

THE GUBBIO PROJECT E-NEWSLETTER

Hand Up Matching Grant

UN Rapporteur Visit

The UN Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Philip Alston, made a 9-day tour of the US, examining whether the persistence of extreme poverty in the US undermines the enjoyment of human rights by its citizens. On Dec. 6th, he brought his inquiry to San Francisco, and the St Anthony Foundation, along with the Coalition on Homelessness, St. Mary's Center, and the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP), hosted a Community Forum for him to hear from advocates, scholars, and those currently experiencing homelessness.



After the Forum, he walked across the street to St. Boniface and was so inspired by the work of The Gubbio Project that he highlighted the Project in the statement on his visit. If you have 10 minutes, please read [the statement](#) - his statistics, analysis, and prediction of where our current policies are leading us are stunning in their clarity and insight. He clearly names and rejects the practice of blaming poor people for their poverty, and rightly places the responsibility on policy makers, and the wealthy who would influence policies to their own advantage. Here are several excerpts:

My visit coincides with a dramatic change of direction in US policies relating to inequality and extreme poverty. The proposed tax reform package stakes out America's bid to become the most unequal society in the world.

Successive administrations, including the present one, have determinedly rejected the idea that economic and social rights are full-fledged human rights But denial does not eliminate responsibility, nor does it negate obligations.

Demonization of the poor can take many forms. It has been internalized by many poor people who proudly resist applying for benefits to which they are entitled and struggle valiantly to survive against the odds.

In addition, a reporter from the Guardian was travelling with the Rapporteur for his US visit. His article, which also highlights Gubbio, can be read [here](#).



**Gubbio Gratitude for all our
Supporters, Volunteers, & Donors!**

From the guests, to the foundations, to the churches, to the



tech companies, and to the hundreds and hundreds of individuals who donate their time, their resources, and their finances to ensure that 300+ people who are living on the streets each day have a safe and sacred place to be each weekday - a heart-filled THANK YOU!

Ode to a Mentor

By Lisa Rocella, Hospitality Monitor

About nine years ago, I met one of the most beautiful people I know, Michael. I met Michael while doing laundry on the corner of 24th and Florida. I don't know what Michael saw in me, I was a walking train wreck, but one day he invited me to coffee. Over many weeks that turned into years, Michael and I got to know each other. He would share his spiritual journey and insights. He was so deep that I would be left lost as the beauty of his thoughts and insights bathed me in wonder. Sometimes as desperate as I was to catch a drop of that beauty, I would just tell him my mind is too damaged by drugs to follow.

He witnessed my endless tears with love and compassion. I shared my love of the Prayer of St. Michael the archangel, which begins "Defend us in battle..." I knew I was either dancing or battling with my demons. Michael was a physical manifestation of St. Michael in my mind. Whenever I asked a question that had no simple answer, Michael would say "Who knows?" Then he would take a long pause, and answer "God Knows" Over time I learned to respond, "God Knows." [\(continue reading\)](#)

Welcome Crystal and Sandra!

The Gubbio Project is now in partnership with [JobsNOW!](#) This opportunity has allowed us to gain two new team members.



My name is Crystal Lowe. I am a native of San Francisco and a wonderful mother to an awesome and handsome boy. After overcoming being a homeless teen I found that my passion and destiny is to help those less fortunate than others and also lend a helping hand or ear whenever I can. Becoming a part of The Gubbio



Sandra was born in San Salvador, El Salvador, a mother of three, and has lived in San Francisco for most of her life. Sandra has overcome homelessness and addiction and is currently attending City College San Francisco to become a Drug and Alcohol Counselor. Her passion is to share her story with the communities at The Gubbio Project and to give

Project was like a dream come true.

people hope for a success story of their own.

Upcoming Events

[January 27, 2018: 2 Year Anniversary Brunch for Gubbio at St. John's Church](#)

“I found the church surprisingly uplifting. It was such a simple scene and such an obvious idea. It struck me – Christianity, what the hell is it about if it’s not this?”

- Philip Alston, UN Rapporteur on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty upon visiting The Gubbio Project.

Please consider supporting The Gubbio Project either through volunteering or donations! We appreciate your generosity and support for this wonderful project.

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