



ATD



FOURTH WORLD

SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

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Summer News 2016

NEW MEXICO STORY GARDEN PROJECT EVALUATION

The New Mexico team recently began interviewing participants in and observers of their Story Garden (SG) family literacy project. The Story Garden happens at the flea market in Gallup and the team will speak with vendors whose children attend the SG, the children themselves, the market's security team, regulars at the market, and other concerned members of this community. The feedback will help the team continue and deepen the SG's strengths and address some needs or hopes of participants that we're not currently meeting.

Andy Romero, a vendor at the market, whose granddaughter now reads and does crafts and other activities with us, recently told us,



"Not all the kids are attending the reading center now. Some are actually starting to help their families. A lot of times they weren't doing that before, but now I see that they are interacting with their family. At the end of the day they put the tables away, they put the salt and all the condiments away [for parents who are food vendors]. Before I had never seen that. The kids were out playing...you can imagine they had nothing to do, but now the parents are getting them involved. It started with you guys four year ago, so that attitude they got from you guys that made them think, 'Well, maybe I can help my parents,' because they see the child helping in some of the books you have out there. They get a positive attitude."

Look out for more updates of this evaluation process in the coming months.

Find out more on the last page!



Watch the video here!
http://bit.ly/veryhungry_nyc

NEW YORK



NEW ORLEANS



NEW MEXICO



WE ASKED ATD FOURTH WORLD MEMBERS TO SHARE THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT THE 2016 ELECTIONS

Maryann Broxton, Massachusetts

Voter ID Laws have been proven to disproportionately affect minority and low-income individuals. A lot of people don't have a valid state ID or driver's license. To get a state ID you have to go to the Department of Motor Vehicle office. So there is bus fare involved if you can't get a ride. The ID itself can cost between \$25 and \$30. To get it you have to prove residency and have a copy of your birth certificate. If you don't have that, you have to go to the city hall of the place you were born to get a copy - which also costs a fee and more bus fare.

In the Jim Crow era in the South, states would impose a "poll tax" to prevent black people from voting and a lot of people consider voting ID laws here to be the same thing. Voting here is a constitutional right, but each state gets to decide what the regulations are around voting. I just think it's funny that the UN sends people to other countries to monitor elections to make sure that they are fair, but people are purposely being blocked from voting here based on their income.

Don Macleay, California

Not voting is a guarantee that politicians won't pay any attention to you.

Peggy Simmons, California

We pay a lot of attention to the presidential elections when the results of local elections can have a much more direct impact on people who are struggling: school board, judges, the sheriff. I know in Oakland most of the social services are given by county, but we pay much more attention to the election of city officials than of county supervisors. And around these local issues, we, as a group, could have a big impact. If locally, as a group, we looked into one election, one school board official, one judge, or the sheriff, as examples, and really informed ourselves, we would come out stronger, more united, more informed, and more empowered going forward. That's true even if our choice doesn't win, even if we didn't agree amongst ourselves.

Charles Courtney, New Jersey

There is much talk about saving the middle class, but almost none about poverty, especially extreme poverty which is our focus.

Julia Sick, New York

In terms of election issues that relate to people in deep poverty, I'd say the major issues I continue to hear about are affordable housing and access to jobs that pay a living wage. Rezoning plans have the potential to drastically (and negatively in my opinion) impact these communities by making zoning changes that will make living in low-income neighborhoods no longer affordable to the people that live there now.

These are closely intertwined with institutional racism and discrimination (housing policy, red-lining, historical and systematic discrimination within the public education system, mass incarceration - which leads to cycles of unemployment, etc., etc...). I've come to think that anti-racist work is maybe the most important work of the moment right now and it's not being addressed enough by any candidate for president.

What do you think about the elections and issues around poverty? Email us your thoughts at

**communications
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Personal Recollections of Homelessness — A Wound That Never Fully Heals

By Prof. S.M. Miller

Some years ago, while visiting Dublin, Ireland, I discovered that I had been homeless as a child in Brooklyn. I was consulting with Focus Point, a newly established Irish organization that deals with housing problems. In the course of questioning the staff in order to clarify its goals and activities, I used the term “homeless.” The staff pointedly corrected me: they did not use that word. Their phrase was people with “no permanent abode.” That definition extended beyond people in temporary shelters or “living rough” on the street. Included were those who lived doubled-up with others and those who had to shift from one indoor sleeping place to another. Suddenly, I realized that by this definition I too had been “homeless,” with “no permanent abode.”

I was overwhelmed, close to tears, at this naming of that terrible experience when I was ten. Immediately, I saw that time in an even more terrifying light than I had ever permitted myself to acknowledge.

