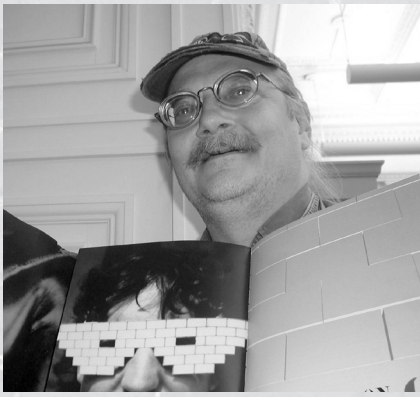
## ***RI Transit Riders***

**BY PATRICIA RAUB, PROVIDENCE,  
CO-CHAIR, RI TRANSIT RIDERS**

Advocates spoke up clearly and loudly in rejecting RIDOT's first plan, which mainly entailed expanding highways and calling that a way to reduce emission by reducing auto congestion. For years, experts have been saying that highway expansion only leads to increased demand, thereby causing the same congestion

it is supposed to alleviate. We are pleased that RIDOT actually revised its plan significantly, providing \$8.9 million for a "Rhody Express" to improve the commuter rail service to Boston, \$1.5 million for sidewalk/bus stop improvements, and finally an extension of a bike path, in Coventry.

**Good News:** Photo ID Office is now open in KP on Wednesdays, 9-noon, and 1-3.



*Rest In Peace, Stan Kapelewski,  
our Founder.*

### Would you like to see your writing on The Wall?

Submit your poems or artwork by: **Email:** streetsights@gmail.com, **Regular mail:** Janice Luongo c/o Street Sights, 162 Orms Street Providence, RI 02908.

You must include your name, address, Phone number or email.

## Crying Wind

By Jim Goulet

The tears of the prophets fall on the stone hearts of humanity,  
Gradually softening their seeming solidity.  
The once impenetrable fortresses which brace themselves for the  
siege,  
Now lay bare and naked.  
Their gates opened and their weapons fell to rust.  
How many days must we wait before this prophecy comes to pass?  
Indeed, it is a sleeping reality laying in my breast.  
It is called love.  
It is called peace.  
Yet it answers not to the call of words.  
Only in silence does it respond.  
Listen.  
Only in silence can it be heard.  
Listen.  
We wait. The universe waits with us.  
Song of Psalm, 3/16/91 Peter Salm.

## That Look In Your Eyes

By David Eisenberger

You'll captivate me to no end  
I've fallen deeper in love baby  
That look in those eyes inspires  
for that is what I love to see

Now safely in my arms tonight  
let me cradle and hold you tight  
That look in your eyes mesmerize  
loving all of love's surprises

So melt me then...I'm ready here  
that look in your eyes showing love  
Shines brighter than the moon and stars  
Baby..it's you...all that I dream of

Well...this man rediscovered this  
without love...there's a lot I'll miss  
Why...that look in your eyes spellbounds  
Yes...that there will keep me around

## William Waite

We all need that human connection,  
we must overcome what separates one from the other.  
I live to love that's my selection, so I call you all my sister  
and brother.  
This here's insight into the soul I've been, in this world I  
can't be another.  
Each morn i awake I'm thankful again,  
God bless the example of love always seen in my mother.

## Prayer

By Miss Gay Lorrie Jacks Parker

Thank you for the food we eat,  
for food banks, churches, missions who donate it,  
to help make us nutritionally balanced meals  
from head to toe.  
All my love and blessings to you for caring.

# A Spiritual Message By Pastor Linda Forsberg

I have a new favorite word. It is a New Testament Word I can't believe I never noticed before. The New Testament was written in Greek. In the Greek language the word is "pleroma." This word means "fullness" or "completeness." I just discovered this word because I am reading some writings called The Nag Hammadi Texts.

Like the Dead Sea Scrolls, these writings were hidden in caves for thousands of years, and found in the 1940s. The Dead Sea Scrolls are of Old Testament Writings. The Nag Hammadi Texts are from early Christianity. They use this word "pleroma" all over the place to speak of the Jesus event. In the New Testament, we see this word in John 1:16: "From God's fullness (pleroma) we all have received, grace upon grace."

This past weekend, our reading from Colossians 1:19 was "In Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell." This was the reading for Christ the King weekend, which was this past weekend. In the Christian calendar this is the last day of the year. Then we start the new year, according to the Christian calendar, with the Season of Advent. The word Advent means "Coming" or "Arrival." Advent is a season of waiting for the God who comes to us, the One whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. At Christmas we celebrate the Fullness who fills our emptiness.

