

No. 39 in a series.



{ Who are the people you see every day? }

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.

Checking Up
With Thomas
- First visit: Aug. 2010 -

Meet Thomas Mozzone.



AGE: "I'm 55."

BIRTHPLACE: "Prince Georges County, Md."

MARITAL STATUS: "I was married for about 10 years in the '80s, but that fell through."

FAMILY: "None that I know of. I was orphaned when I was pretty young. From what I understand, my dad went to prison and my mom gave me and whatever kids there may have been up for adoption. I was sent to the St. Joseph's Catholic Orphanage in downtown Atlanta. I pretty much grew up on the streets of Atlanta. By the time I was 18, I cleaned up my act and went to college."

WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES? "I came to L.A. ten years ago after spending a year in Key Largo, Fla. I was part owner of a restaurant there but was swindled out of my investment. When I arrived in L.A., I had nothing and struggled to find a job."

EDUCATION: "I received a B.A. in information systems from Georgia State University. I was a computer geek."

STRONGEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "I remember the day JFK was assassinated. I remember running down the street, saying, 'The Government got killed, and then I looked in the sky and saw God. It was weird.'"

RELIGION: "I'm very religious... I believe in God and am a Christian."

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS? "I have tons of friends."

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "In a tent behind the new police parking structure."

WHAT WAS THE LAST JOB YOU HAD? "I was the doorman for a ritzy clothing store called Comme de Garcon down on Fourth Street. I was making \$8 an hour."

FAVORITE SPORT: "Baseball."

FAVORITE MOVIE: "2001: A Space Odyssey, Easy Rider and Cool Hand Luke."

FAVORITE ACTRESS: "Julia Roberts."

FAVORITE MUSIC: "Stevie Ray Vaughn."

FAVORITE CANDY: "I don't eat candy, but if I did it would be a Snickers bar."

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "I love *The Twilight Zone*."

WHAT'S THE LAST BOOK YOU READ? "*Master of the Game* by Sidney Sheldon."

ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Keep positive, don't dwell on the past."

IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"A comfortable place to live."

IF YOU HAD \$1 MILLION, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT? "I'd give a lot of it away to people who have helped me out while down here on the streets."

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE IRAQ WAR? "I think there are ulterior motives."

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY: "I love the view you get from the Downtown YMCA."

IF YOU WERE THE MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO HELP THE HOMELESS? "Renovate some of these old buildings to provide shelter for the homeless."

LAST THING EATEN: "Cup o' Noodles about two days ago."

WHO OR WHAT ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST HELP TO YOU?

The LA Burrito Project. Once a week they come down on their bikes and deliver burritos to the homeless. [To find out more about the Burrito project go to: www.myspace.com/burritoproject/videos In the first video, Thomas Mozzone is briefly interviewed. Check it out and leave a note that you discovered them through *Alive!* It's an awesome program that is making a difference with very little resources.]

ARE YOU ON ANY MEDICATION?

No, I don't even like taking aspirin.

MILITARY: "I was in the Army for a short time. I jumped out of a plane in Ranger training. Then, the war ended and they sent me home."

MOST PRIZED POSSESSION: "It was my bicycle until someone stole it right out of my hands last week."

WHAT DO YOU CARRY AROUND WITH YOU? "Electrical tape, a pen, pepper spray, and random jewelry."



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

The interview took place July 21 at Third and Main Streets downtown

Photos by Angel Gomez, Member Services Director

Help Thomas With a Bike

Thomas's bike was stolen from him. Can you help by donating a new or used bike, or even some bike parts?

Thomas says he can put a bike together from parts. Contact John Hawkins, CEO of the Club, who will take it from there: jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com. You will be doing a very good thing.



Thomas and his bike in August 2010.



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.