

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

No. 36 in a series.



People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.

Meet Ruben Murillo.



AGE: "I'm 51."

BIRTHPLACE: "I was born in Belen, New Mexico."

MARITAL STATUS: "Single."

FAMILY: "I have one brother and one sister. My brother was killed, and I'm not sure if my little sister is still alive."

MILITARY SERVICE: "No."

WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES? "Twenty-five years ago. I broke up with my girlfriend, and my life went downhill from there."

EDUCATION: "I made it all the way to my senior year at Western New Mexico University. I was going to get a degree in business administration."

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "I was really close to my grandfather. I remember going hunting with him in the snow in New Mexico."

AWARDS OR MEDALS: "I had some awards from boxing."

RELIGION: "I was born a Catholic."

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS? "I have lots of friends. Steve Blackwell, for one."

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "All over the place, under bridges on the sidewalk."

WHAT WAS THE LAST JOB YOU HAD? "I was working in the mines in New Mexico. I was working 12 hours a day. But then I got hit by a truck, lost my girlfriend and was too injured to work. That was 25 years ago."

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY: "I really like Montebello. It's a nice town."

FAVORITE SPORT: "I really like boxing."

FAVORITE ACTOR: "Vincent Price and Peter Sellers."

FAVORITE ACTRESS: "Jane Fonda."

FAVORITE MOVIE: "Man of a Thousand Faces."

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Get Smart."

FAVORITE CANDY: "Spree."

FAVORITE FOOD: "I love Mexican food: burritos, tacos, tamales, enchiladas."

FAVORITE MUSIC: "I like Spanish flamenco – classical Spanish guitar."

WHAT'S THE LAST BOOK YOU READ? "I don't remember the title, but it was by Mark Twain."

ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Stay healthy, and keep an open mind."

LAST THING EATEN: "I had some barbecued ribs from the Smokehouse."

WHO OR WHAT ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST HELP TO YOU? "LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) Council."

IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE? "I wish I could have my mother back. She died 10 years ago."

IF YOU HAD \$1 MILLION, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT? "I'd buy property and a home and would help needy children."

IF YOU WERE THE MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO HELP THE HOMELESS? "Provide more shelter and living spaces for the homeless, and the General Relief needs to go up from only \$221 a month."

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS? "Hopefully in my own apartment or condo and healthy. Right now I have a blood clot in my right lung. I have a bleeding ulcer and a brain tumor in my left lobe. My dad used to beat me when I was a kid, causing many of my medical problems."

The Club gave Ruben shaving cream, a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, two pairs of socks, shampoo, hand wipes, some food, \$20 and some bottled water.

The interview took place Feb. 18 downtown and was conducted by Club staffer John Hawkins.

Photos by Angel Gomez

How to Help

You can make a difference.

Donate items to "People We See," and the Club will deliver them to an upcoming subject. Great items include socks, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, toilet paper, hand wipes, shaving cream and razors. Just drop them off at the Club Store (120 W. 2nd Street, downtown Los Angeles), and we'll take it from there.

We want to thank Lorena De La Torre for providing socks.



{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins, Director of Member Services Angel Gomez and New Project Coordinator Noelle Kauffman, 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. }