

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

People We See

No. 51 in a series.



in downtown Los Angeles.



Meet Brian M. Dobias

Photos by Angel Gomez and John Hawkins

AGE: "I'm 30."
BIRTHPLACE: "Chicago."
MARITAL STATUS: "Single."
FAMILY: "I have one sister. She's two years younger."
WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "Usually under the bridge of Grand at Second."
PARENTS MARRIED OR DIVORCED? "They are still together and happily married."
MILITARY SERVICE: "No."
WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES? "About three years ago. I was working in construction when the recession hit; the word was LA was the place for work. But unfortunately it wasn't, and I wound up on the street."
EDUCATION: "I graduated from Homestead High School in Ft. Wayne, Ind. I then received a scholarship to Ball State University in Muncie when I was 17. After one horrible semester I was asked to not come back."
PLAYED SPORTS IN HIGH SCHOOL? "No, but I was in the marching band, playing the snare drum."
RELIGION: "Not religious. Agnostic."
FAVORITE ACTOR: "Robert Downey Jr."
FAVORITE MOVIE: "Pulp Fiction."
FAVORITE CANDY: "Reese's Pieces."
FAVORITE FOOD: "Right now it's the tuna you gave me, but normally I like Thai food."
FAVORITE MUSIC: "The Grateful Dead, amongst other bands."
LAST BOOK READ: "I'm reading Brave New World right now."
ITEMS ALWAYS WITH YOU: "I always take my man purse with me. It has my books, clothes and magazines."
HIS STORY: "I come from a great, loving upper-middle-class family. My parents are still happily married. I had an excellent upbringing and went to the best public schools wherever I lived; my parents made

sure of that. I played piano for 10 years; I was so good I was able to make money by winning competitions when I was younger.
 "When I was in high school we moved from Chicago to Indiana. I found the school in Indiana to be extremely easy. I didn't have to work very hard to get good grades. But I was bored. In high school I started smoking pot and drinking and experimented with acid, but I still got good grades. My first year of college my GPA was 0.0. I just didn't try. I was bored and started getting into trouble by trying to find money to support my habit, mainly petty theft. Things went downhill from there.
 "If I had to pinpoint what went wrong I'd say it was moving from Chicago, where I was challenged, to Indiana, where I wasn't. The new friends I had were also using drugs... it was a perfect storm for drug use. Right now I'm really hoping to kick the heroin addiction, but it's not easy. My parents know where I'm at, and they are, needless to say, heartbroken. I am considering methadone but don't want to go from one fire to another. Wish me luck and thanks for the blanket, supplies and the tuna. I was starving."
MOST HELPFUL ORGANIZATION:
 "SHARE, at 425 S. Broadway, has been a big help; they help with self-recovery."
WHERE WILL YOU BE IN FIVE YEARS?:
 "Optimistically I would like to be off dope and doing IT-type stuff. Pessimistically, I will either still be here or in prison."
ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE:
 "Don't get bored. Do things you like, and stay busy. Oh, and take college seriously."
MAKE A WISH: "To be content without drugs, to have true happiness without needing heroin."

*The Club gave Terry a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, two pairs of socks, shampoo, band wipes, some food, \$20 and bottled water.
 The interview took place July 19 at Hill and Fourth Streets downtown.*

Buckets and Blankets!

Join us as we help those who live on the streets with Buckets and Blankets. Donate to the cause as the Club distributes food, toiletries and blankets to those in need (blankets cost \$7 each). Buckets and Blankets is produced in cooperation with the Club Angels program and Creative Solutions - Fred Fowlks and Sue Manzo, LAFD.

Contact John Hawkins or Angel Gomez, and we'll take it from there:
jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com or agomez@cityemployeesclub.com

In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins, 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.

LAPD

BLENDing for Charity

Police Dept.'s Northeast Area hosts BLEND charity golf tournament.



Manager; Photos by Angel Gomez, Club Sales Director

A golf tournament was held April 27 to raise funds for the LAPD Northeast Area's outreach to area youths.

The tournament, the fourth annual, was held at the Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry.

Sponsoring organization was BLEND (Business for Law Enforcement Northeast Div. and Residents). The organization generates financial support for the LAPD's Northeast Area's supervised youth development programs and for the purchase of tangible items that directly improve the effectiveness of the police force.

Proceeds from this tournament will benefit and help finance youth programs and the Northeast Pals boxing program. BLEND also provides support for a variety of needs at the Northeast Area Community Policing Station.

The Club donated to the event, and the Club's very own Sports Dude, Robert Larios, was honored to tee off with Chuck Foote, esteemed founder of the Baker to Vegas annual footrace challenge cup.

Special thanks to Officer Fernando Ochoa for his assistance.



Some of the Northeast Pals boxing participants.

