

DTLA

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DTLA
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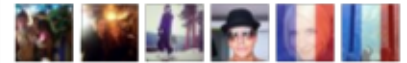
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13,736 Members



DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Downtown's public square. Get t...

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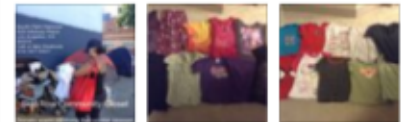
CREATE NEW GROUPS

Groups make it easier than ever to share with friends, family and teammates.

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RECENT GROUP PHOTOS

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Raquel Beard

September 15

Yesterday, September 14, 2015 I saw a little girl pop out of the encampment pictured below in Skid Row, and it broke my heart. I stopped and spoke to the little girl and her father. The girl is 8 years old. Not only was she as cute as they come, she was also very smart. The father informed me that he and his daughter have been living on the sidewalks in Skid Row for 6 months. The little girl's mother was scheduled to be released from county jail later in the evening. The little girl hasn't been to school this year. After getting her some water and snacks, I made a call and was able to get them into URM. I took them there, sat with them and made sure they were taken care of. I checked in this morning and was told the father took his daughter and left URM yesterday evening. That means she was out in the hard rain. I'm so saddened by this. I drove around this morning to see if I could find them, with no success. I'm sure they'll surface at some point. No child should have to live on the streets, let alone in Skid Row.

How many other children are inside encampments/tents in Skid Row, or throughout the county? Dept. of Children & Family Services need to come to Skid Row. There's this idea that there's no unsheltered children living down here, but obviously that's not true. This father has been able to hide his daughter for 6 months. Who or what else is hiding inside some of the encampments?

Of course [Chat](#) child, and prevent that child from going into the system. My question is at what cost? Living on the streets of Skid Row is no place for a child and cannot be this parent's permanent solution.

I do feel very bad for the father, he's a young 24-year old with an 8-year old daughter. In addition, the father's blood uncle is living in the encampment next to his. Three generations living on the streets of Skid Row. I asked the father about his parents and he said that his parents were never in his life, sigh.

Good Lord! what has to happen in Skid Row for this emergency to be treated as such? Gotta get this little girl off the streets. So sad and unacceptable.



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133 people like this.

















13 shares

52 comments

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50 of 52

-  **Dean Martin** I wish I had the answer or at least one that wouldn't get slandered..you did what most wouldn't do, you actually tried so don't beat yourself up..a lot of these people need help, actual therapy..that's one start..
Like · 3 · September 15 at 2:10pm · Edited
-  **MaryBeth Heydt** Bless you for reaching out to help.
Like · 1 · September 15 at 2:11pm
-  **Manny Velazquez** Our nation's system is broken and not too many people are interested in figuring out a solution to fix it. You did as much as you could.
Like · 3 · September 15 at 2:12pm
-  **Angel Ochoa Jr.** God Bless You Lady! The World needs more people like you! #Amen
Like · 2 · September 15 at 2:13pm
-  **Yolanda Fregoso Ortiz** There are hundreds of homeless children. Many live out of cars and still go to school but they hide their situation very well. Many have parents that work but it's not enough to sustain them. Very sad.
Like · September 15 at 2:22pm
-  **Arianna Reel** Ugh heartbreaking! We just recently found a friend who's been missing. She's living off the side of the 10 for 6 months and when we found her we offered to take her in, brought her clothes and found a way to get her back home and she refused. It's so hard to understand the thought process.
Like · 1 · September 15 at 2:22pm
-  **Antonette DeVito** On another note, Raquel, haveyou thought of contacting LA Times columnist Steve Lopez? He is a big advocate for the homeless.
Like · 5 · September 15 at 2:35pm
- 2 Replies
-  **Susanna Schick** Yep. This is why School on Wheels is so valuable. A lot of the kids living at URM go there after school and get help with their homework, and a safe place to be every afternoon. That's really unfortunate that they couldn't stay there.
Like · 2 · September 15 at 2:39pm
- 1 Reply
-  **Anastasia Palmer Johnson** Awful
Like · September 15 at 2:42pm
-  **Alisa Rivera** There are a lot of homeless kids at 9th Street Elementary and they always need volunteers at the school. If you're interested in helping out, contact Kye Kim, a teacher at the school.
Like · 4 · September 15 at 2:43pm
-  **Rita Govea** Bless you for trying..hugs. hope there safe.
Like · 1 · September 15 at 2:48pm