During the Depression of the 1930s we were living in Philadelphia where I was born. Family economic conditions worsened to the point that our electricity was turned off and we lived in the dark. My parents decided finally to seek help with my mother’s sisters in Brooklyn, aunts whom I scarcely knew. One sister took my mother, father, and me to live with her husband and three sons in a crowded apartment. My two sisters, considerably older than I, lived with other aunts. After several months of this strained, divided existence, my parents were thrown out summarily by my irascible uncle who found our presence (and my withdrawn shyness and school success) disturbing. Another aunt took us in for a while during the hot summer and my parents and I shared a bed in a tiny room with an exceedingly small window opening on a shaft. Another relative whom I did not know at all, appalled I believe by the three of us sharing a bed, took me to stay with his family. This went on for some period until my parents found jobs that enabled us to rent our own small apartment and reunite the family.



My sisters and I never discussed this episode with each other and certainly not with our parents. When I did think about it in later years, I would focus on my pain and isolation. It was only after Dublin, many years later, that I could discuss that time with my surviving sister and realize how damaging that period was for her and must have been for my parents, especially for my mother, a proud, energetic and effective woman.

My Dublin-based recall was highlighted recently because of my role as a social scientist concerned about poverty and inequality. I learned of an article by Bruce G. Link and his colleagues at Columbia University’s School of Public Health that moved beyond the usual practice of counting as homeless only those who were living in shelters or on the street on a given day. Using what was, in effect, the definition of “no permanent abode,” they asked a national sample if they had ever been homeless. (The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is beginning to use this broader understanding of homelessness.) By using the broader definition and by asking about lifetime experience, this study differed from the usual counts of the numbers of homeless people. Through this method, the count of the homeless



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swelled from perhaps 400,000 who on a given night were living rough or in a temporary shelter to 26 million adults who at some time during their lives lacked a permanent abode.

Asking for lifetime experience makes a great deal of sense. A one-night reporting of the homeless is an undercount of what happened to people during the year or over a lifetime (just as unemployment rates tell only of what happened in a particular week rather than how many people and households experienced some sizable unemployment and loss of income during a year).

The lifetime rate is important because living with “no permanent abode” scars people. Gaining a reliable residence does not wipe out the troubles that lacking a reliable home produces. In my case, I have enormous difficulty in asking for a favor despite enjoying the privileged position of providing many favors to others. Yes, I learned from D. H. Lawrence’s *The Man Who Died* that just as there is a greed in taking without giving, there is a greed in giving without taking. Nonetheless, I recoil (as does my sister) at the idea of asking for a favor, even from those I have helped. When I do, it takes enormous willpower to overcome that sense of shame and fear of rebuff in having to ask for aid. I trace this reluctance and many other failings and disturbing feelings to that period of “no permanent abode.”

Homelessness is a deeper continuing experience than the passing loss of a bed to call your own. It is a wound that never fully heals.

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Now Hiring a Development Director

We are now **hiring our first dedicated Development Director** in order to generate additional, sustainable support for our exciting grassroots projects and initiatives. This is NOT a typical nonprofit fundraising effort! Our Development Director will be laser-focused on relationships and results – specifically through one-on-one, direct engagements with donors and prospects about our impact in the communities where we work and through the relationships we build.

The Development Director will be responsible for driving fundraising results unlike anything we have seen before! This is truly an exciting opportunity for someone who **loves telling stories and building relationships** (while driving toward results), who is **a builder who gets their hands dirty**, and who **has a heart for our mission**. Read more about this position here: <http://4thworldmovement.org/hiring/>

Please reach out to us if you or someone you know might be interested in this position, at nationalcenter@4thworldmovement.org or 504-460-8301.



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NEWS FROM STREET LIBRARIES

Street Libraries continue to create and support community life! We would like to share some of the stories from the long-term relationships we build through the Street Library. They start by reading a book, having a conversation, or doing art together. Over the years these relationships often change participants' lives and the communities where they lives.

In New York the team interviewed Obie, who first joined the Street Library when he was 14 years old in 2003. From the very beginning, he has helped ensure the team's presence in the community. "The Fourth World Movement means lifetime friendships," says Obie, while emphasizing the importance of building continuous, consistent, and trusting relationships. He shared that bonding experiences with ATD members helped him to become independent and move out of his comfort zone.

The New Orleans team shared the story of Doodie (8) and his family. Over the course of three years, the team has seen the growth of Doodie and his sister

Patricia (3) in their excitement for reading and artistic activities. Their parents share the kids' enthusiasm for Street Library, encouraging Doodie and Patricia to join us every week. Reflecting upon the relationship with Doodie's family has invited our Street Library facilitators to explore different ways of understanding and responding to the needs of the children.

The New Mexico team was humbled by the story of Loretta and Allen, parents who have built a bubble of security and consistency for their children despite very unstable housing. They're committed to keeping the children at the same school, even if it means driving great distances each day. Their efforts have really paid off, as the children are developing a love of learning. The Story Garden offers them and other families a safe and inspiring learning space that they can depend on week after week.



TOGETHER WE CAN OVERCOME POVERTY & SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Your gift allows us to continue bringing books and arts to the kids who look forward to weekly activities at Street Libraries and working with people living in poverty to ensure that their voices are heard.

You can donate by check, money order, credit card, or online.

To donate online, visit <http://4thworldmovement.org/donate>

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