

THE HOMELESS VOICE

FLORIDAS LARGEST STREET NEWSPAPER



COSAC Foundation | PO Box 292-577 Davie, FL 33329 | 954-924-3571

Take 100 Million off the Mars Budget and Give it to the FBI



Sean Cononie
I know this is going to piss some people off but I say this because we are at war with a group of people who do not follow the rules of the Geneva Convention. In fact, the only rules they follow are ones that create nothing but evil actions from the devil himself. This is not about gun control and I don't like profiling, but I can accept it at this time. As long as we keep it limited.
When you want to sell athletic shoes you seek your customers at sports events. When you want to help the homeless you do outreach looking for them in camps, the woods and areas of concentration such as soup kitchens. When you are looking for bad guys who blow up abortion clinics you look for the extreme agencies who want to cause harm to abortion clinics. So one would think if you are looking for people who are from a certain faith that want to cause harm to America and its friends you go to those churches looking for the ones in that group who want to do their extreme death upon America. I am a Catholic and if there were some extreme Catholics who were blowing up abortion clinics I then say, come Mr. FBI and look upon our churches, as long as it is done respectfully and rights are not violated. Come to my church and look around for the bad guys. So this means yes, go to the Mosques and look for the bad guys and leave the good guys alone. To stay out of the Mosques as a matter of policy because of profiling is, well, very stupid.
We hear that 99 percent of the great Muslim faith are nice and are peaceful people and don't want to cause harm to America. This is most likely the truth. Did anyone look at how many people are left over from the

Should the government be allowed to be notified when this Orlando Shooter bought his new guns? I think so.

99 percent? Well that comes to about 15 to 16 million people who may want to cause harm to Americans.
It is time to take the handcuffs off of law enforcement, declare war against the people who are doing the harm and, with that, comes a different set of rules. We can profile as long as we do it in the most respectful way. Let's stop making the 12 year old child with Down Syndrome be treated like a terrorist at an airport in a TSA line and focus on better suspects. Sure, we need to check her out in case someone else gave her something to carry on a plane, like a bomb, without the parent's knowledge. If TSA fails 95 percent of the time, then get rid of TSA and put real cops there, someone with the ability to look for suspicious people. I am not saying we should just assume people from the Middle East are guilty because we have seen that, recently, many of these bad guys are born here in America. But if someone is saying they hate America and praises ISIS, then there is no need to even profile because they just set their own profile up and that is one of a bad guy. When it comes to war, we need to become a little more aggressive.
I don't want to hear that the FBI is short of manpower anymore. These guys and gals want to do a good job and limiting them ends up making them look bad when it is not them who is at fault. They need to go to where the threat level is in real time and do active investigations that are valid because they are out there making arrests, stopping other terrorist acts that were going to occur. If there is no law breaking by the suspect, like the scumbag in Orlando, their hands are again tied, so they move on to investigate other active plots. Why? Because they are shorthanded because of budgets. I can solve this problem in several ways. Let's say we take 100 million dollars off of the Planet Mars budget and give it to the FBI because the Martians are not attacking and killing us.
Let's use our retired police officers and put them on these

colder cases and let them keep an eye on someone who was cleared at the time. I am sure many who miss their line of work who would volunteer or even work at a lesser pay while they are in retirement. I don't think money should be a reason to shorthand the FBI but, if it is an issue, then train civilians and others who have knowledge with social media etc... and allow them to track the individual and to report to the FBI if things seem to escalate or, why not use the computers we have to keep track and to report it? There has to be better technology we are not using that we can use. Who would have ever thought we would allow pilots on our commercial flights to have handguns and be Flight Deck Officers. But after some training, they are officers in the Air protecting the airplane. I have an old client who names an FBI agent by name and sends me emails about how this agent is doing everything criminal. He targets this agent in many different ways. As I get these emails and I see them escalate, I then forward the email to the agent so he is aware of the latest thoughts from this mentally ill person. Me knowing the client, I know that the FBI agent is doing nothing wrong. But I do my job just in case the client starts to get to a point in life where he may cause harm to the agent.
We can complain all we want about the FBI but we, the citizens who are doing the complaining, need to meet with our members of congress and let them know we want more funding so the FBI can do everything they need to do and that is to keep us safe. They, in no way, want to do a bad job but if we keep the manpower from them, all we can do is blame ourselves.
Should the government be allowed to be notified when this Orlando Shooter bought his new guns? I think so. There is a record anyway, so why not let the government know in real time. This way the Feds could have changed him from cold to hot and start in-

(Continued on pg 5)

~Monthly Angels~

Aleta Walter
Amparo Penuela
Anna Hadley
Angel Porras
Angela Martinez
Arturo & Amelia
Rodriguez
Barbara Robinson
Bill & Laura Fash
Charles & Tracy
Rice
Dana Deatherage
Daniel Cavanaugh
Daniel Guevara
David Reiff

Edwin H Kluge Jr
Ellen Heron
Ernest Bove
Frank Barreras
GI Enterprises &
Associates, Inc
Gerald Keller
Greentree Financial
Group
Isa-Aura Rosenthal
Jared Carrell
John Dinielli
John & Linda Evans
John & Ruth
Mautino

John Rahael
Jorge Herrera
Jorge Sanchez
Joseph Maiuro
Judith Temple
Karen Povlock
Katia Acosta
Kelly Filer
Loise Goldberg
LongReach
Mark Duske
Mark Link
Mark Targett
Matthew Lambert
Michael Prokop

Michael & Anna
Buonaiuto
Patrice & George
Shurland
Paul & Rosalie
Pierce
Praxi Solutions
Ralph Hill
Richard Berk
RM Beaulieu
Roanne Cobuzio
Rufino Garcia
Samantha Boehm
Sean & Rema
Campbell

Sean Cononie
Tatiana Da Cunha
Temple Aron
Hakodesh
Timothy Osborn
Victor Lanza
Walton Brown

Thank you for your support Angels! Your support keeps our doors open!

