

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

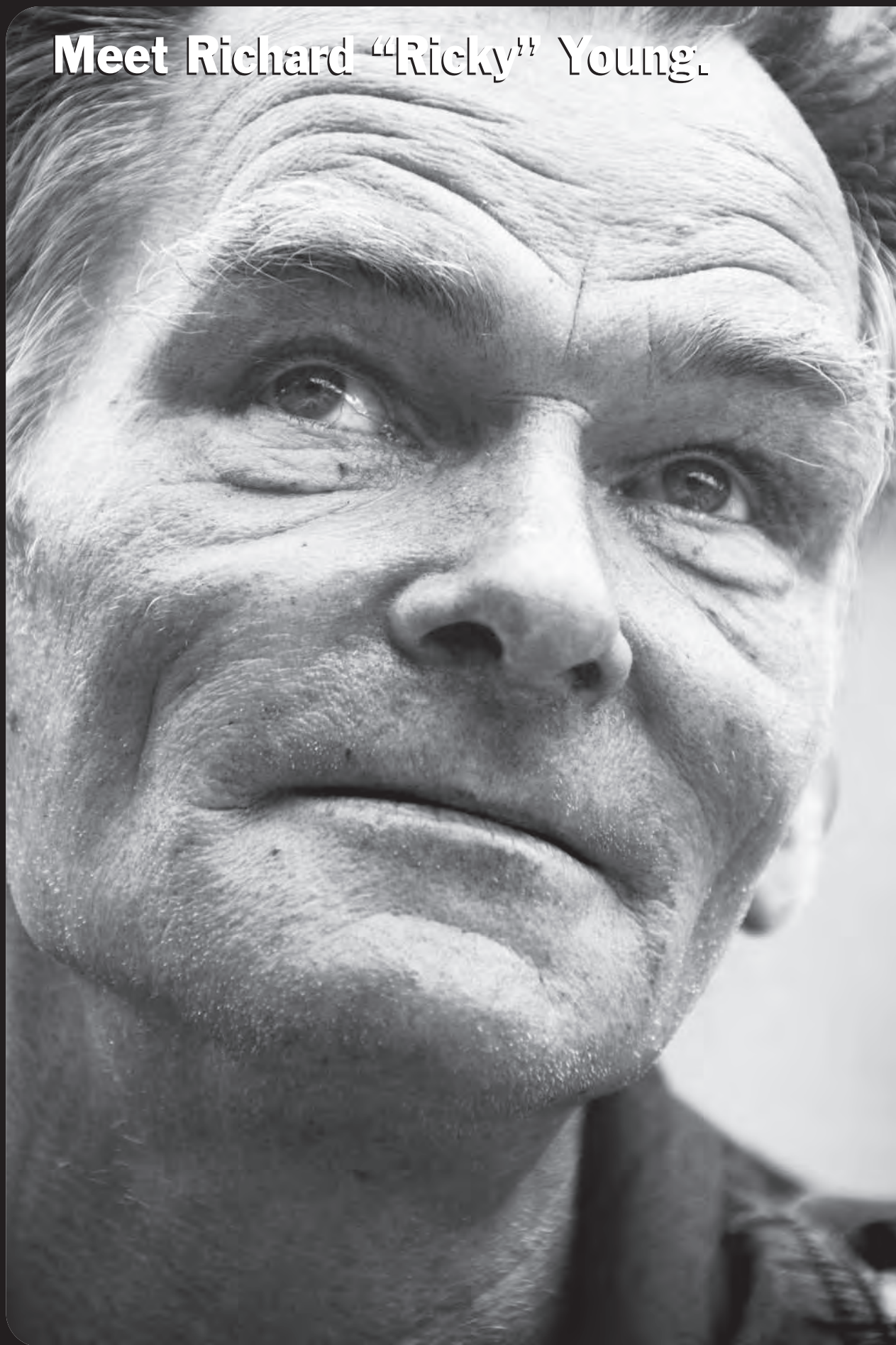
No. 29 in a series.

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.



Meet Richard "Ricky" Young.



AGE: "I'm 50."

BIRTHPLACE: "Flint, Mich."

MARITAL STATUS: "Divorced."

FAMILY: "I have 13 brothers and sisters."

WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES?

"Two months ago; I've lived in San Bernardino, New York, Chicago, Oklahoma and Tennessee, just to name a few places. I was also in jail for 15 years for breaking and entering; I got out in 2006. I was at the State Pen in Jackson, Mich. I've been on the streets since I was 10 years old. I've had a hard life."

EDUCATION: "I dropped out of school in the fourth grade. Well, actually, I was expelled for hitting the principal with a phone. From there I went into foster care and avoided school at all costs."

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "My childhood memories were not happy ones. Our house had no windows and we had no money."

RELIGION: "Nope."

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS? Not really. I kind of like to stick to myself."

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "Here, downtown at City Hall."

WHAT WAS THE LAST JOB YOU HAD? "I was a carnny [carnival worker] in Texas."

FAVORITE SPORT: "I like all sports."

FAVORITE FOOD: "I like everything. I'm not too picky."

FAVORITE MOVIE: "I like movies with Chuck Norris in them."

FAVORITE ACTOR: "Chuck Norris."

FAVORITE ACTRESS: "Raquel Welch."

FAVORITE MUSIC: "Country – I like Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard. I used to play the guitar, a six-string electric guitar."

FAVORITE CANDY: "Hershey bars."

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Walker, Texas Ranger."

LAST BOOK READ: "A Western. I think it was a Louis L'Amour book."

ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Keep your head up, and don't give up hope."

IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE? "I'd like to get back working with the carnivals. I was a carnny for awhile, setting up carnival rides in Oklahoma."

IF YOU HAD \$1 MILLION, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT? "I'd like to get an education."

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE IRAQ WAR?

"We have no business over there."

IF YOU WERE THE MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO HELP THE HOMELESS?

"Get more places for us to sleep."

LAST THING EATEN: "I had meatballs and rice over at the Catholic Church."

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS?

"Working the carnivals in California."

The Club gave Ricky \$20, a bat, water bottles and candy in a Club bag, plus a smile or two.

The interview took place June 23 on the City Hall lawn downtown.

Photos by John Hawkins, Club CEO



{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins and Director of Member Services 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.