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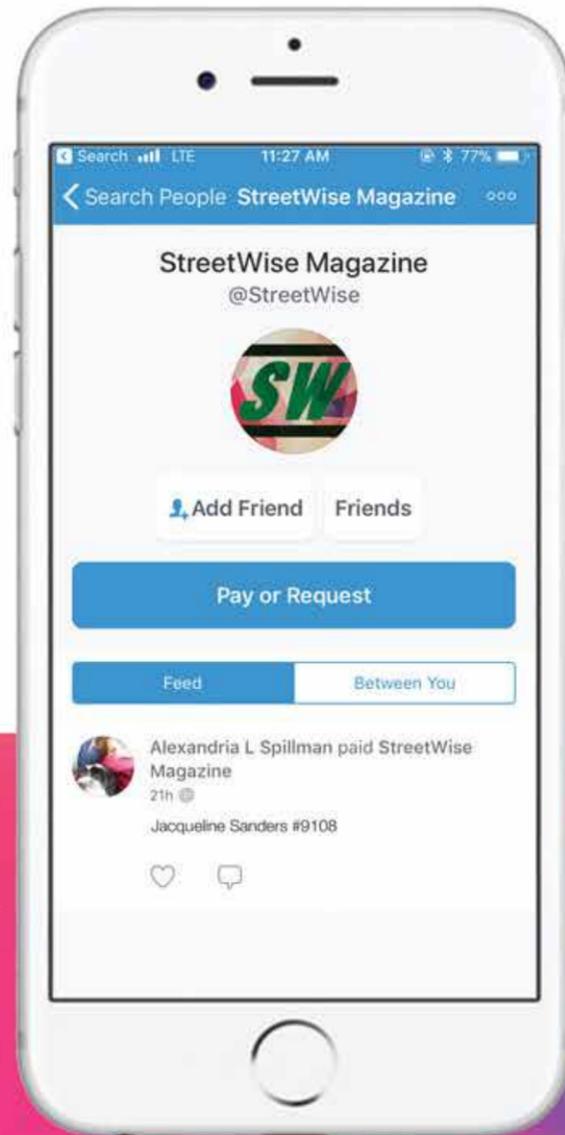
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October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, so we interviewed Father Charles Dahm, O.P., who started the only church-based awareness program of its kind in the U.S. We also talked to Connections for Abused Women and their Children's (CAWC) Stephanie Love-Patterson and the Chicago Police Department's Aileen Robinson. CAWC is part of a new CPD protocol that uses a standardized script and regular followup for domestic violence victims. "The scope of domestic violence means we can all be first responders if we have the right education," says the CAWC website.
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THIS PAGE: Social workers specializing in domestic violence support at the Connections for Abused Women and their Children (CAWC) meet with domestic violence victims through referral from the Chicago Police Department.

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Sculptural Objects Functional Art and Design (SOFA): See October 31 - November 3

OCTOBER 28

CAMP: A Comedy Show

When: 8 p.m.
Where: Village Tap, 2055 W. Roscoe St.
What: CAMP: A Comedy Show is a free summer camp-themed comedy show that features some of the best stand up comedy Chicago has to offer. Samantha Berkman and Tessa Orzech started this show because they wanted to make a positive, supportive space that fosters community around creativity. There are improvisational elements, pranks, games, characters, and general high-energy goofiness. FREE.

OCTOBER 30

Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts

When: 12:15 - 1 p.m.
Where: Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall, 78 E. Washington St.
What: The Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts feature solo and ensemble performances of classical music that showcase emerging performers. This week's special guests are Sam Boutris on clarinet and Hilda Huang on piano. FREE.

Co-MISSIONS WIP Series

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Links Hall, 3111 N. Western Ave.
What: Co-MISSION Works-in-Progress performances offer split bill showings by artists awarded Links Hall's summer

intensives, residencies or fellowships by Links Hall's programming committee. \$8 at linkshall.org

OCTOBER 31

'We Bring You Bronzeville'

When: 3-8 p.m.
Where: Samuel Ellis Park, 3520 S. Cottage Grove Ave.
What: The Chicago Blues Museum's "We Bring You Bronzeville" celebrates the musical heritage of the South Side district through exhibits, film presentations of blues performances and programs as an investment in the community that has needed arts and recreation for a long time. Free.

OCT 31 - NOV 3

SOFA: Sculptural Objects Functional Art and Design

When: Thurs (Opening Night Preview) 5 - 9 p.m.; Fri & Sat 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sun 12 - 6 p.m.
Where: Navy Pier Festival Hall, 600 E. Grand Ave.
What: The Sculpture Objects Functional Art and Design (SOFA) Fair in Chicago is the premier gallery-presented art fair dedicated to three-dimensional art and design. What distinguishes SOFA from other art events is its focus on works that cross the boundaries of fine art, decorative art and design. Opening Night tickets start at \$55, daily tickets are \$15 seniors/ \$20 student/ \$25 general or \$35 for 3-day pass at sofaexpo.com