Join Our Fleet of Monthly Angels Today:

Fill out this form and along with your check for \$25 mail to:

Monthly Angel Program

PO Box 292-577
Davie, FL 33329

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____



Cut along the line and mail in



Your contribution keeps our organization afloat! Our Angels are a very important part of our service and ease the burden of our monthly bills. Thank you for your help in caring for our poor! With your donation, we are happy to send you our Homeless Voice newspaper. Choose your preferred method of subscription below:

Digital Download
Yes, I would like a newspaper emailed to me once a month.

Home Delivery
Yes, I would like a newspaper mailed to me once a month.

Delivery Address: _____
(if different from above) _____

Neither
No, I prefer to get my newspaper at street corners.

Donate Online: HomelessVoice.org/Donate

Donations are tax deductible & help South Florida's Homeless

About the COSAC Foundation

The COSAC Foundation was originally established in May 1997 to partner with other social service agencies, in the area, that provided help to the homeless population. COSAC also independently feeds the homeless or anyone in need of food. The COSAC Foundation opened its first homeless shelter in 1999 and named it



COSAC Quarters (the shelter money was raised by spare change). We have grown into a multifaceted agency that feeds, shelters, and arranges for each homeless person to receive the necessary access to social and noncompulsory religious services to enable a return to a self-reliant lifestyle. And for the small percentage of people incapable of living independent lives, we provide a caring and supportive environment for their long-term residency.

Our vision is to end discrimination against the homeless population and to develop such an effective network of services that we greatly reduce the time a person or family emerges out of homelessness back into self-reliance.



Homeless Voice Newspaper Staff

Publisher- Sean Cononie

Editor in Chief- Mark Targett **Executive Editor-** Sara Targett

www.HomelessVoice.org/contact

Home Improvement Gift Cards

Always Needed

Send us a gift! P.O. Box 292-577

Davie, FL 33329

Get Noticed!



Place your Ad!

Starting at \$75

HomelessVoice.org/

Advertising

**Reasonable Rates,
Huge Circulation!**

~ Cathy's Prayer List ~

- * Maggie
- * The Kalins
- * Devon
- * Diane Karm
- * Jefferson Wilson
- * Amy & Mr. Jason
- * Lorena
- * Lilly
- * Beth Ann
- * The Coakleys
- * Eddie Mercer
- * Bob
- * Michael Loffredo
- * Natacha Lewis
- * Steven Green
- * Josh Wynn
- * Bianca
- * James
- * Lois
- * Robert Tansey

To add a name to Cathy's Prayer List, call or text 954-410-6275

We continue to lose street corners where we collect all of your generous donations. The cities are banning us and we need your support now more than ever. We are currently only able to collect in one city! Please donate today at homelessvoice.org/donate



HOMELESS VOICE

\$25

Buy a hot meal for ten people

\$50

Buy 2 bags of groceries for a homeless family

\$100

Buy a night in an emergency hotel accomodation for a homeless family



Photo by Design Dorm

www.hvoice.org | COSAC Foundation P.O. Box 292-577 | Davie, FL 33329



Don't Let
the Doors
Close on
These
Children

“Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor.”

~Pope Francis

ABC Roofing Corp

954-344-4622 www.abcroofingcorp.com

ABC Roofing Corp. has been a family owned and operated roofing company for 29 years. We specialize in commercial and residential roofing, re-roofs, and repairs. We believe in supporting our community and are honored to work with the Homeless Voice in donating our services. Our customer satisfaction is of the upmost importance to us.

Call today to schedule a free estimate, we'll be happy to hear from you!

• **Broward** • **Palm Beach** • **Dade Counties**

Items the shelter will always need...

Gift Cards

Coffee and Coffee Cups

Towels and Washcloths

Toothpaste and Toothbrushes

Socks and Hygiene Kits

Cleaning Supplies

Plastic Cutlery and Cups



Send items to 4700 SW 51st Street Suite 208 Davie, FL 33314

Take 100 Million off the Mars Budget and Give it to the FBI

(Continued from pg 1)

vestigating once again. I am not saying he should be put on a "No gun" list if he is not guilty of anything other than his thinking. Maybe if we declared war, then maybe some of his gun rights could have been taken away with a "No Gun" list.

What can we do to be ready for these mass shootings? At our shelter we had an "active shooter policy." It was put out by Homeland Security and we had drills. Some of the people we took in were people who would give blanket threats if they were discharged. Over the years there has been incidents where shelter workers have been killed. Just last month, one of our former clients was arrested for dropping off a fake bomb at a synagogue. The FBI made the fake bomb because the man said he wanted to hurt this synagogue. So they made the fake bomb and he dropped it off. Yes, we were prepared for the worse case, including safe spaces for active shooters, certain staff members had weapons and we had 12 bulletproof vests to get our people to safety. I am not saying we would take action before the police because the police is the first one we would call. These plans were put into place before the police would arrive. We even invited the police to come and do a drill for an active shooter.

