

CARE OF POOR PEOPLE FEBRUARY 2012



In the News:

<http://fox4kc.com/2012/02/06/eviction-day-for-homeless-at-west-side-park/>

SPRING BREAK EVENT 2012 IS COMING SOON!

Kansas City Scottish Rite Temple

Set up on April 6th Volunteers needed 8-5
Set up and Event on April 7th Volunteers needed 8-5

Free clothing and necessities for those in need!

Live Band!

Compassion Awards Ceremony!

Free Potluck Dinner for all!

Details at www.coppinc.com

*Please consider donating funds to help us cover the cost of this event.
 All donations are tax deductible*

Congratulations to the Tripp family for the new addition to their family!

Alexzander Leroy Clark



Richard's Blog February 2012

First off this month I would like to introduce you to the newest member of my family, Alexander Leroy Clark. He was born on January 31, 2012 at 11:58 PM in Springfield Missouri; He makes my 6th great grandchild. In the first picture he looks like he's in deep thought. In the second picture he looks like he wants attention he knows how to get it.

It's time to start preparing for the Spring Break Event, which will happen on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at the Scottish Rite Temple building at 1330 E. Lynnwood Blvd. On April 6 & 7th we will be preparing for the event by setting up tables, chairs, and sorting materials to hand out to the poor and homeless. Please feel free to go to our website at www.coppinc.com to find out how to help and what time to be there each day. This is the same location that we held our event last year, and we want to thank the Scottish Rite Organization for the use of their facilities again.

Also at the event this year we will be presenting the second annual Compassion Awards to members of our community that have helped us help those hurting over the years. The award goes to special people that have gone above and beyond normal means to help us take care of Kansas City's poor and homeless brothers and sisters. This award goes to those that truly shows what compassionate people are really about. They walk the walk, not just talk the talk, and personally I think they are truly very special heroes in our community.

While we have had a very mild winter so far, we have had several homeless brothers die partly because of the elements and partly because of human error so to speak. In December they found a homeless brother frozen to death in a park at 8th and Harrison. I have been told by several homeless brothers and sisters that this person tried to get into several of the shelters and the members of the staff at the shelters turned him away, because he had the smell of Alcohol on his breath. What a senseless death. Also in January we had a homeless brother burned to death when his tent at his camp caught on fire. I knew him personally, and I think he had a Epileptic seizure and fell into his camp fire. What a senseless loss! It tears my heart out every time I hear of one of these brothers and sisters dying from the elements or lack of support.

I'm sure you all have seen the commentary in the newspaper and on television about the homeless camps that are being cleared out by the KC PD. Starting about three weeks ago the police started raiding homeless camps throughout the metro area. You can bet for every one you hear about there's ten you don't hear about. I would like each of you reading this to think for a moment and ask yourself the question: If someone got in a fight on your corner, would it be right for the police to come in your house and tell you that because of something that happened on your block (which was completely out of your control), that you would have to move ?? What if you didn't have anywhere to go and you knew that the police were going to throw away all of your personal belongings in a trash truck? What would you do? How would you react? Though you were innocent of the assault, because it was nearby, they could use that excuse to destroy everything you had and at the same time arrest you and make you pay for them to haul your belongings away. In a sense that's exactly what happened to the people in the camp the police just cleared out. Would you be angry?

I just saw an interview of a police officer talking about the conditions the people living at the camps had to face and how no one should live like that. Well Mr. Officer... I pray that you never have to live under those conditions because I don't think you could survive it. And if you think the majority of the homeless likes living in the conditions they have to live in your wrong. The majority of the homeless brothers and sisters would love to have a home, and be able to pay the bills when they come in every month, and have a job with all the benefits, but unfortunately due to the economy and other factors that opportunity has passed a lot of them by. A

majority of the homeless brother and sister's living in the camps do it for one reason and one reason only... it's called survival.

With that said I would like to ask members of my community to join with me in calling faxing and writing all of our city, and county officials and ask them to please stop the tyranny and Gestapo tactics being used on Kansas city's poor and homeless brothers and sisters that are just trying to survive, and remind the politicians that we the public put them in office, and we can vote them out of office if they let these kind of actions continue to happen to the poor here in our community.

Richard G Tripp
Director

Last Year's Spring Break Event



Copies still Available!

PLEASE UNDERESTIMATE ME
The Blind Side and Story of Richard G. Tripp
RICHARD G. TRIPP

In our Community:

There have been quite a few stories recently about homelessness in our area and the camps being torn down. This is a response from Jeremy Alderson of the Homelessness Marathon to the writer of the article in the Kansas City Star about the closing of the homeless camp north of the FBI building downtown.

--- Forwarded Message -----

From: Jeremy Alderson

To: mhendricks@kcstar.com

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2012 10:28 PM

Subject: your 1/31 article on the homeless camp

Hi Mike,

I read your article on the latest expulsion from a homeless camp with a mixture of intense feelings. It breaks my heart that yet another group of desperately poor people is being further disadvantaged for no good reason.

It bothers me that the KC Task Force on Homelessness was so derelict in its duty, so irresponsible, that they wasted two years to produce utterly worthless recommendations. And it bothers me that that KCMO officialdom seems much more interested in persecuting people for the crime of being poor than in actually solving their problems.

It frustrates me too. It frustrates me, in general, with the state of our country. It frustrates me with the seeming impossibility of turning this situation around. And, frankly, it frustrates me too to read the state of your reporting.

Don't get me wrong, I think you've done some good things. It was good, for example, that you mentioned the obvious discrepancy between the treatment of the homeless encampment and the treatment of the Occupy encampment. It's good that you include the voices of the homeless people themselves. It's good that you focus on this issue at all. You're better at this than reporters in a lot of cities. My frustration, though, is that we still haven't seen a column from you in which knowledgeable advocates who think these are cruel, ineffectual policies actually get to voice their opinions and take intelligent positions just like KCMO's intellectually and morally bankrupt authorities get to take stupid ones.

How come, in your columns, you can refer to Andrew Breitbart as a "so-called citizen journalist," write that the Republican union-busting campaign "spread like a disease," and call the entire state of Missouri a "hypocrite" for its disparate treatment of casinos and other venues under a smoking ban, but you won't even quote anybody referring to the Task Force as "so called authorities on homelessness," or saying that attacks on the poor "spread like a disease," or that the disparity in the treatment of Occupy protesters and homeless people makes the city a "hypocrite."

I just can't figure it out.

Best,

Jeremy Weir Alderson

founder, Homelessness Marathon

SPRING BREAK EVENT 2012

Kansas City Scottish Rite Temple

Set up April 6th (volunteers needed!)
Set up and Event on April 7th (Volunteers needed)

Free clothing and necessities for those in need

Live Band

Compassion Awards Ceremony

Free Potluck Dinner for all

WHAT WE NEED TO HELP THE HOMELESS:

Volunteers!!

Gently used Clothing and Toiletry Item donations

Covered Dish Food items

Cash Donations

Supply Donations needed:

trash bags, waters, Snacks for volunteers, plates, bowls, disposable gloves

Help us spread the word.

Print and Share our Flyer which you can find on our site to download.

Details at www.coppinc.com



Left to Right: Jackson County Sherriff Mike Sharp, Legislator Scott Burnette, and COPP Director Richard Tripp