NOVEMBER 1

Ancient Manga: Stories by the Foot

When: 4:30 p.m.
Where: Wrightwood 659, 659 W. Wrightwood Ave.
What: Chicago-based artist Molly O'Connell will lead a workshop looking at the origins of Japanese Manga comic books found in Emaki-mono, illustrated hand scrolls produced since the 10th century. *Chōjū-giga* (Scrolls of Frolicking Animals), drawn in the 12th century, is credited as the oldest work of manga. Workshop participants will use these examples as well as more contemporary works, including Osamu Tezuka, as inspiration to create stories in ink on rolls of paper. This activity is for children ages 11-14. Participation is limited. \$8. Reservation required at wrightwood659.org

NOVEMBER 1 & 2

Holiday Market at the Wilder Mansion

When: Fri 4 - 9 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Where: Wilder Mansion, 211 Prospect Ave., Elmhurst
What: Over 60 artisans and vendors of gourmet food as well as jewelry, hats, capes, scarves, pottery, candles, ornaments, stationery, chocolates, and home décor. Sponsored by Elmhurst Park District. FREE.

NOVEMBER 1, 2 & 5

Muti, Kavakos & Beethoven Violin Concerto

When: Fri 1:30 p.m.; Sat 8 p.m.; Tues 7:30 p.m.
Where: Orchestra Hall, 220 S. Michigan Ave.
What: Chicago Symphony Orchestra's season-long Beethoven 250th celebration continues with the composer's dazzling Violin Concerto performed by the renowned Leonidas Kavakos, "the most deeply satisfying violinist performing today" (Philadelphia Inquirer). Riccardo Muti conducts this towering work along with a world premiere by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Bernard Rands. Tickets \$45+ at cso.org

NOVEMBER 1 - 3

Chicago International Tea Festival

When: Fri 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat & Sun 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Where: Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza, 350 W. Mart Center Drive
What: Tea is the fastest growing beverage of interest in the United States. This, like tea festivals in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Australia, Great Britain, China and India, is a festival focused on experiencing a wide range of tea. Some drink it for the purported health benefits, some for the peace and focus brought by the simple ritual of preparation, some for the taste, and some for the infinite variety of the

leaf on the endless journey of discovery. Whatever your reason for drinking tea, you'll find something of interest at the festival. Even if you are just tea-curious, you are sure to find something that tickles your fancy over this 3 day event. \$25/one day, \$35/two day, \$45/VIP three day at citfest.com

Ex/Body: wake, dam, steel

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Dovetail Studios, 2853 W. Montrose Ave.
What: This new show explores how a dance for performance can grow from the tiny, often hidden micro-movements and sensations born of traumatic responses held in the body. The dancers are finding new and renewed movement in stuck places, and in the process are also uncovering the ways some modes of contemporary dance training and presentation paradoxically and simultaneously harm and liberate. \$18 at mollyshanah-anmadshak.brownpapertickets.com

NOVEMBER 1 - 10

36th Annual Chicago International Children's Film Festival

When & Where: Various
What: The Chicago International Children's Film Festival aims to set an internationally-recognized standard of excellence in film for children and

youth. It strives to support the work of talented and dedicated filmmakers by showcasing international films of the highest quality and awarding prizes in multiple categories of production formats and genres. The film experiences of young viewers are deepened through a broad range of programs which extend Festival film viewing into discussion and learning. The festival runs at multiple Chicago-area venues and presents on average of 250 new films from 40 countries along with workshops, director presentations, and seminars. For a full schedule, visit festival.facets.org

NOVEMBER 1 - 21

'My Life is a Country Song'

When: Nov 1 8 p.m.; Sun 6 p.m.; Mon, Wed & Thurs 8 p.m.
Where: Chief O'Neill's Pub & Restaurant, 3471 N. Elston Ave.
What: It's 1980 in Greenville, South Carolina and Donna has found herself in a country song cliché - she left her abusive husband, moved into a house of her own, and for the first time is in control of her life. But the trauma of her past keeps haunting her and Donna finds that her life is becoming a song she's heard too many times. This actor/musician-based musical tells the story of moving on after a failed marriage and the support system that can come from good friends and

family. With Donna at the lead, a country band takes you through her lessons of redemption and hope. \$20 at newamericanfolk-theatre.org

NOVEMBER 2

The Arts of Life 11th Annual Chili Cook-Off

When: 5 - 8 p.m.
Where: 2010 W. Carroll Ave.
What: Celebrate 11 years of heartburn with celebrity judges Doug Sohn (aka Hot Doug) and David Eigenberg ("Sex and the City," "Chicago Fire"). 20+ delicious chilis (including vegetarian), Virtue Cider and Black Dog Gelato. Gather your appetites and your friends for this annual community-building event. All proceeds support Arts of Life's artists' professional development. Tickets start at \$20 at eventbrite.com

21st Annual National Cuatro Festival

When: 7 p.m.
Where: Harris Theatre in Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph Drive
What: The 21st National Cuatro Festival presents "New Generations Breaking Borders," a spectacular concert of 70 young emerging musicians performing folk and popular music from Puerto Rico. Performers include the Midwest Young Artists Symphony Orchestra, Puerto Rico's Rondalla de Humacao, singer Hermes Croatto and the Latin Music Project Ensemble.