For many of us life right now does not feel full. It feels the complete opposite. It feels

empty. In the Greek New Testament this is the word "kenosis:" complete emptiness. In the beautiful hymn of Saint Paul in Philippians 2 Paul writes about God who empties God-self of God's fullness, in the Incarnation. God who is Fullness chose to empty God-self to become human like you and like me, to take on our flesh and blood life, to experience all of our struggles and sufferings and emptiness.

God chose to do this to fill us with God's Fullness. Yes, it is a paradox. When we are completely empty, God who is "pleroma," Fullness, can fill our emptiness. This weekend, the Gospel reading for Christ the King weekend was about Jesus on the cross. Talk about paradox: God - the Fullness that created the Cosmos - emptied God-self completely on the cross. Beside Jesus were two others being crucified. One mocked Jesus.

But the other said, "Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom." Jesus, in his complete emptiness, opened himself to that Fullness that fills all emptiness, and promised the one suffering beside him, "Truly I tell you, this day, you will be with me in Paradise." When we are completely empty, we too can open ourselves to the Fullness that fills all emptiness, and help the one beside us who is suffering. Recently, two of my beloved friends, lost their young adult son in a tragic death.

Prior to this they had planned on providing a Thanksgiving dinner for the Church Beyond the Walls community in Burnside Park on

the Wednesday before Thanksgiving at 2 PM. When they lost their son, I assumed they would cancel the dinner. I was shocked when they said they were still going to do the Thanksgiving dinner. Even in their time of deep suffering, loss and grieving, they are opening themselves to the Fullness that fills all emptiness, and sharing that fullness with others.

Did you know there is an ancient text about the birth of Jesus that is not in the New Testament, called The Infancy Gospel of James? In that account it tells us that Joseph, Jesus' adoptive father, was at first very skeptical when he found out Mary was pregnant. In this version of the story, in fact, he was enraged. He went into the Temple in Jerusalem and cried out to God, "Who is responsible for this?" He heard the response, "The One who fills all emptiness."

Sisters and brothers, no matter how empty we may be, there is One whose Fullness can fill our emptiness. THAT is what we celebrate at Christmas: the Fullness that can fill our emptiness. May this Fullness be born in you this Christmas.



Pastor Linda Forsberg is the Missioner of the Church Beyond the Walls

# A View From The Streets By Will

We all need that human connection, we must overcome what separates one from the other. I live to love that's my selection, so I call you all my sister and brother. This here's insight into the soul I've been, in this world I can't be another. Each morning I awake I'm thankful again, God bless the example of love always seen in my mother.



Will is a Columnist for Street Sights RI

## Popular TV Series Wordsearch

X	T	K	X	B	R	E	A	K	I	N	G	B	A	D
O	T	R	U	E	B	L	O	O	D	M	I	D	J	L
S	E	C	I	F	F	O	M	W	S	L	M	E	C	O
M	O	D	E	R	N	F	A	M	I	L	Y	X	R	T
A	E	N	Y	U	G	Y	L	I	M	A	F	T	I	E
F	E	N	S	E	B	R	E	V	E	N	G	E	M	L
R	L	D	C	O	W	E	S	U	O	H	Y	R	I	L
I	G	D	T	I	F	A	T	S	O	L	E	V	N	I
E	G	R	E	Y	S	A	N	A	T	O	M	Y	A	V
N	U	S	U	P	E	R	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	L
D	C	C	A	M	E	N	T	A	L	I	S	T	M	L
S	C	C	A	S	T	L	E	G	R	C	S	I	I	A
H	F	L	E	G	N	I	R	F	P	C	J	D	N	M
S	L	R	I	G	P	I	S	S	O	G	H	E	D	S
B	O	N	E	S	E	I	N	F	E	L	D	Y	S	S

- BONES
- BREAKING BAD
- CASTLE
- CRIMINAL MINDS
- CSI
- DEXTER
- FAMILY GUY
- FRIENDS
- FRINGE
- GLEE
- GOSSIP GIRL
- GREY'S ANATOMY
- HOUSE
- LOST
- MENTALIST
- MODERN FAMILY
- NCIS
- OFFICE
- REVENGE
- SEINFELD
- SMALLVILLE
- SONS OF ANARCHY
- SUPERNATURAL
- TRUE BLOOD

## *Soul Purpose* By Shelley Turner-Riley

### *God Bless Us, Every One*

Most of us, even if we have not read “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens, have seen some adaptation or production of it. Ebenezer Scrooge gives a descriptive meaning of a stingy miser, unable at some point in his life to open his heart to anything but cynicism and greed etc. My first exposure to the story was around 1965 (it first aired in 1962) watching the animated “Mr. Magoo’s Christmas Carol.” I was ten. Being a musical, the songs were memorable, some touching. In 1970, the movie “Scrooge”, also was impressibly played by English actor Albert Finney.

