

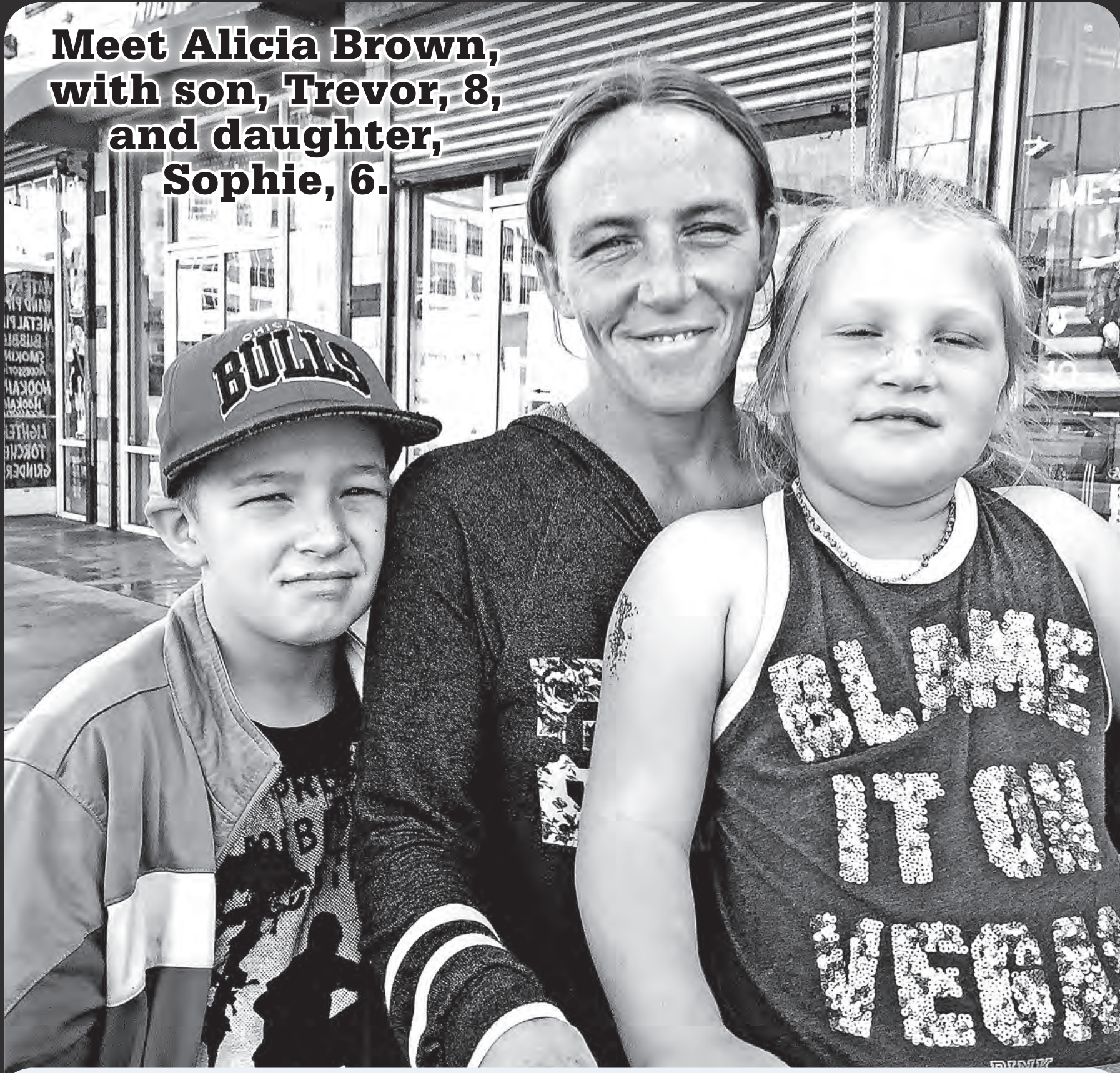
{ *Who are the people you see every day?* }**No. 78**
in a series.

People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.

Sponsored by:
Terry Yeager and Associates

**Meet Alicia Brown,
with son, Trevor, 8,
and daughter,
Sophie, 6.**

**AGE:** "I'm 33."**BIRTHPLACE:** "Alma, Mich."**MARITAL STATUS:**

"I'm married. My husband, James, just took off on his skateboard to look for cans, to earn some money for food."

FAMILY: "I have two sisters."**EDUCATION:** "Up to high school."**MILITARY SERVICE:** "No."**RELIGION:** "I'm not really religious, but I do believe in God."**SPORTS:** "Volleyball. No trophies ... I played sports for fun."

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "On the street with my kids and husband. We don't go to the mission because of the stories of pedophiles," she says. "We take our chances on the street."

WHEN MOVED TO LA: "About a year ago."**YOUR STORY:**

"My husband, James, is the breadwinner of the family. We came out to California because James had an offer to work construction in Santa Clarita. Our car blew a head gasket on the way, stranding us in Las Vegas. Then I got heatstroke

and had to go to the hospital. By the time we finally made it to Santa Clarita, we were five days late, and they had given the job to someone else. Before we knew it we were on the streets, something we never in a million years thought would happen. When we save enough money we will stay in a hotel, but for that we usually need about \$70; that's a lot of money when you are living day to day. We have been trying to save enough money to buy a bus ticket back to Alma. The streets of Los Angeles can be very dangerous and mean; we really need to get out of here."

FAVORITE MOVIE: "Pretty Woman."**FAVORITE TV SHOW:**

"Glee." Trevor and Sophie: "SpongeBob."

FAVORITE ACTOR: "Vin Diesel." They all agreed that Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson was their other favorite.