We need to reach out and teach our citizens what to do when an active shooter is in your presence. The rule is to RUN, if you can't run then HIDE in a safe place and if that does not work FIGHT the attacker as a last resort. For instance, when he was changing clips of new ammo. This would be a good time to try to run or jump the attacker. Even playing dead under an already poor dead person would work. In the 1950's, our civil defense people developed films to show in the schools, it was called "Duck and Cover." This is how the government wanted us to be safe if the USA was being bombed. See the below video. The government needs to teach us how to respond to a mass shooting.

I don't have all the answers when it comes to this but years before 9/11 it was our think tank which actually was our first agency of COSAC that said Airport Security was at its worst and we wrote letters to Uncle Sam to get rid of the contractors at airports and to use real law enforcement screening the passengers. We bought weapons such as a Walkman used for the radio that had a small .25 cal gun inside its case. We then made flyers and sent them to airports as a way of keeping informed. This was in 1998. We looked at so many airport security checkpoints and most of the time we saw the security person not doing their job. They were too busy talking to their other workers about music and ball games. Look, we have a problem in America



and we need to fix it but we can't fix it unless we push our leaders to do more. Our politicians need to stop fighting and stop name calling and just do their damn job. Today, pray for our law enforcement so they have what they need and pray for our leaders who need to fix the best place on earth and that is The United States of America.

Written By: Sean Cononie
 DIRECTOR OF THE COSAC FOUNDATION, INC
 DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST TERRORISM, INC
 PRESIDENT OF STOPPING HATE CRIMES USA
 BOARD MEMBER OF THE HOMELESS VOICE, INC

Some people wonder why a homeless agency devotes time to terrorism. Actually our first agency, basically a think tank dealt with the issues of airport security. Besides all of this, many people will become homeless every time there is a terrorist attack. Why? Because some of these families will become homeless as they become dysfunctional from the sadness in their heart. They won't go to work, causing them to lose their job and then their homes and some families will break apart from the stress of the whole situation. All these issues can and will cause homelessness. As we have seen in the events of 9/11, many people lost their jobs at airports because some people did not want to fly and then the businesses at the airport in turn felt the impact, causing staff to be cut at places such as restaurants located in the actual airport.

Campaign Helps The Homeless Register To Vote

CBS4Denver

The campaign "Homeless Not Voiceless" aims to help the homeless get registered to vote.

Wayne Williams, the Secretary of State in Colorado, is behind the campaign to increase voter registration in the state.

"If that is your situation you may have more at stake than other people where you'd like to find a candidate or issues that will help the economy improve, help things get better," said Williams.

Those who want to register to vote are asked to fill out as much as they can on the paperwork and the Clerk and Records' Office will complete the verification.

Those who register aren't automatically approved to vote but the campaign is designed to get the process started.

"People are priced out of the housing market and so I want to inspire people and encourage people not to become apathetic, still stay engaged in the process. Please get down here and register to vote. If someone can get you down here at least you'll have a voice in the process," said one woman who recently became homeless.

Those who want to register to vote will need a valid ID. There are more than 1,500 active registered voters who use the addresses of the St. Francis Center or the Denver Rescue Mission.

Check out our new Homeless Outreach iPhone App!
 Download our app, snap a photo and tag your location

THE
**HOMELESS
 VOICE**



HomelessVoice.org

We are in Need of Food Donations



4700 SW 51st Street
 Suite 208
 Davie, FL 33314

Phone: (954) 924-3571

Call or Drop off Tuesday-Saturday 11 am- 6pm

Mother Teresa declared a saint by Pope Francis



We fear the future because we are wasting the today



Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the action that we do.