-  **Dawn Cody** I've heard one of the problems is the SRO housing is for individuals not families and more low income housing for families is desperately needed. Of course all low income housing is desperately needed at this point. There just isn't enough to go around.
Like · 3 · September 15 at 2:52pm
-  **Don Petrosky Garza** According to gloria molina she instituted an outreach team fur v the children of skid row. . To keep the babies and children off of skid row. She seems to have been lying.
Like · 1 · September 15 at 3:04pm
-  **Raquel Beard** Agreed Dawn, housing is desperately needed! The problem with yesterday was the father didn't want to stay inside the shelter, and that's a huge problem. SRO cannot house everyone and SRO isn't the only service provider in Skid Row or LA County. There a... [See More](#)
Like · 6 · September 15 at 3:05pm
-  **Marc Rigaud** The wages of class warfare. Some idiot in Beverly Hills has a 10,000 sq foot house to himself and four people live in a 25 sq foot tent.
Like · 3 · September 15 at 3:06pm
-  **Mandy Poppen** Thank you for posting and for your actions. I shared your post with my brother who does a lot for underprivileged/at-risk kids. School on Wheels sounds like a great organization.
Like · 3 · September 15 at 3:12pm
-  **Alisa Rivera** I wonder why dad chose to leave the shelter. Did he have an outstanding warrant? Is he not the custodial parent? Is there mental illness/addiction in play?
Like · 2 · September 15 at 3:17pm
-  **Raquel Beard** I don't really know, could be all or none. Mental illness and addiction are prevalent in Skid Row. I'm not sure in his case.
Like · 5 · September 15 at 3:23pm
- [4 Replies](#)
-  **Scot Ezzell** Refusing services is a huge problem. I've lived downtown for years and I see and hear it often. People want money from me but they don't want to use the nearby services for whatever reason. I hear "I don't want a sermon with my meal." I've heard pe... [See More](#)
Like · 11 · September 15 at 3:25pm
- [2 Replies](#)
-  **Shawn Riley** I offer to buy pan handlers coffee and food when I pass them in DTLA, but they all invariably decline and tell me to give them money.
Like · 3 · September 15 at 3:34pm
-  **Giovanna Rebagliati** I know the county has a program to get immediate assistance to families with underage children. They can call 211 and get hotel vouchers. I don't know for how long but at least it'll be something.
Like · 2 · September 15 at 3:41pm
- [1 Reply](#)
-  **Raquel Beard** I recommended 211. He had an answer for everything I threw at him of why something wouldn't work. Hopefully the mother was released from jail yesterday and is pursuing housing, vouchers, etc.
Like · 2 · September 15 at 3:46pm
-  **Debra Tonemah** LAPD Headquarters
Like · 1 · September 15 at 3:49pm
-  **Betsy Starman** 211 doesn't give hotel vouchers do they? I've worked with them several times to get people into temporary shelter but they never referred to those. I thought only the Social Services Dept. where peeps get food stamps and GR gave out hotel vouchers.
Like · September 15 at 3:49pm
-  **Arianna Reel** They have to go through an evaluation survey and see where they rank in the district. They could easily get a voucher or temporary housing with a minor involved but first they have to do the survey AND I'm sure CPS will step in right away, which is probably why they are refusing services
Like · 3 · September 15 at 3:52pm
- [1 Reply](#)
-  **Betsy Starman** ^^ Unfortunately, that makes sense. Thanks.
Like · September 15 at 3:53pm
-  **Raquel Beard** Breaking News! I just got word that LAPD Central Station officers were able to locate the father and daughter and she's now in the custody of the Dept. of Children & Family Services. Thank you LAPD!!!! The little girl is no longer on the streets. Whoo hoo!!! But still a very sad story.
Like · 17 · September 15 at 3:54pm

8 Replies



Don Petrosky Garza That is the biggest obstacle.. fear of child protective services m

Like · September 15 at 3:55pm



Betsy Starman LAPD does way more social work and mental health work than those who actually get paid for it. Great ending to a sad story, hoping for reuniting all involved! #sticktogetherDTLA

Like · 5 · September 15 at 3:57pm

1 Reply



Raquel Beard Yes they do Betsy. Their work is far beyond police work.

