

# streetsmart



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from Citygate Network

Useful news and information for members

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 Feedback

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### **Harkins Appointed to Lead HUD Faith-Based Office**

Citygate Network President John Ashmen is building a good working relationship with Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins, who was recently appointed to head the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office that works closely with faith-based organizations. Rich Youngblood held that post under the former administration. Harkins was previously the director of Interfaith Outreach for the Democratic National Committee and advised the Obama Administration on a number of faith-related issues. He has served on the boards of Sojourners and World Relief. Harkins, a follower of Christ, understands some of the tensions that have existed (or are growing) between faith-based organizations and local Continuums of Care and other groups. He desires to be an advocate and a facilitator of ongoing dialogue. Derrick will likely be with us at our Annual Conference and Exposition in Baltimore in September.

### **HUD Symposium a 'Go' at the Conference**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Citygate Network are again coming together at the 2021 Annual Conference and Exposition to invite Continuum of Care leaders and Citygate Network members to the same table to discuss solutions for curtailing the unprecedented predicament in many cities. We will explore together what's working and what's not, and investigate some of the ways communities and service providers can better collaborate to reduce, and ultimately prevent, the seemingly overwhelming problems the country is experiencing. This symposium will take place on Wednesday, September 15—a day before the official start of the conference—from 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. It is by invitation only, so if you are located in the Mid-Atlantic area—New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia—you will be receiving an invitation soon. And make sure you [register to attend the full conference](#) September 16–19.

### **Ripple Effect Starts Today**

We have a saying at Citygate Network: As goes the board, so goes the ministry. That means if the full board is embracing the ministry's tenets and promoting its purpose, understands policy governance, is in sync with the CEO, and each board member understands his or her role, the organization will be splendidly successful on every level. However, this is not always the case. That's why we've created Ripple Effect program, with the financial assistance of the M.J. Murdock Charitable trust. Our next online event is slated to begin today, July 15, so it's too late for you to join this one. But don't despair; we have another event coming up in October! Get the details on what is included when you [sign up your board and leadership for the October event](#).

### **2021 Media Competition Deadline July 30**

Don't miss your chance to submit your entries for Citygate Network's Media Innovation Competition (MIC) this month. You still have 15 days to enter your mission's best work in the following categories: annual report, general brochure, newsletter/magazine, website, PSA/commercial, extended video, social media, logo, and photo. The last chance to submit your entries is July 30, and your physical entry needs to be postmarked no later than July 26 to qualify. Begin the process by [visiting the MIC page](#) today. If you have questions, feel free to [email Director of Communications Marvin Harrell](#).

### **Citygate Network Heritage Room Moving Toward Completion**

With a ministry history that goes back to the 1800s and an organizational history that started in 1906, Citygate

Network is bringing out much of the archive material that has been in storage and tastefully displaying it in a 900-square-foot space in the Colorado Springs office that will serve as a classroom and museum. [Click here](#) to see the Clemme Ellis White nook, the Jerry and Maria McAuley wall, and a sample of the 12 or so panels that will go on the walls. There are many more photos and artifacts that will be on permanent display. So far, 16 member organizations and families have given toward this project—some in honor or memory of revered mission/ministry leaders or family members. We are still welcoming additional gifts as we endeavor to bring this project to completion. If you and/or your organization would like to help with this, gifts can be sent to Citygate Network and noted as going toward the Heritage Room. [You can also give online here.](#)

### **A CDC Update Provides Takeaways for Members**

Tuesday's conversation (webinar) with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had as many as 75 Citygate Network members listening in. Dr. Emily Mosites and members of the Minnesota Department of Health shared what has been learned and steps needed to move forward. A key takeaway was the recommendation to continue to wear masks within a shelter context, even if vaccinated. The reason mask wearing is still recommended for vaccinated individuals is the expansion of breakthrough cases—[think the Delta variant here](#)—and the risk of transmission being higher than normal. In the next two weeks, we will be providing a link to this webinar and other topics that were discussed.

### **Looking Down the Street**

- [1DayLA](#) is mobilizing 20,000 volunteers from across Southern California to serve the county July 18–24, culminating in The Freedom Experience on July 24. **Union Rescue Mission** (Los Angeles, California) and **The Los Angeles Mission** (Los Angeles, California) are both involved in this initiative.
- Please welcome into membership **Metro Relief** (The Colony, Texas), [Austin Bonds](#), CEO; and **My Father's House** (Gresham, Oregon), [Andrea Pickett](#), CEO. And welcome back, after an absence of nearly years, **Bay Area Rescue Mission** (Richmond, California), [Bram Begonia](#), CEO. Send them each a note of welcome, especially if they are located near you.
- Congratulations to **Mel Trotter Ministries** (Grand Rapids, Michigan) and **Lexington Rescue Mission** (Lexington, Kentucky), who have reach the Distinguished level of Accreditation within Citygate Network. You can [learn more about our Accreditation program](#) (formerly called Certification) on our website.
- In a 3-2 vote, the Oceanside City Council awarded the **San Diego Rescue Mission** (San Diego, California) the contract to operate its city-funded shelter. The proposal included 50 shelter beds with case management, laundry facilities, showers, and various support services.
- Henry Young, CEO of **Las Cruces Gospel Rescue Mission** (Las Cruces, New Mexico), made the local news as he [announced his candidacy for the Las Cruces School Board](#). Having had children and grandchildren in the district, Henry is a prime candidate for the position.