In contrast to Scrooge is the young son of his employee, Bob Cratchett. Tiny Tim has a crippling illness, yet he has joy, surrounded by his family’s love and prayers. It is he who celebrates the meal, saying “God bless us, everyone.” It is subtle, but it stands out to me not as a collective “Everyone”, but the emphasis on Every One. It is being intentionally and personally Loved and Blessed by God.

When I was younger, there always seemed to be a “Christmas Spirit” among people; there was music playing in Downtown Providence as people shopped. The Outlet Store had Santa; There were two places for kids to grab a bag, one each for girls and boys. The memories include the women (wearing white gloves) on the elevators, announcing “Going Up/Down”, Sliding the metal lattice-like inner apparatus. It created anticipation. These experiences were usually with my grandmother on my father’s side, or my aunt and cousin on my mother’s.

In the late 70’s I had a job downtown; the environment was different. And it changed

even more. The music was not played in the streets; some of the department stores closed. Why? When I take buses to and from Kennedy Plaza now, there is the reality of those who are not there to shop, to take the second bus to a job or visit someone, etc.

The holidays of Christmas and Hanukkah are represented with light, the first being the “Festival of Light,” and the second beginning with a star, guiding shepherds and three kings to a manger. According to the Gospel accounts, the angels, surrounded by “the glory of God” told the shepherds to not be afraid; many times when angels appear in the Bible, they preface their message with “Do not fear.”

Right now, Israel is not at peace. People have been given reason to fear. There are church groups who had planned on visiting the Holy Land in November. Now there are many there who cannot get home—or to a safe place. All over America, church groups, temples, humane organizations, and military persons have rallied together for Americans and for the people of Israel during this time of chaos and death.

So, how can we celebrate this season? Perhaps a more appropriate word would be how we “observe” the holidays. To “celebrate” does not have to mean ignoring the horror and grief. It would be different if there were no miracles woven into human history; most will not be reported, nor recognized. Even on the news, we see gratitude for any glimmer of hope; family members returned. Tiny Tim was grateful in—not for—his affliction.

Whenever I see a version of “A Christmas Carol”, There are chills when Scrooge wakes up on Christmas Day, alive. His “heart of

stone” has been replaced by “a heart of flesh” spoken of in the book of Ezekiel. The world around him has not changed, but his attitude of gratitude has opened a new perception of life. He has “the Spirit” of Christmas—not necessarily “religious.” Yet gratitude often results in Praise in our own spirits.

There are heartfelt prayers all over the world, mostly for people we will never meet. Writing this, it just occurred to me that this unified effort and compassion over the Holy Land and other places is in itself the spirits of Hanukkah and Christmas! There is joy and sorrow, light and darkness. The light the angels brought was part of their message, against the dark night. The star was a guide. Hanukkah’s lit candles speak of God’s deliverance. It is all about hope and a history of God’s love and faithfulness in the storms of life.

This holiday season gives perspective to a passage in Ecclesiastes, the famous words about there being “A time for every purpose under heaven.” We later read in verses 12,13: “I know that there is nothing better for people to do than to rejoice and do good while they live., that each of them may eat and drink and find satisfaction in all their toil —this is the gift of God.” My expectant prayer is for those who are in places of need in any area of life, those who answer the calls in response. Being human, most of us will be found in both places at some time. God bless us All, Everyone. Grace and Peace.



*Shelley Turner-Riley  
is a columnist for  
Street Sights RI*

## *God Saved Me Again* By Armand J. Horta

Hi people. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I have a story on how God has kept me alive. This story was around 2003. I was a truck driver for a construction company, I was in the asphalt part of it and when it is winter we get laid off. So I was home working around the yard and was always feeling tired. So I went to the Doctor, and he said you check out fine.