by Associated Press
 Pope Francis has declared Mother Teresa a saint, honoring the nun who cared for the world's most destitute as an icon for a Catholic Church that goes to the peripheries to find poor and wounded souls.
 Applause erupted in St Peter's Square even before Francis finished pronouncing the rite of canonization at the start of the Mass in St Peter's Square.
 In his homily, Pope Francis praised Mother Teresa as the merciful saint who defended the lives of the unborn, sick and abandoned — and who shamed world leaders for the “crimes of poverty they themselves created.”
 Pope Francis held Mother Teresa up as a model for today's Christians during his homily for the nun who cared for the “poorest of the poor.”
 Speaking from the steps of St Peter's Basilica, Francis said the saint spent her life “bowing down before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road, seeing in them their God-given dignity.”
 He added: “She made her voice heard before the powers of the world, so that they might recognize their guilt for the crimes of poverty they themselves created.”
 As if to emphasize the point, Francis repeated the “the crimes of poverty they themselves created.”
 In an unscripted remark, the Pope said that for some it would be difficult to refer to her as “St Teresa” and that she will still be referred to as “Mother Teresa” by many people. “We'll keep on calling her Mother,” he said.
 Tens of thousands of pilgrims filled the square for the canonization of Mother Teresa.
 Some 100,000 tickets were issued for the Mass and the crowd included nuns, priests, volunteers, pilgrims and tourists.
 Hundreds of Missionaries of Charity Sisters in their trademark blue-trimmed saris had front-row seats at the Mass, while one group of 40 Indian nationals travelled from Macerata, Italy, to honor a woman given India's highest civilian and humanitarian awards for her work in the slums of Calcutta. Another group of 100 drove from Kosovo holding up a banner that read: “Mother Teresa: Pray for Us.”
 In addition, 13 heads of state and government led official delegations while 1,500 homeless people invited by Pope Francis had VIP seats and were going to be treated by the Pope to a Neapolitan pizza lunch in the Vatican auditorium afterwards.
 While Pope Francis is clearly keen to hold Mother Teresa up as a model for her joyful dedication to society's outcasts, he is also recognizing holiness in a nun who lived most of her adult life in spiritual agony sensing that God had abandoned her.
 According to correspondence that came to light after she died in 1997, Mother Teresa experienced what the Church calls a “dark night of the soul” — a period of spiritual doubt, despair and loneliness that many of the great mystics experienced. In Mother Teresa's case, it lasted for nearly 50 years.
 For Fr Brian Kolodiejchuk, the Canadian priest who spearheaded Mother Teresa's saint-making campaign, the revelations were further confirmation of Mother Teresa's heroic saintliness. He said that by canonizing her, Francis has recognized that Mother Teresa not only shared the material poverty of the poor but the spiritual poverty of those who feel “unloved, unwanted, uncared for.”
 “What she described as the greatest poverty in the world today (of feeling unloved) she herself was living in relationship with Jesus,” he said in an interview on the eve of the canonization.
 Francis has in many ways modelled his papacy on Mother Teresa's simple lifestyle and selfless service to the poor: He eschewed the Apostolic Palace for a hotel room, he has made welcoming migrants and the poor a hallmark and has fiercely denounced today's “throwaway” culture that discards the unborn, the sick and the elderly with ease.
 Sunday's festivities honoring Mother Teresa weren't limited to Rome: In Calcutta, where she spent a lifetime dedicated to the poor, a special Sunday Mass was held at the order's Mother House. Volunteers and admirers converged on Mother House to watch the canonization ceremony, which was being broadcast on giant TV screens in Calcutta and elsewhere.
 Sisters of Charity volunteers planned to distribute food to the poor nearby after the ceremony, and community meals were being served across Catholic parishes in India on Sunday — a symbolic reference to Mother Teresa's lifetime of service to humanity, said Fr Savarimuthu Sankar of the archdiocese of New Delhi.
 “Let the example of Mother Teresa inspire all of us to dedicate ourselves to the welfare of mankind,” said Indian President Pranab Mukherjee.
 Ceremonies were also expected in Skopje, Macedonia, where Mother Teresa was born, and also in Albania and Kosovo, where people of her same ethnic Albanian background live.
 Born Agnes Gonxhe Bojaxhiu on August 26, 1910, Mother Teresa came to India in 1929 as a sister of the Loreto order. In 1946, she received what she described as a “call within a call” to found a new order dedicated to caring for the most unloved and unwanted, the “poorest of the poor.”
 In 1950 she founded the Missionaries of Charity, which went onto become a global order of nuns — identified by their trademark blue-trimmed saris — as well as priests, brothers and lay co-workers.
 She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.
 She died in 1997 after a lifetime spent caring for hundreds of thousands of destitute and homeless poor in Calcutta, for which she came to be called the “saint of the gutters.”
 St John Paul II, her most ardent supporter, fast-tracked her for sainthood and beatified her before a crowd of 300,000 in 2003.

Do ordinary things with extraordinary love.



Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.

Santa Ana struggles with increasing homeless population

Anh Do

Bonnie and Dennis Smith used to camp out near the Santa Ana Treasury building, only to be told by police to move to the area around the Civic Center.

So they settled on a corner at the center's Plaza of the Flags, spending part of each day protecting their space. About 70 other homeless people spread their belongings nearby.

"There's always talk that they could move us," Dennis said.

That could happen soon if the Santa Ana City Council this week declares the area's homeless encampment a "public health crisis."

These big thinkers are tasked with creating something that harnesses the Internet of Things to save human lives.

Officials said that the homeless population in the area swelled beyond 400 earlier this year.

They are worried that the Civic Center complex is unsafe for the area's more than 15,000 government workers, many whom have complained of feces, urine and trash on the sidewalks, including syringes. Ramie Vera, a legal assistant who works for the state's workers' compensation department at the Civic Center, said he is still shaken from one confrontation.

"Some guy approached me and asked if I was looking at his girlfriend," he said. "I was dumbfounded. I was like, no. And he warned me off. 'You better not,' he told me. It's very scary."

So far this year, police have made 54 felony arrests and 281 arrests for misdemeanors and code violations in the area, according to Councilwoman Michele Martinez. Many of the homeless gather in an area between Broadway and Flower Street, bordered by Civic Center Drive and Santa Ana Boulevard.

In a draft resolution, Martinez is asking the city to boost policing and code enforcement at the Civic Center, while pressuring the county to step up and offer a health and safety plan in the next 30 days. Council members Roman Reyna and Vincent Sarmiento support the proposal.

"Instead of a Santa Ana-only problem, it is important to understand that homelessness is a regional problem," Martinez said in an email. "The Civic Center in Santa Ana is the county's regional home, so it is a countywide issue and problem. Santa Ana cannot solve the problem in isolation, nor is the solution any one city's responsibility."

Orange County's homeless population was es-



timated at nearly 15,300 people, compared with 12,700 two years earlier, according to a tally from 2-1-1 Orange County, a nonprofit helping to link residents to health and human services.

Santa Ana officials said county officials do not understand the urgency of the problem. The city's resolution asks the county to host a summit on homelessness, with participation from all 34 cities.

In May, the Board of Supervisors hired a manager to review and organize county services for the homeless and last month set up portable toilets on Ross Street, near the encampment, Supervisor Andrew Do, who represents the first district that includes Santa Ana, said in a statement.

