

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

# People We See

*Shelterless in Los Angeles.*

**No. 85**  
in a series.



## Meet Robert Otto.



Robert (Left) and Club CEO John Hawkins.

**AGE:** "I'm 59."

**BIRTHPLACE:** "Antigua, the Caribbean."

**FAMILY:**

"I have two brothers and two sisters."

**MARRIED?**

"Married, but we separated a long time ago. She lives in Miami."

**RELIGION:**

"I believe in God, but no, I am not religious."

**MEDICATIONS:**

"Yes, for my diabetes, and I am very religious about it. I do not drink or take any drugs, which is why I still have my own legs. My sister just had to have her legs amputated, and I want to keep mine."

**WHERE DO YOU LIVE:**

"On the streets."

**HIS STORY:**

"When I was 28 I left Antigua and moved to St. Thomas to be with my parents. They had moved there earlier, but I was too old to automatically go, so I had to wait until I got my green card. I worked mainly in hotels. From there I made my way to Chicago. I would go back and forth from Chicago to St. Thomas to see my family. But I also played the guitar, and I longed to move to California and get in the music scene. So one day I did. But I got sick and my diabetes got bad. I found it difficult to find work. Before I knew it I was alone in Los Angeles with no money. Now, I hustle whatever money I can get by collecting cans for food and to pay for my storage unit, which is 100 bucks a month. Tonight I'll be spending the night on the street again."

**FAVORITE MOVIE:**

"It used to be The Godfather until they cut it all up."

**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "NYPD Blue."

**FAVORITE ACTOR:** "Robin Williams."

**FAVORITE ACTRESS:** "Sharon Stone."

**FAVORITE MUSIC:** "Rock ballads."

**FAVORITE FOOD:**

"Salads, but I miss Caribbean foods."

**FAVORITE CANDY:** "Snickers bars."

**FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY:**

"I like this park right here; it's nice."

**LAST THING READ:**

"I read a lot of books; it's what keeps me sane. My favorite book is The Catcher in the Rye; it's a hell of a book."

**MOST HELPFUL ORGANIZATION:**

"None, really. I don't do the missions."

**LAST MEAL EATEN:**

"A turkey sandwich from 7/11."

**MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:**

"Songs that I wrote."

**FRIENDS:**

"None, really. I keep to myself."

**ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE:**

"Be sensible."

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

*The interview, conducted by John Hawkins, took place June 9 in Grand Park across from City Hall.*

{ 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. }