But go get some blood work done. A

couple of days later I was shoveling snow in the driveway. When I was done I went into the house and the answering machine was beeping. It was the doctor saying “I want to see you right away!!” Well, a couple of days later I strolled in. The Doctor came in the room and said, “What the hell are you eating!”, I said, pretty much anything I feel like eating. He said, your cholesterol is 800 and your Triglycerides are 400. I said, is that bad? I didn’t have a clue. He said you should be dead! I said

I was shoveling snow when you called.

He put me on statins and a new diet. The statins acted up on my arthritis, so I found plant sterols work fine with no side effects about 1800 2x a day. God saved me again because my cousin Freddy died of a heart attack from snow shoveling about the same age, and he was a fireman. I thought he was in good health. Maybe he was eating the wrong foods too.

## *Respect for the Unhoused* By Mike Fink

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I love my house and my Rhode Island home, but I equally both admire and also deeply respect the homeless I have befriended and from whom I have learned some lessons in life.

One of my author allies claimed that even fanciful folklore, somewhat like abandoned newspapers, contains elements of wisdom. I dunno, my all time favorite among the Aesop fables is not the one you might read to a kid as good advice and counsel to follow, but a tale of despair!

There was once a stag and a hunter blinded it halfway, with an arrow. The smart stag retreated to the top of a cliff facing the ocean,

but the hunter figured out how to get it. So he rowed a dinghy and aimed high and thus was able to kill the deer. As he was sighing and dying the victim proclaimed, "Ah, I see now, you cannot escape your fate."

Pretty depressing, and not especially useful, but I somehow preferred it to the fake hopeful homilies, plus a P.S. Aesop was a slave in Athens and he celebrated the search for freedom. And for his reward, he was, in fact, thrown to his death off a cliff! Look it up for yourself, s.v.p. (if you please).

My interpretation is that the homeless study their lives with courage and conviction and

may depend on the "kindness of strangers" but learn profound truths, and my example is a wise woman with the unusual name of "Jolivette." She greets me with a pleasant smile at the local branch library. I know she is an author, a scholar, and seeks a comfortable chair and access to a culture of newspapers and magazines, books and films, while she also studies her own life and historical past.

I wish her, and all my homeless society of artistic and scholarly cohorts, whatever rewards they seek. I can vouch for the fact that those who meet them courteously are repaid richly with insights and understanding.

## *Hope, Faith, and Love* By James Logan

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I am still not in the place where I think I should be. Where will this place be? What does this look like? Let's begin by revisiting a time I called "My Moment." A place where I have struggled for some time and a decision which I choose to make.

What comes to mind when you hear about a person who has nothing and then that person begins to realize that within the nothingness a new existence is beginning to sprout forth. I am still living out of a tent and having to deal with everything that encompasses that world.

Am I living in some fairy tale to think in that one moment, all will change in an instant? Have I been reading scripture in a way that I want it to be said or mean? Am I expecting too much in such a short period of time? Or is there a process I need to go through for me to get to the other side? What must I do? Where do I begin? I am starting to wonder if it's worth the while to even try.

I have begun talking to my new friend who I consider to be someone full of truth. This person always seems to know the right thing to say at the right time. But my mantra has been to only seek out his counsel when it's either after the fact or the way I see it, when it's too late.

In the quietness of my makeshift home, I've continued to have moments of doubt and wondered if my dreams are nothing more

than illusions. Am I living in a fairy tale, hoping for a sudden change that might never come? Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reminds me that there is a time and season for everything, but it doesn't always align with our expectations.

Perhaps I need to be reading the scriptures not as predictions of immediate change, but as guides to patience and endurance. I've often questioned whether I'm expecting too much too soon, whether there's a gradual process I need to embrace. It's during these moments of uncertainty that I should turn to my new friend, someone whose Truths I deeply respect.

Throughout this journey, I've developed a unique worldview that intertwines the passing of time with my current circumstances. It's a view that only I have witnessed, a perspective confined within the limitations of my present circumstances. I'm struggling at this moment, feeling the weight of it all, and I wonder where to turn for help or do I know already?

It might seem like I'm caught between a rock and a hard place, but my newfound faith keeps me anchored. I remind myself that even the longest journey begins with a single step. As I take one step at a time, I begin to see that change, though gradual.

In the midst of these challenges, I've discovered the importance of not just waiting for that one "My Moment" but learning to

appreciate the smaller victories along the way. It's about celebrating progress, no matter how incremental it may seem. It's about seeking guidance not just after the fact but proactively, learning to lean on the truth of my new friend, whose name is Jesus Christ, that matters most.