Last fall, Do and fellow supervisors gave the go-ahead to convert a warehouse near the 91 Freeway in Anaheim into a 200-bed home, making it the first countywide shelter and one that will include a service center to help citizens find jobs and permanent housing.

And last week, Do said the county should transform an

old bus terminal in downtown Santa Ana into a permanent shelter. Bonnie Smith, who like her husband is a Santa Ana native, said she was recently ticketed by police for camping out.

"They're telling me to move again," she said. "We're trapped. Where else can we go?"

Nearby, a woman who identifies herself only as Carmen G. says she has lived in the encampment for a couple of years.

"The people here have their own community," she said. "We look out for each other and this is how it should be as a big family."

But Vera, the Civic Center employee, said the number of homeless on the street is growing and that the problem cannot be resolved soon enough.

Other workers said they are concerned about drugs, disease, lack of sanitation and violence.

"I used to see the same old faces," Vera said of those congregating in the area. "But now there are new faces — plenty of new faces — the population has blown up."

So far this year, police have made 54 felony arrests and 281 arrests for misdemeanors and code violations in the area

DO YOU HAVE RENAL OR LIVER DISEASE?

Volunteer for a clinical study of an investigational medication. You may qualify if you are:

- * 18 years or older
- * With or without hepatitis C
- * Have cirrhosis of the liver or renal insufficiency

If you qualify, you may receive medical evaluations, routine lab work, and financial compensation at no cost to you.

Please call: 305-817-8714 or 305-817-8722

Website: www.clinpharmmmiami.com



Our Goal is \$5,000
in Gift Cards for
our **New Shelter!**

We will soon be able to provide 200 more beds! Please donate today!

4700 SW 51st Street Suite 208 Davie, FL 33314

Orlando News

Orlando woman says bogus Zillow ad left her homeless

Mike Manzoni

An Orlando mother and her two small children were left homeless after she said someone posing as a landlord ripped her off.

Amber Peterson said she toured a home she found through a listing on Zillow.com, but Orange County property records indicate the actual homeowner lives in Australia.

"I came for a showing for the house," she said. "I got a showing of the house. It was nice."

After touring the home, Peterson said the man she met provided her with a lease, which named a Jefferson Bryan as the landlord and listed a move-in date of Aug. 22.

"He met me here," she said. "We did another walk through. The keys automatically opened the door. It was no hassle, no problem."

Peterson said she got money orders to pay the man nearly \$2,000 in rent and a deposit. She said everything went well until she received a phone call Wednesday.

"I was literally in tears, crying," Peterson said.

Orlando police told Peterson that the home's true owner wanted her to move out as soon as possible.

Zillow said the advertisement was bogus. The website said its fraud team investigated and removed the rental listing within hours.

The company emailed Channel 9 the following statement:

"Zillow goes to great lengths to police activity and fully inform our users of the existence of scams and how to protect themselves. Our customer support team



routinely polices activity on the sites in a number of different ways and if a rental listing is found to be fraudulent, it is immediately removed from Zillow. In this case, Zillow investigated and removed this rental listing within hours of being notified that it was fraudulent.

Every rental listing on Zillow has a "Beware of Rental Scams" message at the top of the page, telling users to look out for red flags like requests for wire transfers and long-distance inquiries, and directing them to our fraud and scams page, which

provides valuable information about how to avoid fraudulent listings."

Channel 9 called the man who Peterson said took her money, but the man who answered said it was the wrong number.

"I'm pretty much homeless," Peterson said.

Orlando police said a report on the incident isn't yet available.

Tampa News

Homeless students hard to identify

Colleen Wright, Tampa Bay Times Staff Writer

It's Day 4 of the new school year, and the clamor has quieted. Students are settling into their routines, finding classes, memorizing schedules.

For thousands of them, school may be the most stable part of their day.

In Portable F at Bayside High near St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport, the seven women who make up the Pinellas County School District's homeless education task force have already started to count: 1,179 homeless students identified in just the first week of school, the highest number in the Tampa Bay area.

If past years are any indication, the number could grow to more than 3,500 by May.

Officials are bracing for an upheaval over the next two weeks in St. Petersburg, where the troubled Mosley Motel is set to close, displacing more than 60 public school students and their families.

Some may cross into Hillsborough County,

which has its own team to monitor a homeless student population that rose to more than 3,300 last year.

"A lot of our families are mobile," said Jennifer Gallman, a social worker on the Pinellas team whose voicemail was already full with requests for help during the first week of school. "I'm already working on second moves."

The team's job is to identify homeless students during the school enrollment process and provide them with transportation, free meals, school supplies, college assistance — and support beyond school hours.

When their families move, the teams try to keep them in their "school of origin" by making arrangements to keep busing them there. That consistency can help stabilize the home education environment, said Christina Fields, the Pinellas school district's homeless liaison.

"Our main goal is to make sure our students are in school and attending school," she said.

Students who experience homelessness during their junior or senior year of high school could be eligible

for waivers of college application fees and tuition. Pinellas counted 127 homeless seniors last year.

"That's one way you can stop the cycle of poverty," Fields said.

Joyce Cole, 35, has lived at the Mosley Motel for six years. It was the only motel that would take her and her four children: two daughters who are happy at Mount Vernon Elementary and two sons excelling at John Hopkins Middle. Cole's youngest child, Rhianna Oliver, a friendly 6-year-old with a penchant for pink and glitter, started kindergarten late and has several disabilities.