This symphonic youth concert, directed by Maestro Roselin Pabón & Maestro Allan Dennis, is a Puerto Rico & USA mainland music project collaboration following the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. In collaboration with the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance. Tickets start at \$25 at praachicago.org

NOVEMBER 2 - 22

Dead Man Walking

When: 11/02 & 16 7:30 p.m.; 11/06 & 22 7 p.m.; 11/10 & 13 2 p.m.
Where: Lyric Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive
What: A young couple is brutally killed, and the convicted murderer, Joseph De Rocher, sits on death row. Sister Helen Prejean agrees to be his spiritual adviser. As she meets his family, and the families of his victims, she begins questioning every attitude she has about how human beings treat each other. Based on real-life events, Jake Heggie's music and Terrence McNally's libretto explore the nature of friendship and forgiveness in the most profound ways. Hugely acclaimed in major houses internationally, "Dead Man Walking" is widely acknowledged as one of the most riveting operas of the 21st century. It simply demands to be seen. Tickets start at \$39 at lyricopera.org

-compiled by Dave Hamilton



CAMP: A Comedy Show: See October 28



Holiday Market at the Wilder Mansion: See November 1 & 2

Vendors **Russell Adams** and **John Hagan** chat with StreetWise executive assistant **Patrick Edwards** about the world of sports.

THE TOP DOGS IN NCAA COLLEGE BASKETBALL



John: Looking ahead to the new college basketball season, who do you see as the top dogs?

Russell: Same old, same old. Michigan State, Duke, Carolina. Always a Big Ten team in there. I want some new teams for a change. Northwestern isn't going anywhere this year.

John: I just don't think Northwestern is going to be all that bad. There are many worse teams out there. Getting back to the top teams, though, I'm looking at the rankings now. Michigan State is the pre-season number one. The players all want to go there, they love playing for Tom Izzo. Kansas is the second tier, as usual. They got the return of Devon Dotson, Ukuka Azubike, and Silvio De Sousa. Some other contenders that really threw me a curveball were Florida and Louisville. Usually we see Duke and North Carolina at the top. We used to always have Indiana and UCLA up there, but those teams have fallen by the

wayside, particularly UCLA. The biggest surprise though, is Illinois. Patience is wearing off for the Illini and coach Brad Underwood says the team is ready to make a move now. Georgetown is also an exciting team. They have the necessary backcourt and they now have a big man. That all being said, we can still expect Duke and UCLA to be up there by the end.

Patrick: Well, looking at the rankings it's kind of nice to see some teams in there who aren't normally in there. I love Illinois at 19, I'm looking forward to seeing what they can do this year. I like Texas Tech in there, of course you got Gonzaga. They're at 11 but they can beat any of the top teams any day. So I'm excited for the season. Got some good teams and good players.



Have comments or questions for SportsWise team? Please send them to dhamilton@streetwise.org

Russell: I like Michigan State at number one. I think they hit that one on the head. I like Kansas, too. They're my two favorite teams at one and two. I also like North Carolina and Gonzaga. I got my Chicago teams, Illinois and Northwestern, but they can't get there. Loyola only had that one chance last year but they won't get back. I have to say, all of these Chicago players aren't going to Chicago or even Illinois schools. They're not going to DePaul, Loyola, Northwestern. They're going to Duke, Kansas, and Gonzaga. We got guys all over the country but not in Chicago. Illinois used to have some guys and they went to the championship. They lost to Carolina but it was still good. Anyway, I look forward to seeing Kansas and Michigan State, I think it's going to be



pretty interesting this year.
John: I also wanted to add that I like Carolina in the top 10. I don't care to see Duke up there, though. I can't stand that team. However, as far as Texas Tech is concerned, it's good to see them as contenders. Something else that I find interesting looking at the top 25, there are no Pac 12 teams. The closest is Colorado at 26 followed by Arizona at 29. That conference has really fallen off as of late, and I would love to see them climb back up. To me, the best conferences moving forward are the Big 10, the ACC, even the SEC because of Kentucky, and the Big 12. I do think that the winner of the championship this year will come out of the Big 10 or the ACC.



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CREATING SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

by Suzanne Hanney

Learning that domestic violence (DV) was a significant problem among his parishioners led Father Charles Dahm to a second calling.

Father Dahm, O.P., was pastor of St. Pius V Church in Pilsen, which provided a variety of social services, ranging from immigration assistance to parenting, when one of his pastoral counselors told him that almost all of her clients were domestic violence victims. "I had no idea," said Dahm, who had thought he detected depression among the women and alcoholism among the men. He asked the counselor, Dolores Tapia, to tell him how to investigate and how to respond.

Tapia advised Dahm to first ask a woman how she was being treated. Did her husband hurt her or call her bad names? Always believe her, the counselor said. She's the one who has to make decisions, so talk about options. Together, Dahm and Tapia developed HOPE Family Services, the largest parish-based domestic violence program in the United States.

Soon afterward, a male parishioner came to Dahm with a request that the priest talk to his wife. She was being unfaithful, the man said, because he came home and the back door was open. He was sure another man had just left.