I'm starting to believe that this journey isn't just about reaching a specific place but about the transformation that occurs within us as we navigate the twists and turns of life. It's about perseverance that is gained when you go through the fire, and a faith that grows stronger with each trial, and the comfort that comes alongside of you through the fire.

So, as I continue to dwell in my tent and face the challenges that come with it, I will remind myself that this is a season in my life—a season of growth, of faith, and of learning to see beauty in the midst of my trials. And I will press on, knowing that even in the most difficult moments, God has a plan for me, one that won't harm me, but one he intends for me to prosper. My God get all the Glory!

Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." This scripture emphasizes the importance of trust and faith in uncertain times and the idea that God will guide your path, even when it seems unclear.

Below are all the groups the Providence Vet Center is currently offering. As this list changes, I will provide updates. Please send me any questions that you may have, thank you for your time! **All Vet Center Groups require that the Veteran be enrolled with the Vet Center prior to attending.** To check eligibility or for questions, please contact the Vet Center at (401) 739-0167 or reach out to our Veteran Outreach Program Specialist (VOPS) via email at Justyn.Charon@va.gov

## Ongoing Groups:

**Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Group (PTSD)** – 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. (Group is only active September through May)

**Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) and Vietnam Veterans PTSD Group** – 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

**Vietnam Veteran PTSD Group** – 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 10:30 – 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Art Expression Group** – Every Thursday from 9:00 – 12:00 p.m.

**Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)/Operation New Dawn (OND) Group** – Every Wednesday from 11:00 – 12:00 p.m.

**Stress Management** – Every Thursday from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

**Low Impact Walking Group** – Every Tuesday from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

**Guitar 4 Veterans** – Every Wednesday from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

**Monday Mindfulness Group** – Every Monday from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Yoga Group** – Every Friday from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

**Moral Injury Group** – Every Friday from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Modern Warrior Support Group** – 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 2:30 – 4:00 pm.

## Discounts for Veterans:

### SERVICES

**No Problem Plumbing and Heating LLC** – 15% military discount, ask for Ron Gaynor, (401) 568-6666. Veterans must provide proof of eligibility with a VA Card, VA ID Card, or RI State license with veteran identification.

### RESTAURANTS & RETAILERS:

**Applebee's** – Military Discount. With more than 2,000 locations, Applebee's is a family grill restaurant. Applebee's gives 10% off for active duty and veteran. Last verified 07/31/2022.

**Denny's** – Hartford Ave, Johnston offers 10% discount for veterans and active duty. Denny's is a table service diner-style restaurant chain. Last verified 07/31/2022.

**Outback Steakhouse** – 10% Discount to active and veterans. Last verified 07/28/2021

**99 Restaurant & Pub** – The 99 Restaurant & Pub offers a 10% military discount to members of Veterans Advantage. Available at select locations only. Bring valid military ID

**Advance Auto Parts** – 10% for Active Duty, Veterans, and families. Last verified 07/28/2021

**Bass Pro Shops** – Offers a 5% discount to active-duty military, reservists, and National Guard. Sign up and verify your status online or bring your military ID when you shop at your nearest Bass Pro store.

**BJs Wholesale** – Reduced membership fee. BJ's offers all military personnel over 25% off their Membership. Last verified 07/28/2021

**Lowe's** – Enroll in the Lowe's Military Discount Program to activate your 10% discount – "Our way of saying Thank You" to our active duty, retired and military veterans and their spouses with a 10% discount on eligible items. Verification of your military status is fast and easy through our partner, ID.me. ID.me is our trusted technology partner in helping to keep your personal information safe.

**GameStop** – is offering a 10% in-store military discount on all pre-owned products, collectibles, and select new products. Available to current and former military members who bring any valid proof of service or when they verify through ID.me

**Home Depot** – Offers a 10% off military discount on regularly priced merchandise for in-store purchases for active duty, retired military, and reservists at participating locations. Customers are required to show a valid government-issued military ID card to redeem this offer.

**Kohls** – 15% discount offers for active military, veterans, retirees, and their immediate family members a 15% discount on purchases made on Mondays, in store only. In order to receive the military discount, eligible customers must present proper identification along with any tender type.