"I want to keep her at the same school because it's going to be a hard time adjusting for her," Cole said after greeting her daughters at the bus stop behind the motel on 33rd Street N.

"That's why I'm going to try my hardest to stay in the area. I don't want to disrupt my child's education."

Last year, Mount Vernon, the elementary school zoned for the Mosley Motel, had the second-highest population of homeless students in the district with 91. Maximo Elementary had 92.

"My biggest fear is they go to a different school (that) might not

have that homeless population," said Mount Vernon principal Robert Ovalle, who came to the school this year from Campbell Park Elementary, which has the fifth highest homeless student population. "To us, it's part of our DNA because we've always had them."

Social workers at Mount Vernon and other schools throughout the area work much of the summer and the first few weeks of school identifying homeless students, who by federal definition are considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. That includes families in hotels and motels, shelters and shared housing — the most common circumstance.

A residency questionnaire, available in English and Spanish, is given to all families during enrollment, and many parents often call the district's homeless team for help. Some homeless teams visit hotels, motels and shelters to assist children.

There is no one community where homeless students cluster.

School district teams find them in extended-stay hotels and motels along the U.S. 19 bus route, sometimes camouflaged in more affluent areas such as Palm Harbor, stretching north into

Pasco County. Some live in more rural areas in Zephyrhills. In Hillsborough, many families congregate at the Metropolitan Ministries shelter in Tampa and another shelter in Brandon.

Though Hillsborough has double the overall enrollment, Pinellas has identified more homeless students. But official numbers may hide the extent of the problem in Hillsborough, said Flossie Parsley, a coordinator for Hillsborough's school social work services. As many as 10 percent of the students who receive free and reduced lunches could be homeless, with many of them not counted, she said.

"Around the state we've always been told that we're not identifying at the rate that we should be," she said. "Our numbers are probably really low."

Still, Hillsborough's numbers have steadily increased, which Parsley says is due to the district identifying the reasons behind homelessness and opening the lines of communication so families step forward to seek help.

Reducing the stigma of homelessness is, after all, part of the homeless assistance team's goal.

"I don't feel like the lone ranger voice saying, 'We need to think about all these things,'" Parsley said. "I think people are more open to the conversation."

Contact Colleen Wright at cwright@tampabay.com or (727) 893-8643. Follow @Colleen_Wright.

Homeless students in Tampa Bay

The area's largest school districts have set up teams to identify homeless students upon registration and offer help. In Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, officials say, an increase in the number of homeless students in recent years may be due to better outreach efforts, or simply more families needing help.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Pinella	3,085	3,076	3,038	3,764	3,508
Hills	2,897	2,592	2,576	3,162	3,333
Pasco*		1,094	2,071	2,190	2,092

* Numbers from 2012 not available.

Source: Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco school districts.

1,179 homeless students identified in just the first week of school, the highest number in the Tampa Bay area.

Mental Health In Schools

Meg Anderson, Kavitha Cardoza
You might call it a silent epidemic.
Up to one in five kids living in the U.S. shows signs or symptoms of a mental health disorder in a given year.

So in a school classroom of 25 students, five of them may be struggling with the same issues many adults deal with: depression, anxiety, substance abuse.

And yet most children — nearly 80 percent — who need mental health services won't get them.

Whether treated or not, the children do go to school. And the problems they face can tie into major problems found in schools: chronic absence, low achievement, disruptive behavior and dropping out.

Experts say schools could play a role in identifying students with problems and helping them succeed. Yet it's a role many schools are not prepared for.

Educators face the simple fact that, often because of a lack of resources, there just aren't enough people to tackle the job. And the ones who are working on it are often drowning in huge caseloads. Kids in need can fall through the cracks.

Katie is one of those kids.

She's 18 now. Back when she was 8, she had to transfer to a different school in Prince George's County, Md., in the middle of the year.

"At recess, I didn't have friends to play with," she recalls. "I would make an excuse to stay inside with the teachers and finish extra work or do extra credit."

We're not using Katie's last name to protect her privacy. She's been diagnosed with bulimia and depression.

She says that in the span of a few months, she went from honor roll to failing. She put on weight; other kids called her "fat." She began cutting herself with a razor every day. And she missed a ton of school.

"I felt like every single day was a bad day," she says. "I felt like nobody wanted to help me."

Katie says teachers acted like she didn't care about her schoolwork. "I was so invisible to them."

Every year of high school, she says, was "horrible." She told her therapist she wanted to die and was admitted into the hospital.

During all this time, she says, not a single principal or teacher or counselor ever asked her one simple question: "What's wrong?"

Who should have asked?

We talked to educators, advocates, teachers and parents across the country. Here's what they say a comprehensive approach to mental health and education would look like.

The family: The role: The first place to spot trouble is in the home, whether that trouble is substance abuse, slipping grades or a child who sleeps too much. Adults at home — parents, siblings, other relatives — are often the first to notice something going on.

The reality: Many families do not know what to look for. Sometimes a serious problem can be overlooked as "just a phase." But it's those sudden changes — angry outbursts, declining grades, changes in sleeping or eating — that can signal problems. When something unusual crops up, families can keep in close touch with the school.

The teacher: The role: During the week, many students see their teachers even more than



their own families. Teachers are in a prime spot to notice changes in behavior. They read essays, see how students relate with other kids and notice when they aren't paying attention.