Separately, Dahm asked the wife if her husband had always been this jealous. "Oh yes," she responded. "But I thought once we were married we would be together day and night and the jealousy would disappear."

The husband's behavior wasn't jealousy, Dahm told her. "This is his way of making you feel uncertain, insecure about yourself. He gets into your head so that in everything you do, you are wondering how he will react."

Dahm then brought the man back into the room, presented his wife's story to him and referred them to separate parish programs: the husband so he could understand his abusive behavior and make changes, the wife so she could identify the dynamics of abuse and resist it.

Dahm also began preaching about domestic violence. In 2007, when he became associate pastor of St. Pius V, he started traveling to parishes throughout the archdiocese of Chicago, delivering homilies on domestic violence at all week-

end masses. In 2011, the late Cardinal Francis George saw what he was doing and suggested to the archdiocesan head of family ministries that they hire someone to do this work. The response was, why not Dahm himself?

There was no salary, no job description, "but keep doing what you're doing," Dahm was told. "Make up your own title." Now, as director of the Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach (ACDVO), which is the only program of its kind in the United States, Dahm has preached in 156 parishes, roughly half of the Chicago archdiocese, and in other cities as he is invited. In June he was also part of a rally at St. Katherine Drexel Church along with the Rev. Jacques Conway of the Northern Illinois United Methodist Church; the Rev. Tennille Power of Trinity United Church of Christ; and Black Women Say No to Domestic Violence, an ACDVO initiative on the South and West Sides. The rally marched seven blocks along Stony Island Avenue and 91st Street, to represent the seven times most women attempt to leave before finally doing so.

"But I am not a counselor," Dahm said. "My role is to be a door for people to get service. I welcome them, assure them they are not guilty, they don't deserve it and that there's help."

Until they hear his homilies, many women may not recognize themselves as abused because they have never been hit. But domestic violence, Dahm emphasizes, "is any pattern of behavior that uses power and control of one person over another."

Sometimes the men do not see themselves as abusers, either. One man who joined a parish men's group told Dahm he simply talked to his wife the way other men did.

Dahm's five-page sermon itemizes various types of domestic violence. There is emotional abuse, with its insults and foul language. Economic abuse creates the need to grovel for money. Sexual abuse is "forced intimacy or the lack of it" and infidelity.

He stuns his listeners when he says the Catholic Church does not expect a victim of domestic violence to remain in an abusive marriage. "I say it twice in my homilies," he said.



ACDVO rally in June.

**"I AM NOT A COUNSELOR, MY ROLE IS TO BE A DOOR FOR PEOPLE TO GET SERVICE. I WELCOME THEM, ASSURE THEM THEY ARE NOT GUILTY, THEY DON'T DESERVE IT AND THAT THERE'S HELP."
- FATHER DAHM**

It is a little-known fact that U.S. bishops wrote a pastoral letter in 1992 that said, "We need to state as clearly and strongly as we can that violence against women, inside or outside the home, is never justified, and it is a sin and often a crime. We emphasize that no person is expected to stay in an abusive marriage." The letter was updated in 2002 and 2018 but its essence has not changed, Dahm said.

Dahm likes to ask what Jesus would do if He encountered a woman with a black eye who told Him she had been beaten. Would He say, "You have to go back to him and work it out" or "Come with Me and I will make you safe?"

"I think that is what He would say and that is what we have to say to victims of domestic violence. Obviously, you can and should try to save your marriage but your safety and the well-being of your children is the primary focus. The primary focus is not to save the marriage and that is the Church's position."

Occasionally Dahm receives pushback from people who say children in the congregation are too young to hear a message about domestic violence. He disagrees.

"They are exposed to violence almost daily, through TV shows, movies, video games and songs, even cartoons," he said. "Raising their children in a violent home is one of the worst things a parent can do for the children. The boys grow up learning how to abuse women and the girls grow up learning how to be submissive to abuse."

Denise Murray and her children, for example, had been abused every way but sexually in her 20-year marriage, even though they projected an image of traditional values. Because Murray considered her marriage sacred, she resisted ending it -- and her own priest had given her no support.

Murray's turning point came when both her son and daughter reached dating age -- and picked abusers -- which led to her son becoming suicidal, as she told St. Anthony Messenger magazine. She received help after she went to a church where Dahm preached and then found a new parish with a pastor who had taken Dahm's training.

After his guest homilies in the churches, ACDVO forms a parish committee focused on raising awareness and connecting victims to services; as of last October, more than 90 such local ministries had been formed. At one Mundelein parish recently, 30 people, half of them DV victims or people who had worked with them, showed up at the initial meeting. One of the parishioners invited a member of a DV agency. A counselor is now committed to visit the parish one day a week, with the possibility of two days if demand warrants it.