**Jiffy Lube** – HONORING VETERANS ALL DAY EVERY DAY! – We didn't want to wait for Veteran's Day to express our appreciation and gratitude for your service. That's why every Team Car Care owned and operated Jiffy Lube® service center is offering our BEST discount of 10% OFF as a "Thank You" to the men and women of our Armed Forces for their service to our country. \*Disclaimer\*- I.D. required. No coupon is required. Excludes batteries and brakes, alignment, and diagnostic services. Available only at 3 select locations: Tioque Ave, Coventry RI – Bald Hill Road, Warwick RI – Park Ave, Cranston RI

**Michaels** – offers a 15% off military discount on the entire in-store purchase including sale items for active duty, retired military, guard, reservists, veterans, and family members. How to get –

- 1) Create an Account. Log in or create a Michaels Rewards account.
- 2) Get Verified. Provide your military information to get verified instantly.
- 3) Go Shopping! To use your discount online and in store, just sign into your account or provide your Michaels Rewards phone number at checkout.

**O'Reilly Auto Parts** – 10% discount on in store items for Active Duty, Veterans and families. Last verified 3/4/21.

**Pawtucket:**

Blackstone Valley Community Action  
Program 32 Goff Avenue (401)723-4520

Church of the Good Shepherd  
490 Broadway (401)723-0408

Covenant Congregational Church  
143 Glenwood Avenue (401) 724-8546

Holy Family Parish  
195 Walcott Street (401)724-9190

Salvation Army Pawtucket Corps' Food  
Pantry 102 High Street (401)723-9533

St. John the Baptist Food Pantry  
69 Quincy Avenue (401)722-9054

Living Hope Assembly of God  
100 Broadway (401)723-2039

Woodlawn Baptist Church  
337 Lonsdale Avenue (401)724-6390

Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center  
75 Benefit Street (401)724-7170

St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry  
690 Newport Avenue (401)723-5632

St. Leo the Great Pantry  
697 Central Avenue (401)335-3894

Darlington Congregational Church  
685 Central Avenue (401)725-6324

**Warwick:**

Westbay CAP Market Place 211  
Buttonwoods Avenue (401)732-4660 ext.140

Cornerstone Church Food Pantry  
1990 Elmwood Avenue (401)781-6121

St. Rita's Church Pantry  
722 Oakland Beach Avenue (401)738-1800

**Providence:**

John Hope Settlement House Pantry  
7 Thomas Whitten Way (401)421-6993

PICA Food Pantry - Gloria Dei Lutheran  
Church 15 Hayes Street, Providence  
(401)454-7422

Our Lady of the Rosary Pantry  
17 Traverse Street (401)453-0174

SVDP St. Raymond's Church  
1240 North Main Street (401) 351-4224

St. Edward Food & Wellness Center  
1001 Branch Avenue (401)621-3827

Project Outreach  
1520 Broad Street (401)941-2212

Ephese SDA Church  
857 Eddy Street (401)941-0998

Camp Street Ministries  
190 1/2 Camp Street (401)421-5474

Mt. Hope Neighborhood Association  
199 Camp Street (401)521-8830

SVDP Holy Name of Jesus Food Pantry  
99 Camp Street (401)277-9053

Community Food Share First Unitarian  
Church 1 Benevolent Street (401)457-7149

Community Action Partnership of Prov  
Interim House 49 Trenton Street (401)831-  
4570

Providence Assembly of God Pantry  
353 Elmwood Avenue (401)461-7210

SVDP St. Charles Pantry  
178 Dexter Street (401)273-1108

Interfaith Food Ministry  
95 Hathaway Ctr #61 (401)461-1773

Salvation Army Providence Corps' Food  
Pantry 386 Broad Street (401)831-1119  
Dinner 4- 5pm

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries  
747 Broad Street (401)461-7509

West End Community Center Pantry  
109 Bucklin Street (401)781-4242

Assumption of the BVM Church  
791 Potters Avenue (401)941-1248

Operation Compassion Church of God  
297 Elmwood Avenue (401)275-2326

Providence Spanish SDA Church  
131 Elmwood Avenue (401)588-0983

Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher  
Pantry 100 Niantic Avenue (401)621-5374

Community Action Partnership of Prov  
Elmwood Pantry  
85 Atlantic Avenue (401)-654-4971

St. Peter & St. Andrew Food Pantry  
70 Pemberton Street (401)272-9649

Gospel Tabernacle Outreach Pantry  
45 Oakland Avenue (401)454-0988

Church of God Shalom  
145 Chad Brown Street (401)421-5112

Gateway Healthcare Capital City Food  
Pantry Rudolph Tavares Community Center  
263 Chad Brown Street (401)455-3890