The reality: Teachers already have a ton on their plates. They're pressured to get test scores up, on top of preparing lessons and grading assignments. Plus, many teachers receive minimal training in mental health issues. But when they do see something concerning, they can raise a flag.

The social worker: The role: Social workers act like a bridge. If teachers come to them with a concern — maybe a child is acting withdrawn — one of the first things they'll do is call home. They see each child through the lens of their family, school and community. They might learn that a family is going through a

divorce or homelessness.

The reality: There aren't enough of them. According to one model, every school should have one social worker for every 250 students. The reality is that in some schools, social workers are responsible for many more.

The counselor: The role: In some schools, counselors focus solely on academics: helping students pick classes and apply to college. But in others, they also act a lot like social workers, serving as a link to families and working with students who need support.

The reality: Like school social workers, there just aren't enough counselors. On average nationwide, each counselor is responsible for nearly 500 students. The American School Counselor Association recommends a caseload nearly half that size.

The special education teacher: The Role: Special education teachers may start working with students when a mental health problem affects the ability to do school work. They are primarily responsible for working on academic skills.

The reality: Again, there aren't enough of them. Nearly every state has reported a shortage of special education

teachers. Half of all school districts say they have trouble recruiting highly qualified candidates.

The school psychologist: The Role: Here's one job that, on paper, is truly dedicated to student mental health. School psychologists are key players when it comes to crisis intervention and can refer students to outside help, such as a psychiatrist.

The reality: If you sense a pattern here, you're right. In the U.S., there is just one school psychologist for every 1,400 students, according to the most recent data available from the National Association of School Psychologists.

The school nurse: The role: Most any school nurse will tell you, physical and mental health are tough to separate. That puts nurses in a prime spot to catch problems early. For example: A kid who comes into the nurse's office a lot, complaining of headaches or stomach problems? That could be a sign of anxiety, a strategy to avoid a bully, or a sign of troubles at home.

The reality: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends at least one nurse for every 750 students, but the actual ratio across the country can be much higher.

The principal: The role: As the top dogs in schools, principals make the big decisions about priorities. They can bring in social-emotional, anti-bullying and suicide-prevention programs.

The reality: Principals also have a lot on their plates: the day-to-day management of student behavior, school culture and teacher support.

Katie says things started to turn around for her when she met a nurse at the Children's National Health System in Washington, D.C., who finally showed

interest in what was wrong.

Now, she's begun college and wants to be a pediatric nurse.

"I'm doing a lot better now" she says. "Obviously, I mean, I'm a lot happier. I'm excited for school. I'm excited to graduate. I'm excited for life."

In the U.S., there is just one school psychologist for every 1,400 students

Long Nights With Little Sleep for Homeless Families

By NIKITA STEWART AUG. 28, 2016

Jenee McKinney, her husband, Allen, with their children at the PATH center. “It looked like a FEMA camp,” Mr. McKinney said of the center. Credit Victor J. Blue for The New York Times

On Wednesday, New York City hit a record 59,373 people in shelters overseen by the Department of Homeless Services.

There is no clearer indicator of the homelessness crisis than in the Bronx at the intake center for families with children, where on a recent Saturday morning at 7:30, Larissa Galindo had just gotten off the bus from a temporary shelter.

“We’re tired,” Ms. Galindo, 19, said, burying her face in her hands and trying to wipe the sleep and frustration from her eyes. Unique, her 1-year-old daughter, looked up from a stroller. They had left the center, known as PATH, short for Prevention Assistance and Temporary Housing, four hours earlier.

“I want to go to sleep,” Ms. Galindo said.

In a cascade of good intentions and unintended consequences, homeless parents and their children are facing dayslong waits and sleepless nights as they flood the city’s already overwhelmed homeless services.

Under a 1999 law that was supposed to give homeless families dignity and relief, parents and children seeking shelter are not allowed to sleep at the center. Instead, those still in the process of applying for housing at 10 p.m. must be given beds for the night. The city must also transport them to and from wherever they sleep so families can continue the application process the next morning.

But with 12,913 families in homeless shelters, which is also a record, and the city trying to avoid giving them “overnights” twice in a row, New York has created a bureaucracy of sleep that, paradoxically, keeps many families from getting any rest. Some yellow school buses transporting them to shelters leave the PATH center as late as 4 a.m. People who are loaded onto them then are bused back two hours later so they can be seen by 11 a.m., before a new wave of families arrives.

Homeless families unloading their belongings from a bus that brought them back to the Prevention Assistance and Temporary Housing intake center in the Bronx. Credit Victor J. Blue for The New York Times

As a result, overnight shelter has come to mean a few hours — or mere minutes — in a bed. Parents must haul suitcases, strollers and their children into the intake center, onto the bus, into the temporary shelter, back onto the bus and back to the PATH center.

Ms. Galindo, who works at a Fine Fare supermarket in Harlem, was lucky. After waiting hours to apply for shelter a day earlier, she got two hours of rest in a bed.

“What’s going on now is a direct result of capacity,” said Kathryn Kliff, a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society, which is pushing the city to improve its services for homeless people. “This is not the norm. This isn’t how overnights go.”

The record number of people in shelters overseen by homeless services does not count several thousand more who are in specialized shelters for homeless youths and domestic violence victims.

The 1999 law was championed by Steven Banks, when he was a lawyer for the Legal Aid Society working to improve conditions for families with children. He is now the commissioner of the Department of Social Services overseeing homeless services.