In addition to preaching so that couples can recognize abusive behavior, there are many things faith communities can do to improve response to domestic violence, said Dahm, who was also a member of Mayor Richard M. Daley's Interfaith Office on Domestic Violence, which was eliminated in budget cuts. They include:

- Palm cards with Illinois and national hotline numbers in women's restrooms of the church
- Prayers offered at weekend church services
- Short articles on domestic violence in the church bulletin
- Providing meeting space for Chicago Police Department representatives or service providers speaking on topics such as the impact of domestic violence on children
- Collaboration with neighboring churches into a ministry

Since 2016, Cardinal Blase Cupich has also presided over an archdiocesan-wide mass for domestic violence awareness and outreach during October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. "Many times violence in the streets begins at home," the cardinal said in prepared material. "Adults and children are traumatized and alienated from the love and support they need by the violence they witness. We must respond to this tragedy."

St. Benedict Church in Northcenter has one of the 90 parish domestic violence ministries. In July, they joined the domestic violence committee at Queen of Angels Church in Lincoln Square for an outreach event supported by both Dahm and

CPD REINVENTS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTOCOLS

by Suzanne Hanney

Chicago police responding to domestic violence (DV) calls in the 3rd, 4th and 14th districts (Grand Crossing, South Chicago and Shakespeare) are using a more proactive procedure involving a standardized query about the victim's experience, and then referral to DV agencies.

This method "flips the script a little bit," said Stephanie Love-Patterson, executive director of Connections for Abused Women and their Children (CAWC), which is the referral agency in the 14th district. "It's more specific than just giving them a list of phone numbers. Instead, they say something like, 'with your permission I am giving your information to these direct service agencies, which can help you.'

"The police have made a direct link to organizations they know will pick up the ball to help with the next steps," Love-Patterson said.

Using computer tablets to input the information, police follow a consistent script that asks the DV victim – male or female – standardized questions that can show if the violence against them is escalating. Was a weapon used on them or was there easy access to one? Were drugs involved? Are they afraid the alleged offender will return? Was an ambulance called and did they go to the hospital? Did the perpetrator attempt to choke them?

"We're really intentional with language," Chicago Police Department Domestic Violence Operations Coordinator Aileen Robinson said. "We really want people to understand how very serious this is."

"Choke" is the word used rather than "strangle," for example, because victims relate to it more readily, Robinson said. Even if the victim doesn't show bruises, putting a hand on someone's neck is extremely dangerous to them. The pressure can create a blood clot that can break loose and cause a stroke. If the victim vomits, gastric acids and undigested food can eat at the lungs and cause a potentially fatal pneumonia.

An attempted choking also correlates to a 750 percent greater chance of a domestic homicide than someone subjected to a lesser degree of violence, Robinson said. As examples, she cited the University of Texas clock tower gunman in the 1960s, who already had killed his mother and his wife; Juan Lopez, who killed his ex-fiance, a physician at Mercy Hospital in Chicago, and then himself; and the gunman at the Pulse nightclub in Florida.

Citywide last year, there were 150,076 calls to the 911 emergency number. Roughly 1 in 3 of them (52,131) resulted in active cases, including 1,047 in the 14th district, 3,495 in the 3rd district and 3,431 in the 4th district.

Among these active cases, 495 victims have completed the computerized assessment in the 14th district; 1,830 victims in the 3rd district and 1,592 in the 4th district. "This is 3,900 people we have a better chance of connecting with services," Robinson said.

Begun in 2015, the standard computerized assessment was Mayor Rahm Emanuel's idea, she said. Police initially tried to do the triage work themselves and then realized they needed the social service agencies to make it happen quickly, so the partnership began in 2016 with the 3rd and 4th districts and Family Rescue; CAWC started providing services in the 14th District in January. On November 18, the program will expand to the 12th District (Near West) using CPD's own advocate, who will still refer victims to other agencies for services.

The police department would like to see it go citywide, "but we don't have the resources to make it happen," Robinson said. They are in conversation, however, with their partners: the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the office of Adult Probation, Lifespan, which provides legal services; and the City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services.

CAWC's protocol is to call domestic violence victims within 24 hours after receiving the referral, Love-Patterson said.

Their first concern is the victim's safety. The standardized assessment helps counselors understand how to respond to increased risk. Can the victim stay in their home or do they need shelter? They might need counseling or an order of protection. They have the right to say, "No, thank you."

"In the domestic violence community, we do not tell anyone when they should leave, even if we have extreme fear," Love-Patterson said, as in the case of gun use or choking. The turning point for some victims, however, might be new violence or the realization of how it affects their children.

"Children don't have to be directly abused," according to the CAWC website. "Witnessing the abuse of a parent is itself trauma and abuse."

CAWC can help with an order of protection and can even accompany the victim to court. Some victims will want to know how they can press charges.

Undocumented women may fear deportation. However, under the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), a victim of battery by a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident can self-petition for lawful permanent residency without the abuser's consent, as long as they are cooperating with a law enforcement agency, Robinson said.

CAWC will offer referrals for services such as mental health, substance abuse or battery intervention that it does not directly provide. It's important to leave the door open, Love-Patterson said, because trauma can diminish

the brain's ability to grasp details. The victim's first reaction may be, "why do I have to leave *my* home?" They may also fear the unknown.

But with time – or escalated violence – the pieces will fit together for them. Statistics show that a victim might leave and return seven or eight times before they are fully done with the relationship.

