

I have been doing homeless outreach in Southern Oregon for the last decade. I've seen how sleep deprivation leads to other issues, including unmanaged mental health issues and how exhaustion forces people (often women, but men too) to "partner up" for shelter and protection. I've watched police officers target specific people.

I know people who woke up outside this morning (if they slept at all) who aged out of the Oregon foster care system. I know families with small children and senior citizens. Nobody deserves to have to live a life where they feel targeted and that's exactly what they describe to me. They feel "hunted" by law enforcement, by a system that is so systematically faulted that we must change it.

The Almeda and Oberchin fires left thousands of people homeless overnight in Southern Oregon. There's never been a better time to address the inequality that homeless people face here daily.

Thank you.