

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

No. 55 in a series.



People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.



Meet Kenneth Reed.

AGE: "I'm 49."
BIRTHPLACE: "Palmdale."
MARITAL STATUS: "Single."
FAMILY: "I have seven brothers and seven sisters."
PARENTS MARRIED OR DIVORCED? "Married."
MILITARY SERVICE: "No."
WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "Sometimes I spend the night in the mission, but usually it's on the sidewalk. However, it's pretty dangerous. I got robbed last night. They took everything from me while I was sleeping. There's also just too much drugs out on the streets. I'm constantly being asked if I have drugs or if I want to buy them."
WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES? "Aug. 31, 2012."
WHY DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES? "I was living in a board and care group home in Palmdale when a new lady took charge. She started changing things around, and I didn't like it. I was there for 13 years but just didn't like the way things were going. Before that I was living with my aunt until she passed away. I need board and care because I have epilepsy and prostate cancer."
EDUCATION: "I finished high school in Georgia. In fact, I actually lived in Georgia, from age 8 to 24, before coming back to Los Angeles."
PLAYED SPORTS IN HIGH SCHOOL? "Absolutely. I played football and basketball."
RELIGION: "Nope."
MEDICATIONS: "Just for my epilepsy and cancer."
FAVORITE MOVIE: "Smokey and the Bandit."
FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Columbo and McCloud. Oh, and Good Times and Maude."
FAVORITE ACTOR: "Dennis Weaver and the guy who played Columbo, Peter Falk."
FAVORITE ACTRESS: "Cher. I loved Cher and Sonny Bono."

FAVORITE CANDY: "I love butterscotch candies."
FAVORITE FOOD: "Meatloaf and spaghetti."
FAVORITE MUSIC: "Country."
FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY: "I like it around here."
LAST BOOK READ: "Gone With the Wind."
LAST JOB: "A long time ago I worked at White's Super Saver grocery store. But my parents took the money I earned. I worked there for five years. I also used to work for the LA Times putting newspapers together. But that's where I had my first seizure and things didn't go so well after that."
FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "I remember riding around the grass with my brother on one of those riding lawn mowers. Most of my childhood was not fun; my blood father was very, very abusive. I started drinking alcohol at age 11, but then quit at 14. My family drank a lot, so it was very accessible."
LAST THING EATEN: "I had breakfast at the mission – oatmeal, bread, water and oranges."
WHO ARE YOUR FRIENDS? "I have just one."
MOST HELPFUL ORGANIZATION: "County USC [hospital]. They helped me with my prostate cancer."
WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH \$1 MILLION: "Put it in the bank... and let it grow interest."
MAKE A WISH: "I would like to have not come down to LA. I should have stayed in Palmdale."
ITEM ALWAYS WITH YOU: "My cell phone."
MOST PRIZED POSSESSION: "My cell phone."
ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Look out for each other."

The Club gave Kenneth a Bucket and a Blanket (see below), a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, two pairs of socks, shampoo, hand wipes, some food, \$20 and bottled water.

The interview took place Nov. 13 at Third and Spring Streets downtown.

Photos by Angel Gomez and John Hawkins.

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:

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CREATIVE SOLUTIONS



{ 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. }