"We provide them a toolkit of resources and they are in control of how we use it," Love-Patterson said. "Sometimes the client will say, 'you guys are the first ones who ever listened.'"

Leaving the home immediately could also mean the victim loses cherished items or important documents. In the interim, the agency does a safety plan directed by the victim until a space opens up, in either a Chicago or suburban shelter, or with friends and relatives.

The safety plan could mean that if the abuser knows the victim travels west and then north on the CTA, for example, social workers will suggest she reverse it and go north first, then west, Robinson said. They might also suggest code words that family members can use. Or they might tell the woman to prepare a bag with clothes, money and documents that she can leave at a friend's house in case she needs to make a quick escape.

"We have moved from the era where 'what happens in the house stays in the house,'" Robinson said. "Everyone

can do something," she said, whether it is posting palm cards with hotline numbers or calling a hotline, condensing the information about resources and repeating it back to a victim at a crucial moment.

"The scope of domestic violence means we can all be first responders if we have the right education," adds the CAWC website.

Each Chicago Police Department district has its own method of outreach, targeted to their community,

Robinson said. During October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, some will provide domestic violence handouts paired with dog walks where people also receive information about animal abuse. Some outreach has a spiritual overtone. Others connect with women at spas. Still others provide resource information in conjunction with breast cancer awareness, which reaches women whose partners might attack them for attending a domestic violence seminar.

CAWC has its own Greenhouse Shelter on the Northwest Side, which was the first to admit sons up to age 18. The shelter is not a dorm but offers individual rooms shared by a family. The typical length of stay is 120 days; some victims need just a brief interlude, others extended time.

Every now and then, CAWC will hear back about a success – or a failure. Sometimes the victims will describe a move to another city, another state, or even another country. It's their way of putting the crisis behind them.

“THE SCOPE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MEANS WE CAN ALL BE FIRST RESPONDERS IF WE HAVE THE RIGHT EDUCATION.”
-CAWC

Cardinal Cupich. Congregations throughout the 40th and 47th wards – both Catholic and non-Catholic -- were invited, said Anne-Marie Finger, who chairs St. Benedict's domestic violence committee and who previously headed an archdiocesan women's committee that brought the issue to Cardinal George's attention.

Speakers included Phil Andrew, archdiocesan director of violence prevention; Kate Lawler, director of violence prevention at Swedish Covenant Hospital; Chicago Police Department Officer Monique Giannoni, domestic violence subcommittee of the 19th District; and Greg Finger, a Chicago Public School teacher, as moderator. The outreach event at the Sulzer Regional Library drew 45 people, including representatives of both Ald. Andre Vazquez (40th ward) and Ald. Matt Martin (47th ward), Father Steve Kanonik, pastor of St. Benedict; Monsignor Jim Kaczorowski, pastor of Queen of Angels; Father Sergio Romo, pastor of St. Andrew Church; and Father Michael Shanahan, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Comments from attendees ranged from "I never knew any of this!" to "What wonderful speakers!" Finger said.

St. Benedict's committee members started small with their ministry, by buying an ad in the parish bulletin that listed the domestic violence hotline number run by Catholic Charities, 877.863.6338, as well as the national one: 1.800.799.7233. They also put up palm cards in the women's restroom with the hotline numbers and gave both numbers to the church rectory in case victims called there for help. Meanwhile, a counselor is available at Queen of Angels to members of both parishes.

In February, the combined committees are planning a talk on healthy relationships for pre-teens. Kids as young as 12 need to know about dating and violence, Finger said, because it involves the same thing: manipulation and control.

"Young people especially must be made aware that right from the beginning of the relationship, you have to set boundaries," she said.

Anne-Marie Finger (Chair) (left) from St. Benedict and Mary Pat Dillon (Chair) from Queen of Angels at a DV outreach event.

CARA FOUNDER & VENTURE PHILANTHROPIST FOUND BETTER INTERVENTION FOR POVERTY

by Cara Chicago

Cara Chicago is sad to announce the death of Cara founder and StreetWise supporter, Thomas Owens, who passed away on Sunday morning, September 29.

Tom was an innovator – in business, philanthropy, faith, and family. He was an IBM executive for 20 years and the founder of XL/Datacomp, which provided products and services for the IBM midrange computer line, eventually reaching annual revenues of \$500 million. Tom retired from his business in 1991 but his legacy was just beginning.

Tom would often quip that he entered the philanthropic sector because he was worried his wife, Mary, wouldn't want him invading her kitchen all day in his retirement. But in truth, Tom was a firm believer in the biblical proverb, "To whom much is given, much is expected." Tom and Mary founded The Owens Foundation in 1985 to use their financial resources to aid those less fortunate. Through their strong Catholic faith and dedication to philanthropy, Tom and Mary were friends with Mother Teresa of Calcutta, often accompanying her on Missionary of Charity projects to help the impoverished in Arizona and Mexico. When Tom saw the same problems in his own backyard, he was compelled to call on his network and resources to help him combat poverty in Chicago.

