

From the director

By Mel Eby

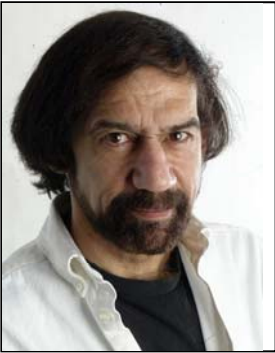


Photo: Amanda Nalley,
Tallahassee Democrat

It's not all gloom and doom at The Shelter. We are seeing people moving out and into stable living arrangements at a record pace. They usually say upon leaving, "Thank you for providing us with a free place during this difficult transition."

And it hits home again

— for more than 300 different people or family units each year, The Shelter is serving as a no-fee facility for people who need a transitional shelter to pull themselves together. We're glad that we never charge fees or accept money from guests.

The Shelter has to continue to serve all of the short-term transitional residents, but still be here for all of the disabled homeless people who are longer-term but have no other options. This group includes almost 60 senior citizens and many other people with physical disabilities, mental illness or alcoholism.

But we can never give up on trying to find a way out of homelessness for these people. Since the late 1980s, we've helped thousands to survive until they found a way out — whether it took five years or 15 years. You can't turn your back on them — that would be detrimental not only to them, but to the entire community.

Shopping benefit Aug. 27

Please visit Ten Thousand Villages on Aug. 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. for a Community Shopping Night benefiting The Shelter. This nonprofit "Fair Trade" store in Market Square offers colorful handicrafts from around the world. For details, call 906-9010.



Photo: Teresa Gutierrez

The Planet Gumbo team treats Shelter guests to okra-and-chicken stew — from left, Sally Crayton, Su Ecenia, Gary Crayton and Jeannie Barrett.

Kind cuisine and e-mail options

Our fall newsletter will feature the first in a series of salutes to the cooks who nurture our guests with kind cuisine. The Planeteers, pictured above, specialize in fresh fruit and spicy gumbo. For the latest news, please make sure you're on our e-mail list. To add a friend, you can notify shelter@hcsmail.com.

Donations needed

- Men's socks
- Sugar, creamer
- Coffee
- Bathroom tissue

Items may be taken to The Shelter's Bill Hanson Community Day Center, 466 W. Tennessee St., from 9-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:30 p.m. daily. Or try the kitchen off Macomb Street any time after 5 p.m.