Love Divine Pantry - Cherubim & Seraphim  
Church 28 Candace Street (401)454-4700

Federal Hill House Pantry  
9 Courtland Street (401)421-4722

Nickerson Community Center Pantry  
133 Delaine Street (401)351-2241

PICA Olneyville Food Center  
261 Manton Avenue (401)521-5639

SVDP St. Anthony's Church  
549 Plainfield Street (401)943-2300

Maranatha Community Outreach Pantry  
1040 Atwells Avenue (401)521-4860

Silver Lake Community Center  
529 Plainfield Street (401)944-8300

Iglesia El Refugio  
540 Manton Avenue (401)273-0752

St. Thomas Church  
65 Fruit Hill Avenue (401)272-7118

Redeemed Christian Church of God  
213 Laurel Hill Avenue (401)427-0992

**Cranston:**

Edgewood Pawtucket Food Closet:  
Transfiguration Church  
1665 Broad Street (401)461-3142

Comprehensive Community Action  
Program 311 Doric Avenue (401)467-9610

Haitian Baptist Church of Rhode Island  
12 Lincoln Avenue (401)944-1440

SVDP Emergency Food Center  
181 Princess Avenue (401)946-5291

**North Providence:**

Tri-Town Community Action Agency  
33 Maple Avenue (401)519-1916

Allendale Baptist Church  
545 Woonasquatucket Avenue (401)231-7669

**East Providence:**

East Bay Community Action Program  
Pantry 100 Bullocks Point Avenue (401)437-  
1000

**Johnston:**

St. Robert's Food Closet  
1804 Atwood Avenue (401)231-4987

Johnston SDA  
693 Hartford Avenue (401)934-2310

St. Rocco's Food Pantry  
926 Atwood Avenue (401)743-3983

**Riverside:**

Good Neighbors  
55 Turner Avenue (401)433-0045

**Be sure to call in advance  
for any information and  
appointments as some things  
on this list may be out-of-date**

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# RHODE ISLAND MEAL SITES

Be sure to call in advance for any information and appointments as some things on this list may be out-of-date.

## Providence Area Meal Sites

## Northern RI / Blackstone Valley

## Newport County

SUNDAY	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER
	<b>Mathewson Fellowship Breakfast</b> Service: 8 am - 9 am followed by Camp-style Family Breakfast 9:15 am - 10:30 am	<b>St Anthony Parish</b> 1st and 3rd Sunday 12:30 - 1 pm  <b>Judy's Kindness Kitchen at Crossroads</b> (Sept to June) 10:30 am - 11:00 am	<b>Salvation Army</b> 4 pm - 5 pm Closed first Sun. of the month Food Pantry every Wednesday 9 am - Noon <b>Providence Rescue Mission</b> 5 pm
MONDAY	<b>Amos House</b> 7 am - 8 am <b>McAuley House</b> 8 am - 9:30 pm	<b>Amos House</b> 11 am - 12:30 pm <b>McAuley House</b> 11:15 - 1 pm <b>Good Neighbors</b> 10am - 1pm	<b>St Patrick's</b> 4 pm - 5:15 pm doors open at 3:30 pm <b>Providence Rescue Mission</b> 5 pm <b>Reaching for the Fringe</b> 5 pm - 6:30 pm
TUESDAY	<b>Amos House</b> 7 am - 8 am <b>McAuley House</b> 8 am - 9:30 pm	<b>Amos House</b> 11 am - 12:30 pm <b>McAuley House</b> 11:15 - 1 pm <b>Good Neighbors</b> 10am - 1pm	<b>City Meal Site, Inc.</b> 4 pm - 5 pm <b>Providence Rescue Mission</b> 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	<b>Amos House</b> 7 am - 8 am <b>McAuley House</b> 8 am - 9:30 pm	<b>Amos House</b> 11 am - 12:30 pm <b>McAuley House</b> 11:15 - 1 pm <b>Good Neighbors</b> 10am - 1pm	<b>Impact Center/Assembly of God</b> 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm <b>Providence Rescue Mission</b> 5 pm
THURSDAY	<b>Amos House</b> 7 am - 8 am <b>McAuley House</b> 8 am - 9:30 pm	<b>Amos House</b> 11 am - 12:30 pm <b>McAuley House</b> 11:15 - 1 pm <b>Good Neighbors</b> 10am - 1pm	<b>St Charles Church</b> 4:15 pm - 6 pm <b>Providence Rescue Mission</b> 5 pm <b>Victory Assembly of God</b> 5 pm - 6 pm Last Thurs. of the month
FRIDAY	<b>Amos House</b> 7 am - 8 am <b>McAuley House</b> 8 am - 9:30 pm	<b>Amos House</b> 11 am - 12:30 pm <b>McAuley House</b> 11:15 - 1 pm <b>Good Neighbors</b> 10am - 1pm	<b>Better Lives RI</b> 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm <b>Providence Rescue Mission</b> 5 pm
SATURDAY	<b>Church of the Master Meal Site</b> 15 Valley St is closed for the Summer Will reopen September 10th	<b>Amos House</b> 11 am - 12:30 pm closed first Sat of month <b>Church beyond the Walls</b> 2 pm <b>St Edward Kitchen</b> 12 - 1pm (2nd & 4th Sat starting 10/18)	<b>Epiphany Soup Kitchen @ St Stephen's Church</b> 2:30 pm - 4 pm <b>Providence Rescue Mission</b> 5 pm