In 1991, he founded Cara out of the back of his car, driving from shelter to shelter, connecting women with business contacts and colleagues he had made in the hopes of finding them quality employment. Early on in Cara's existence, Tom observed that, while they were seeing success in securing job placements, they weren't seeing success in retention of the job – with an employee often losing the job and becoming more demoralized than before. With that in mind, Tom's revolutionary foresight brought a shift in Cara's job training to include a holistic focus on personal and professional development to create the best possible employment candidate. Today, nearly 30 years later, Cara has evolved into a world-class job training and placement program, with more than 6,500 individuals placed into more than 10,000 jobs thanks to the expert guidance and stewardship of Tom.

"Our heart hangs heavy today. We have lost not just a hero, but a father and a friend in the most palpable sense of both words. Tom lived his life in epic and profound service to others and he was always buoyed by the belief that our greatest days are before us, if only we can lean on the power of a friend," says Maria Kim, President and CEO of Cara. "Tom gave us the greatest gift of all: the power to believe – in ourselves, in each other, in our city, and in our future. He did this as only Tom could, with that John Wayne presence, his boyish mischievous grin, and the brilliance and tenacity that is and always will be Tom Owens."

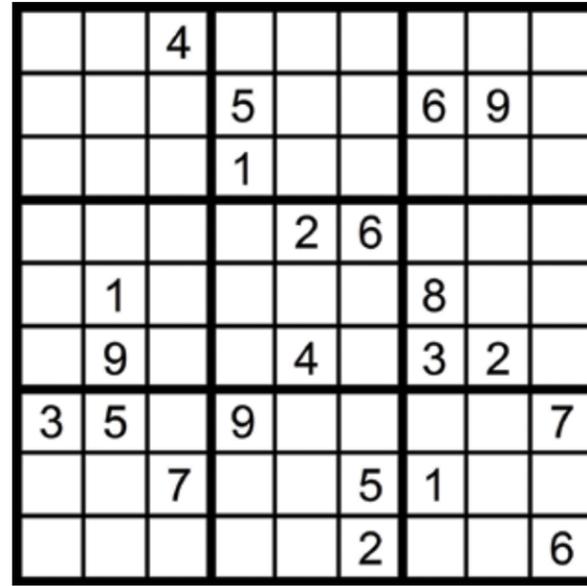


ABOVE: Tom Owens.
LEFT: StreetWise Chairman Emeritus Pete Kadens and Tom at the 2019 Cara gala.

Tom was inducted into Leo High School's Hall of Fame and was a life trustee for the Catholic Theological Union Board of Trustees. He was the co-chairman at The Emergency Fund (now merged with All Chicago) for 10 years, and received many awards and honors, including being named one of the 20 Most Inspiring Chicagoans in 2018 by StreetWise.

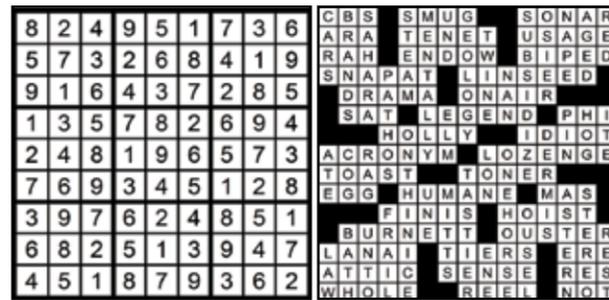
"Tom lives on in our mission in every individual who comes through our doors, in every time we ring the bell when someone gets a job, in every morning when we shout out 'Make it a great day!' Those are his words and they are our forever call to action," continued Kim. "We miss him so profoundly and extend our love and greatest condolences to his adoring family."

SUDOKU



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LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE ANSWERS

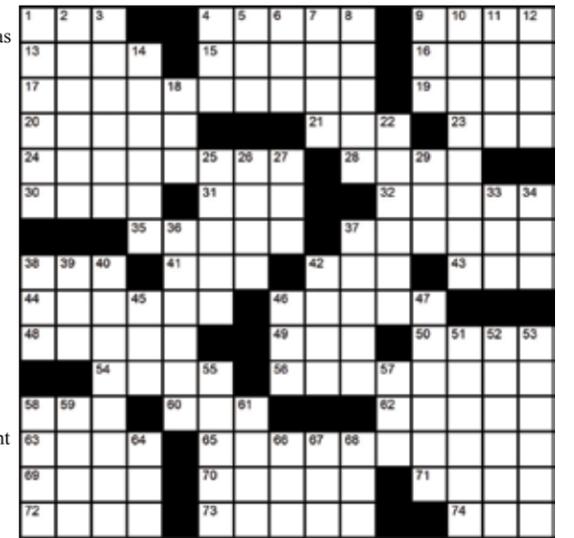


FIND YOUR NEAREST STREETWISE VENDOR AT
WWW.STREETWISE.ORG

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Greenhouse gas
- 4 Flabbergast
- 9 Pipe problem
- 13 Starch
- 15 Bar stock
- 16 Fem. suffix
- 17 Peerages
- 19 Famous ___
- 20 Dress style
- 21 Poseidon's domain
- 23 Camel hair fabric
- 24 Makes moonshine
- 28 Broadway brightener
- 30 Crowning point
- 31 Fast no more
- 32 Altercation
- 35 Golden Hind captain
- 37 Seldom
- 38 A Gershwin
- 41 Dutch city
- 42 Louse-to-be
- 43 Datebook abbr.
- 44 Bigwigs
- 46 Hem again
- 48 Painter's plaster
- 49 "Go, team!"
- 50 Wistful word
- 54 Listening devices
- 56 Release of liquid
- 58 Still-life subject
- 60 Discouraging words
- 62 Old
- 63 Learning method
- 65 Presented



