

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.

No. 93
in a series.



Meet **Debra Cortez.**

AGE: 48.
BIRTHPLACE: "Stockton, Calif."
MOVED TO L.A.: "Three months now."
FAMILY: "None."
CHILDREN: "I have several children; all are grown and have no idea that I am living in a tent on the sidewalk."
EDUCATION: Didn't graduate from high school.
MILITARY: "No."
MEDICATIONS: "No."
RELIGION: "No."
HER STORY: "I grew up in a dysfunctional household; there was a lot of abuse. I didn't graduate from high school, but while I was there I played basketball and did track. I wasn't too good at track because I am so pigeon-toed, I kept tripping over the other runners."
 "I lived in Stockton all my life, living day to day. I have been here in L.A. for three months now. I moved from Stockton because my boyfriend got us evicted from where we were living."
 "I've had my share of run-ins with the law, like assault with a deadly weapon – a machete, to be more accurate."
FAVORITE MOVIE: "Action Jackson, Marked for Death."
FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Murder, She Wrote."
FAVORITE ACTOR: "Steven Seagal."
FAVORITE ACTRESS: "Linda Blair."
FAVORITE MUSIC: "Lisa Page Brooks."
FAVORITE FOOD: "Mexican ... I love enchiladas."
FAVORITE CANDY: "Now & Later."
LAST FOOD EATEN: "An apple."
LAST JOB: "I worked at Stockton Unified School District as a cook for 10 years."
MOST PRIZED POSSESSION: "My purse."
IF YOU WERE MAYOR: "I would get a really big building where we can be housed. Living on the street is no way to live – it's dirty and unsanitary, and it spreads diseases. Think about it – where are we supposed to go to the bathroom? We need shelter."
IN FIVE YEARS: "I see myself in heaven."
WITH \$1 MILLION: "I would buy a house, I guess."
MAKE A WISH: "A house in paradise."

*The Club gave Debra snacks, bottled water and \$20 for food.
The interview, conducted by John Hawkins, took place May 18 on Second Street downtown.*

Club CEO John Hawkins and Debra Cortez.

{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins introduces 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. }