FAVORITE FOOD: "Steak." Trevor and Sophie exclaimed that steak was their favorite, too.

FAVORITE CANDY:

"I don't really eat candy, but Sophie likes Sour Patch candies." Trevor added that he likes Kit Kats, and Sophie added that she likes Hershey chocolate bars.

FAVORITE MUSIC: "Country." Sophie likes country, too.**LAST JOB:** "I was a custodian for a spell."**LAST THING EATEN:**

"We haven't eaten since last night. We had hot dogs."

MOST PRIZED POSSESSION: "My kids."**IF GIVEN \$1 MILLION:**

"I'd get back to Alma, and I'd buy a house."

MAKE A WISH:

"Go to Japan, buy a mansion, and be a hip-hop dancer" (Trevor). "Be rich, live in Topanga Canyon, and be a singer" (Sophie).

ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE:

"Stay positive."

*The Club gave the Browns supplies,
\$40 and bus tickets home to Alma.*

*The interview, conducted by John Hawkins
and Peyton Basenberg, took place Oct. 23
in Little Tokyo.*

{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins, and Director of Sales Angel Gomez, introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }

Club Angels



The Brown Family

First-time 'People We See' interviewer Peyton Basenberg tells of his experience in talking with the family he met on the streets of downtown.

By Peyton Basenberg

For a year now the Brown family has been living on the street, moving around the Los Angeles area, in places such as Hollywood, North Hollywood and just recently downtown. Getting around mostly by walking and occasionally the bus, this young family has made its way around getting money in simple ways, including can collecting. The husband, James Brown, does most of the can collecting, while Alicia, 33, takes care of their daughter, Sophie, 6, and son, Trevor, 8. They are all from Alma, Mich., and James and Alicia have been married for eight years.

They still have a house and lives in Alma to get back to. A year ago, James, Alicia's husband, had a construction job lined up in Santa Clarita. It was then that the family got into their car and began their journey. As they made their way to Las Vegas, the family's car's head gasket blew, putting their trip to a screeching halt. It was hot, very hot. To make things worse, Alicia ended up getting heat stroke and needed immediate medical care. Eventually they made it to Santa Clarita for James' job, but it was five days too late; the company had given the job to someone else. Since getting to the job used all of the family's resources, and without a car, the family was stranded. They spent most of their time in Hollywood since it was cleaner and not as bad to live on the street there than it is in downtown LA. When asked if she could wish for anything, she said, "My kids and family are the most important things right now, and I just want to get us all back home to Alma." The only problem is that for a family of four it would cost \$900 one way using Greyhound. Trying to save that kind of



Peyton Basenberg interviews the Browns in Little Tokyo, Downtown.

money while living on the street is extremely difficult, especially since it is tough just trying to get through a single day. They have a tent and some shelter of their own that they spend the night in to keep them a little safer and out of the elements during the night. Ironically Alicia and James choose to sleep on the streets as opposed to shelters, as they say that they heard that there is a big child safety problem inside of homeless shelters. When they can they stay in a hotel, a seedy one albeit, but only when they can save up enough money - the average one-night stay is around \$70.

We talked to the family and tried to get to know more about them as well. The kids' favorite food to eat is steak, and, as for her sweet tooth, Sophie likes chocolate bars and Trevor likes Sour Patch Kids and Kit Kat bars. Alicia loves country music, the movie "Pretty Woman" and the TV Show Glee, along with Julia Roberts and Vin Diesel. Trevor and Sophie like SpongeBob and their favorite actor is the "Rock," Dwayne Johnson.

The Browns are really doing a great job with staying positive and keeping their heads up. Being together as a family and having the hope of getting out of this rut really keeps them going. We asked Alicia what's her advice for everyday people, and she said, "Just stay positive about everything."

Club Angels pulled its resources together and bought them all a ticket back to Alma. They were due to head home the day after this interview, Oct. 24. If you would like to help Club Angels cover the cost for this and our monthly homeless donations, please contact us.

Please...

Help the Browns Go Home



Club Angels helped the Brown family get off the streets of LA and back home to Michigan. Will you help defray the costs?

On these pages, you've seen and read about the Brown family - James, Alicia, Trevor and Sophie. You're read about the tough luck they ran into, the health problems they faced, and what it's like to have no one else to help and be forced to live on the streets.

The Club Angels nonprofit found the Brown family, all four, living in tents on a downtown sidewalk. All that Mom Alicia Brown wanted was to go back home to Michigan, and start their lives again. Due to your past generosity, Club Angels was able to purchase four bus tickets for the family to go home.

Will you help defray the costs with a contribution to Club Angels?

Being at home for Christmas means a great deal to all of us, but to the Browns most of all. Help Club Angels replenish its funds for the next person or family in crisis.

Give to Club Angels today.

Please use the form below to send in your check or charge your credit card.

Club Angels is the Club's umbrella organization that supports the Club's charitable outreach and includes the Buckets and Blankets program and other initiatives.



How to Help Yes! I want to help the Browns go home.



Send this completed for to:
Club Angels
311 S. Spring St., Suite 1300
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Enclosed is my check (made out to Club Angels) for \$ _____.
Club Angels accepts checks of any amount.

Please bill my credit card in the amount of \$ _____.



Name on Card

Card Number

Expiration - CV# Last 3 digits on back of card

Signature

Please provide the following information so we can send you a receipt:

Name

Home Street Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Work Phone

Club Member Number (if you are a member):

Club Angels is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization. Contributions to Club Angeles are tax-deductible as defined by the U.S. tax code. Consult your tax professional.

Your donations will be acknowledged with official letters of receipt.