The intent was to end the longtime practice of having families sleep overnight in chairs, on desks and on the floor of the intake office in the Bronx. The sight had become a symbol of the city’s poor management of homelessness at the time, and the city had paid \$5 million in fines over four years for violating a court order to stop it.

Because of city rules, families are not allowed to spend the night at the PATH center. To get around this rule, the city loads them onto buses and takes them to hotels or shelters, then brings them back, exhausted, a few hours later. Credit Victor J. Blue for The New York Times

“It was to end the practice of using a welfare office



as a de facto shelter with families with children sleeping on the floor for days on end,” Mr. Banks said in a recent interview. “That was the intent of the law, and that’s the practice that it has eliminated. But it didn’t eliminate the lack of affordable housing. It didn’t eliminate poverty. It didn’t eliminate domestic violence.

“Those are the drivers that result, that cause people to seek shelter from us,” he said.

Wages have not kept pace with rising rents, and the city’s long-term initiatives — such as building more affordable housing, expanding rental assistance programs and increasing legal aid to tenants fighting evictions — have not kept up with the continuing surge of people who simply cannot afford to pay the rent. Mr. Banks said the number of homeless people in shelters had also risen as the city boosted efforts to shelter people living on the street, a visible sign of the crisis that the administration of Mayor Bill de Blasio has prioritized.

Mr. Blasio, a Democrat, shook up his administration in December to combat the increase in homelessness. In March, he consolidated homeless services and welfare under a single commissioner, Mr. Banks.

But August has traditionally been a month when the city sees increases, Mr. Banks and advocates for the homeless said. Families, hoping to find housing before the new school year starts, arrive at the PATH center looking for help.

The PATH center is a gleaming office building, opened in 2011 to replace an outdated one. It is across the street from an older, worn apartment building. Families said they dreaded entering, never knowing how long they might have to stay and when they might have to go back.

Inside, where parents were slumped in chairs and children were sprawled on the floor

waiting hours to be interviewed by caseworkers to determine if they are eligible for more permanent shelter, tensions have run high. “It looked like a FEMA camp,” said Allen McKinney, a 29-year-old father of two, who was seeking shelter for his family after arriving from California days earlier.

Larissa Galindo, 19, getting off a bus with other homeless families at a Department of Homeless Services intake center in the Bronx. Credit Victor J. Blue for The New York Times

Mr. McKinney, who is a gospel drummer looking for work, said he was grateful that there was somewhere to turn for help, but he and his family were weary. He and his wife, Jenee McKinney, said they arrived around 4 p.m. on Friday and got on a yellow school bus around 3 a.m. on Saturday to go to the

overnight shelter. They were back at the PATH center five hours later, where they stayed until 3 a.m. on Sunday when the city placed them in a hotel in Midtown Manhattan. “I’m not complaining. We could be on the street,” said Mr. McKinney, who along with his wife asked to go by his middle name because they did not want their family to be identified as homeless.

For several months, the vacancy rate in shelters for families with children has been less than 1 percent. In a further demonstration of the whack-a-mole nature of the problem confronting the city, that unusually low rate is not only a result of the increase in homelessness among families with children, but also of the increase in the number of adult families without shelter. Adult families are any units or families without minor children.

At the adult family intake center in Manhattan, people have been sleeping overnight. While that is not against the law, the city this month has been taking steps to prevent what had become common practice there. The city had already moved 450 such families into housing that was supposed to go to families with children.

Mr. Banks said the city was opening additional shelters for adult families to relieve the pressure. “We’re moving as quickly as we can,” he said, adding that other reforms, such as expanding a program that offers potentially homeless people rental assistance, were underway.

Mr. Banks said the city was trying to get services to needy families while also carefully evaluating whether they were eligible for shelter or if they could benefit from rental assistance, intervention with a landlord or reunification with relatives who could house them.

Parents, meanwhile, are braced to wait 12 hours or more at the PATH center, where they are not allowed to bring in food. Some walk to a nearby McDonald’s or other restaurants, at the risk of missing their name when it is called. (They must eat the food outside.) Otherwise, they make do with sandwiches, graham crackers and the school-cafeteria-size cartons of milk provided by the city.

On a Sunday morning, two days after she had arrived, Ms. Galindo was back at the PATH center, waiting. The city had found her shelter in Far Rockaway, Queens, far from her job in Harlem and far from a babysitter for her 1-year-old daughter.

Unfortunately, job location is a low priority with a less than 1 percent vacancy rate, Ms. Kliff, of Legal Aid, said.

Because of city rules, families are not allowed to spend the night at the PATH center.

Or send your check to Angel Program * PO Box 292-577 * Davie, FL 33329

Go to pg 2 to cut out the mail in membership form

WWW.HOMELESSVOICE.ORG/MEMBER

DONATE \$25 MONTHLY AT:

✓ You or your business name will appear in the Homeless Voice Newspaper, which currently has over 100,000 copies in circulation.

✓ Have piece of mind in knowing that you helped keep a homeless family off the streets.

Membership Benefits

Become a monthly angel and for only **83 cents per day,** you can keep a homeless family off the streets.



BECOME A MONTHLY ANGEL

THE
**HOMELESS
VOICE**
FLORIDAS LARGEST STREET PAPER

"If you can't
feed a hundred
people, then just
feed one."
-Mother Teresa



Local
Postal Customer

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE PAID
SOUTH FLORIDA, FL
PERMIT NO. 876

Donate online www.hvoice.org/donate

TEXT FAMILY TO 85944 AND REPLY YES TO DONATE \$10