

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.

Sponsored by:
Terry Yeager and Associates

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in a series.



Meet Tarrance Austin.



AGE: "I'm 53."

BIRTHPLACE: "Detroit."

WHEN MOVED TO LA:

"I left Detroit when I was 37 and spent two years in Florida after that. I went to Florida on the recommendation of a couple of friends. I lived in West Palm Beach. Then it was off to Hollywood, Calif., to be a movie star. I'm still trying to make it big, I haven't given up on my dream."

FAMILY:

"I have three brothers and one sister. I am the oldest. I also have two kids, a son and a daughter, who are now in their 20s."

EDUCATION:

"I graduated from high school and then went off to college. While in high school I was in the marching band, playing the trumpet. I was also a singer. I played basketball, football and baseball. Baseball was my favorite. I then went to Wayne State University and got a Bachelor's degree in criminology."

HOW LONG ON THE STREET:

"Two years now, maybe a little less. It all started when I lost my job at Universal; I was a culinary specialist there. I don't drink or smoke or take drugs. But it was just circumstance and peer pressure that landed me here."

MOST HELPFUL:

"The mission are pretty helpful, but it's definitely not a solution for the homeless. There are too many rules and time constraints; it's simply easier to live on the street sometimes."

IF YOU WERE MAYOR:

"I would simply build shelters. The most humane goal should be to shelter the homeless. It is really kind of ridiculous that we don't have shelters for us."

ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE:

"Don't take peer pressure seriously; your friends can be your worst enemy. Don't hang out with bad elements, and especially keep an eye on who your kids are hanging out with."

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

The interview, conducted by John Hawkins, took place Dec. 14 at Third and Los Angeles Streets downtown.

Tarrance Austin (left) and Club CEO John Hawkins.

{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins, and Director of Sales 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. }