*TELL US: Do you have news to share with other network members? Send a blurb to [Marvin Harrell](#). Include as many details as*



## **Medicaid Coverage Gap**

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) recently released a report detailing the ramifications for states that have opted out of expanding Medicaid. Over 2.2 million uninsured adults currently fall into a "coverage gap," too poor to qualify for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace assistance but ineligible for Medicaid because their state has not adopted the ACA's Medicaid expansion. [This webpage provides helpful fact sheets](#) supplying basic details on adults in the gap for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming. *Consider: How could you be a voice for your local policymaker with fact sheets like these?*

## **California Disclosure Mandate Loses in Supreme Court Ruling**

The Supreme Court recently delivered a setback to California regarding the bulk collection of donor data from charities. In *Americans for Prosperity Foundation v. Bonta*, [the court ruled that the up-front gathering of Schedule Bs is always unconstitutional](#) and, as such, protected donors' privacy and how they distribute their philanthropic gifts. Nearly 10 years ago, California began requiring that charities in that state submit unredacted Schedule B tax that typically included sensitive information on donors giving \$5,000 or more to the nonprofit. The co-plaintiffs in the case were concerned about several public breaches of personal data currently in the state's possession, as well as their supporters' First Amendment freedoms of speech, causing the filed case to ultimately be tried and won in the highest court. *Note: This is a huge victory for every nonprofit that desires to protect its donors—particularly in a day when the “cancel culture” will go after anyone giving to a socially unpopular cause.*

## **Los Angeles City Council Members Push for Anti-Camping Law**

In a recent move to [abolish outdoor encampments in Los Angeles City](#), two council members forced a vote with the entire city council on an existing anti-camping ordinance suspended since November 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The law restricts sitting, lying, sleeping, and placing tents or personal property on streets and sidewalks from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day. We will keep our eyes on this and let you know any ramifications this will have for our neighbors struggling with homelessness.

## **Don't Miss this Recent Webinar on the Child Tax Credit**

The Friends Committee on National Legislation, Bread for the World, and various other partners recently presented [a beneficial webinar explaining the Child Tax Credit \(CTC\) expansion](#) and its impact on every American family. The presentation included basic information about the Child Tax Credit's historic expansion, explaining how families in your program could receive their monthly payments, and discussion from various experts on the need to make the increase permanent. Gene Sperling, White House American Rescue Plan Coordinator, was also interviewed on the call.

## **Speaking of Child Tax Credit—New Tool Available in Spanish**

The Internal Revenue Service has released the [Spanish language version of the Child Tax Credit Eligibility Assistant](#). This digital assistant can help the people in your program to determine whether they qualify for the credit. Plus, the online tool is beneficial for families who don't usually file a federal tax return, have not yet filed a 2019 or 2020 tax return, have little to no income, are homeless, or are underserved. Once they have used this tool, they will take the next step using other available means, including the Non-file Sign-up or the IRS Free File system. And for those worried about providing specific information, the tool does not request personally identifiable information for anyone in the family. Neither the answers supplied by the user nor the results are retained by the IRS.



### **C-Suite Access a Challenge for Most Americans**

When looking for work and advancement, the disparities of gender and race not only exist on the streets, but in corporate organizations as well. According to a recent study, [the C-suite—a shorthand reference to C-level management \(CEO, CIO, COO, etc.\)—is increasingly unavailable](#) to many people in the workforce of modern society. The Gartner 2021 Leadership Progression and Diversity Survey revealed, among other things, that women make up 56 percent of frontline employees, with only 29 percent represented in the C-suite; BIPOC (Black and Indigenous People of Color) make up 31 percent of the frontline workforce and only 17 percent of the C-level leadership. Gartner recommends that teams re-evaluate their leadership criteria to better meet the needs of staff growth and management expansions. *Consider: In what ways are you preparing your guests for all levels of employment? How can you help people in your program excel to higher levels of employable leadership?*

### **Multi-Millionaire Speaks Out Against Housing First**

As a survivor of homelessness and extreme poverty, billionaire Matthew Gallagher recently penned a *Newsweek* op-ed, citing several examples of [how the administration's infrastructure plan for rental assistance and grants does not adequately address America's homelessness problem](#). Although Congress invested six percent more in homeless assistance grants in 2020, statistics do not show any significant improvement. Several recent studies have indicated much greater success when assigning a social worker or advocate to a homeless person, rather than simply providing them with a house. In fact, People Concern, an advocacy group in Santa Monica, asked the local emergency room to discharge homeless patients into their care rather than releasing them back to the streets and found that the average cost for hospitalization per patient, per year, dropped from \$18,000 to \$5,000, and from a duration of six days to only two days. Ninety-two percent of those they have helped have not returned to homelessness. As Gallagher states, "The solution isn't just about building homes, it needs to be about supporting homeless people's physical and mental health and creating new lives—not just new apartments."



