



BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY

#HOUSING

#SOCIALJUSTICE

#HEALTH

#INCOME

VOICES OF BOSS

WHERE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD!



Trying To Do The Right Thing

No One Thinks This Decision Will Make Them Homeless

Many people who find themselves without stable housing were making decisions that they believed would improve their lives, not jeopardize them. One such individual is Manuel G. Manuel had an apartment, he had lived there for quite sometime. It never occurred to him that the decisions he was making would lead him to being homeless. He was just a man, trying to do the right thing.

Manuel was sharing an apartment with a friend. The bay area is expensive, so a chance to reduce what one pays for rent is welcome. Manuel needed help paying rent, but his friend also needed a place to stay. He had contacted his landlord, asked to run the required credit check, and add his friend to the lease. The landlord, however, denied the request saying that his friend did not qualify to rent. Manuel's landlord said that the roommate could not stay,



but Manuel really needed the help paying rent, and his friend had no other place to go, so he told her she could stay anyway. Unfortunately, Manuel’s landlord discovered that the woman was still living in the unit and threatened to evict Manuel. He decided to move out. He didn't want to live in a place where the management was so heartless and callous. It never occurred to Manuel that he would be

unable to find a new place to live.

After nearly a year of living on the street, Manuel was placed at the BOSS Casa Maria Transitional House. He stayed there for 6-months. In that time he was able to get some much needed rest, and emotional support. Living on the street is traumatic. He had support from Nichole and Denise, and really connected with Maurice and John. Realizing that alcohol was a contributing factor Manuel decided to begin attending AA meetings. “It was hard at first, but I couldn’t give up. I had to straighten my head out.”

Eventually, Housing Specialist, Felicia, helped Manuel find a one-bedroom apartment in Stockton. He was a little scared as he didn't know anyone in Stockton, but everything is starting to work out. Manuel is still looking for employment, but he is happy and hopeful. Manuel’s advice? “Give it a try — it could work out.”

LISTEN CLOSELY

MOST REQUIRE YOU TO OPEN YOUR EARS, I SIMPLY REQUIRE YOU TO OPEN YOUR MIND. MANY FIND THIS UNFAMILIAR THEN THEY GET LEFT BEHIND. POETRY THE CRYPTIC LANGUAGE: TO BEND, IMPROVISE, AND PROJECT NEW WAYS TO TELL THE TRUTH. YOU SEE YOUR TRUTH ISN'T MY TRUTH. OUR TRUTHS ARE LIFES CHOICES AND DECISIONS ACTING AS MAGNETS PULLING US THROUGH. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS NARROW OUR DIRECTIONS. CHAOTIC ENVIRONMENTS BECOME OUR REFLECTIONS. FAILURE BY ASSOCIATION. BLIND LEADING THE BLIND. SO WE ELEVATE ABOVE A BLOCK, ABOVE A CITY. SURROUND YOURSELF WITH DIVERSITY AND WE'LL CALL IT SUCCESS BY COMMITTEE. I WOKE UP THIS MORNING WANTING MORE OUT OF LIFE. BUT I'LL START WITH UNDERSTANDING, AND THE MEANING OF LIFE. SOME SAY ITS COMMUNICATION, BUT IT'S INFORMATION THAT RULES THE NATIONS. SEARCH FOR TRUTHS. IT'S VOLUNTARY IGNORANCE THAT WE'RE FACING. FINDING COMFORT WITHIN STAGNATION. YOU SEE TO BRODEN YOUR HORIZONS YOU HAVE TO BE BRAVE. TO BE NARROW MINDED ONLY MEANS YOU'RE A SLAVE

DID YOU HEAR ME????

BY: MICHAEL D. WILBURN

AKA: ARC ANGEL

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