SUNDAY	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER
	<b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 7:30 am - 8:00 am	<b>Help the Homeless RI</b> 12 pm - 1 pm (Bouley Field) <b>Help the Homeless RI</b> 1 pm - 2 pm (Pawtucket) when winter shelter is open <b>St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church</b> 12:30 pm - 1 pm (third Sunday of the month only) <b>St George's Episcopal Church</b> 2 pm - 3 pm	<b>Help the Homeless RI</b> 5 pm - 6 pm (Pawtucket) when local shelter is closed <b>Matthew 25 Center</b> hosted by The River UMC 4 - 7 pm  <b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
MONDAY	<b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 7:30 am - 8:00 am	<b>New Beginnings</b> 11:30 am - 12:45 pm	<b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
TUESDAY	<b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 7:30 am - 8:00 am	<b>St John The Baptist</b> 11:30 am - 12:45 pm doors open at 9:30 am <b>New Beginnings</b> 11:30 am - 12:45 pm	<b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm <b>Feed My Sheep</b> 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm 3rd, 4th, 5th Tuesday only
WEDNESDAY	<b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 7:30 am - 8:00 am	<b>New Beginnings</b> 11:30 am - 12:45 pm	<b>Matthew 25 Center</b> hosted by The River UMC 4 pm - 7 pm <b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
THURSDAY	<b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 7:30 am - 8:00 am	<b>New Beginnings</b> 11:30 am - 12:45 pm <b>St. Luke's Episcopal</b> 11 am - 12 pm 2nd, 4th Thursday	<b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm <b>St. Luke's Episcopal</b> 5 pm 1st, 3rd Thursday
FRIDAY	<b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 7:30 am - 8:00 am	<b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 10:30 am - 11:00 am	<b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
SATURDAY	<b>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen</b> 10:30 am - 11:00 am	<b>Matthew 25 Center</b> 11 am - 2 pm	<b>Park Place United Church</b> 4 pm - 5 pm

SUNDAY	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER
	<b>MLK Center</b> 7:30 am - 9 am	<b>Newport Churches</b> 11:30 am	<b>Salvation Army</b> 4 pm - 4:45 pm
MONDAY	<b>MLK Center</b> 7:30 am - 9 am	<b>St. Joseph's</b> 11:30 am - 1 pm	<b>Newport Churches</b> 5 pm <b>Trinity Church</b> 5 pm every 4th & 5th Monday each month
TUESDAY	<b>MLK Center</b> 7:30 am - 9 am	<b>MLK Center</b> 11:30 am - 1 pm	<b>Newport Churches</b> 5 pm <b>Emmanuel Episcopal</b> 5 pm first Tuesday every month
WEDNESDAY	<b>MLK Center</b> 7:30 am - 9 am	<b>Newport Churches</b> 12 pm <b>United Baptist</b> 12 pm every 2nd & 3rd Wednesday each month	<b>Newport Churches</b> 5 pm
THURSDAY	<b>MLK Center</b> 7:30 am - 9 am	<b>MLK Center</b> 11:30 am - 1 pm	<b>Newport Churches</b> 5 pm
FRIDAY	<b>MLK Center</b> 7:30 am - 9 am		<b>Salvation Army</b> 4 pm - 4:45 pm
SATURDAY			<b>Community Baptist</b> 4:30

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