Like · 3 · September 15 at 3:58pm



Betsy Starman You're right Eric. When I've done outreach with the mental health workers, if a person says 'no, I don't need help' that's the end of the conversation. The law doesn't allow them to force anyone to get help . . . even when it's blatantly apparent the person is in the middle of a psychotic break.

Like · 1 · September 15 at 4:34pm



Sara Levy LAFH.org has family shelters where entire family can stay together , there is one in Boyle Heights on Breed Street and there is one in the valley



L.A. Family Housing

It was a very stressful time, and we were always worried about where we would sleep each night. Our family...

LAFH.ORG

Like · 3 · September 15 at 4:41pm



Betsy Starman I'm loving this thread!! Thanks Raquel for helping folks engage in caring and sharing resources. As it should be!

Like · 4 · September 15 at 4:42pm



Kenneth Yoon Only hindsight will determine if it what was done ends up good or bad. Unfortunately there is no way to tell beforehand

Like · 1 · September 15 at 4:51pm · Edited



Sara Levy

Like · September 15 at 4:58pm



Tomika Bruen Oh my gosh!!! This makes me SOOO sad! That is no place for such a young soul (any soul, for that matter). My heart hurts!!!

Like · 1 · September 15 at 5:05pm



Chris Sanchez I'd like to know where more of these kids are, I've been trying to do a photo project that includes homeless children to bring awareness, as well as many adults stories in Skid Row.

Like · 4 · September 15 at 5:11pm

44 Replies



Jessica Ceballos

Like · September 15 at 5:13pm



Sandy Rckstar Ku Thank you.

Like · September 15 at 6:10pm



Gina Acuña The sad thing is, that this little girl has no choice in the matter. Thank you for trying. I believe that the addiction to a life on the street can be just as powerful as an addiction to drugs.

Like · 1 · September 15 at 6:30pm



Don Petrosky Garza Chris Sanchez the Best way to do a story is to just go to skid row v and hang . The one thing I miss about skid row is the fact that it is a family . Just get to know folks. Many folks are there willing to get their15 minutes of fame.

Like · September 15 at 10:24pm · Edited



Victoria Black This completely breaks my heart. My daughter will be 8 next month, and to think that she could live in that environment makes me sick to my stomach. If her dad and myself became suddenly homeless, we would absolutely put her best interest first, even i... See More

Like · 4 · September 15 at 8:32pm

26 Replies



Danielle Marie I work for Dept. of children and Family Services. We cannot take children due to them being homeless. Being homeless is not a crime and

some parents are able to still provide the basic necessities for their children while being homeless. The guy you speak of though, if he is not taking his daughter to school, now it becomes an issue that DCFS has to address. Thank you for attempting to help them

Like · 13 · September 15 at 8:41pm



Katherine McNenny Thanks [Danielle Marie](#).

Like · September 15 at 8:42pm



Anna Vu

Like · September 15 at 9:15pm



Monica J. Corona Heartbreaking .

Like · September 15 at 10:09pm



Luiza Padilla- Mavropoulos Now that YOU GOT THE KID IN THE SYSTEM. I pray you step up and see the process through be her guardian angel by offering to foster her.

Like · 3 · September 16 at 12:52pm

[2 Replies](#)



Andrew Meisner I feel like you didn't read any of this thread.

Like · 1 · September 16 at 1:23pm



Danielle Marie She is in no way responsible for this child. She did everything in her power and more to help. If everyone who called Dcfs was required to take responsibility for the child, no one would call. This may be an eye opening experience for her father to do what he needs to do in order to gain his custody back and start getting his life in order.

Like · 4 · September 16 at 1:29pm



Luiza Padilla- Mavropoulos Again I POST NONE OF YOU WHERE EVER IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM WHERE YOU? ANSWER THE QUESTION!

Like · September 16 at 1:53pm

[8 Replies](#)