### **Canada Issues Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated Citizens**

The Deputy Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Howard Njoo, recently [provided guidance for fully vaccinated Canadian citizens](#). Those who have received both vaccine doses are considered fully vaccinated (when 14 days have elapsed past their second shot) and will not be required to wear masks or physically distance when outside or in small groups, even if people in those groups are not vaccinated. They are also approved to spend time indoors with others who are fully vaccinated. However, the health office strongly recommends that fully vaccinated people wear a mask if indoors with people from multiple households or those who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated. Included in this recommendation are places of worship, among other gatherings.

## Salaries Impacted as a Result of Labor Scarcity

Employment numbers are shifting again in Canada, but this time it's the workers that are benefitting. With a declining threat of the COVID-19 virus due to an increase in vaccination rates, employers are [scrambling to find people to fill new openings](#). And as restrictions continue to decrease, the need for qualified workers in all sectors continues to increase. Experts indicate that this is only the beginning and expect people to be encouraged to leave jobs they have held throughout the last year to seek better and higher-paying jobs.



## Former Homeless Veteran Rebuilds a Positive Image

De'Carlo Garcia knows a thing or two about reputation. From his humble days growing up in the projects to serving his country in the U.S. Air Force, Garcia was always looking to present a positive and respectable image. The military held that promise, but after four years of service and an expected higher-ed degree that didn't materialize, [the realities of life caught up with him, and he found himself homeless](#). Without the essential conveniences of daily hygiene—he couldn't shave or get a haircut—he succumbed to hopelessness and loneliness. To counter his loneliness, he would read scripture aloud just to hear his voice, but then he began to understand its teachings. His respect for God's Word and a vibrant prayer life were lifelines for him, bringing him out of despair. He secured temporary employment and ultimately a military contractor job. He bought a home and regularly gave to local charities, eventually following his passion for creating a positive image of the black man in his community.

## Bill Proposed to Create New Department at HHS

Representative Cori Bush (D-Mo) is sponsoring a bill to develop a new federal agency that would change [how first-responders interact with people struggling with mental issues and addiction, and to reduce police violence against them](#). The new office called the Division on Community Safety, would be contained within the Department of Health and Human Services. Motivated by current law enforcement methods that many in the black community experience, Rep. Bush's bill would encourage community-based entities to create violence prevention programs in addition to emergency response teams. These local groups would recruit nonpolice first responders for emergencies where mental health issues, substance use, or other health-related complications were indicated. Rep. Bush's background as a mental health nurse helped inform much of the bill that, she hopes, will curb disproportionate and punitive responses.



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## Clearing Clutter

The Fourth of July weekend was the perfect time to clean the garage—always a daunting task! Maybe you too find surprises in the boxes in your garage: "Really, I still have that?" Like a box of rollerblades and the requisite elbow and knee pads. Still, in excellent condition, it was evident that I didn't really get into the rollerblade craze of the 1990s and don't plan to in 2021! Out they go.

I found my grandfather's 1911 Underwood typewriter, which seems to have been re-purposed as a mouse condo! Eeek—goodbye! Far more heartwarming, I unearthed a box of letters my dad wrote to my mom between 1942 and 1944, when the Army sent new recruits to Rhode Island State College until they shipped out for combat. I'm just beginning to read those.

The whole undertaking made me wonder, "How do we decide what to throw out and what to keep?" This question applies to both our personal and professional lives, right? How do we know when something has run its course and can be re-purposed? How do we make space for what is new and necessary but keep what is old and important?

Knowing what needs to be put aside and what needs to be kept, honored, and reemphasized when it comes to walking out our ministry callings is a challenge that requires deep wisdom. As we come out of this pandemic, let's give extra thought to keeping a vibrant, Christ-centered mission even as we lean into innovation while holding fast to the anchors.

Don't keep hoarding for yourselves earthly treasures that can be stolen by thieves. Material wealth eventually rusts, decays, and loses its value. Instead, stockpile heavenly treasures for yourselves that cannot be stolen and will never rust, decay, or lose their value. For your heart will always pursue what you esteem as your treasure.

Matthew 6:19 TPT

*Written by Shirley Hoogstra, President, Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) and used with permission.*

*To contribute: If you would like to write a devotional thought for StreetLight, please make it about 200 words, include at least one Bible verse or passage, and submit via [email](mailto:editor@citygatenetwork.org).*

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