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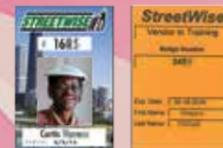
- 69 Trot or canter
- 70 Decrease
- 71 London's ___ Gallery
- 72 Harbor postings
- 73 Filch
- 74 Hallucinogen
- 10 Like a drone
- 11 Kind of appeal
- 12 Indian buzzard
- 14 Coined
- 18 Muumuu accessory
- 22 Make bubbly
- 25 Conducts
- 26 Water-skiing locale
- 27 ___-Foy, Que.
- 29 "Days of ___ Lives"
- 33 Land in l'océan
- 34 Big Apple inits.
- 36 Converted, in a way
- 37 Hindu sage
- 38 Gerund maker
- 39 "Norma ___"
- 40 In ___ (not present)
- 42 Half-moon tide
- 45 Costa Rica peninsula
- 46 They have Xings
- 47 Reddish brown
- 51 Pertaining to the flock
- 52 Shoelace tips
- 53 Started a lawn
- 55 Besmirches
- 57 Little shaver
- 58 Encourage
- 59 Highway
- 61 Winter forecast
- 64 Space invaders, for short
- 66 Prefix with light
- 67 Agent (Abbr.)
- 68 It's found in banks

Down

- 1 The Great White North
- 2 Cavort
- 3 Artistic movement
- 4 "Aladdin" prince
- 5 Cambridge sch.
- 6 Brest friend
- 7 Zorro's marks
- 8 City near Düsseldorf
- 9 New Deal org.

Our Mission

To empower the entrepreneurial spirit through the dignity of self-employment by providing Chicagoans facing homelessness with a combination of supportive social services, workforce development resources and immediate access to gainful employment.



Orientation
Participants complete a monthlong orientation, focusing on customer service skills, financial literacy and time management to become a badged vendor.

How StreetWise Works

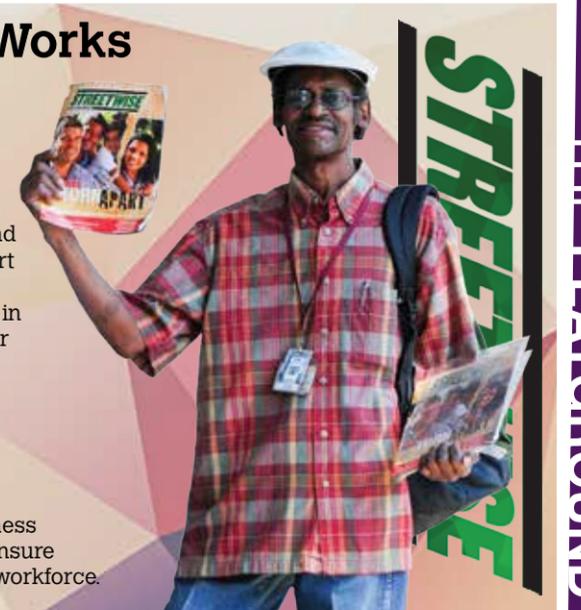


Financial Literacy
Vendors buy StreetWise for \$0.90, and sell it for \$2. The profit of \$1.10 goes directly to the licensed vendor for them to earn a living.

Supportive Services
StreetWise provides referrals, advocacy and other support to assist participants in meeting their basic needs and getting out of crisis.

S.T.E.P. Program

StreetWise's S.T.E.P. Program provides job readiness training and ongoing direct service support to ensure participants' success in entering the traditional workforce.



PERCY SMITH : 20 YEARS SOBER AND HAPPY TO BE ALIVE

by Suzanne Hanney

“Percy Smith 20 years not a slave to addiction” is the saying that Smith, a StreetWise vendor at 1440 W. Webster Ave., had printed on a T-shirt to reflect Aug. 4, 1999 -- the last time he used a substance.

Smith was 18 years old and playing baseball on a full scholarship at Iowa State University when he was hit by a car on Nov. 2, 1980. The incident put a hole in his spinal cord, a condition known as siringomyelia, and ended his dreams of a pro baseball career. Hospitalized for a couple of months, he regained movement but used drugs until he was 37 years old for the pain.

“I didn’t feel addicted because it was just pills,” said Smith, who is now 57. But the turning point came when he started overusing: much more than four really strong opioid pills a day. Because his prescription lapsed, he turned to heroin, which worked faster than pills on the pain. But there were still “battles with feeling bad, sick, my body just out of whack. It got too big for me because I had no control over my life.”

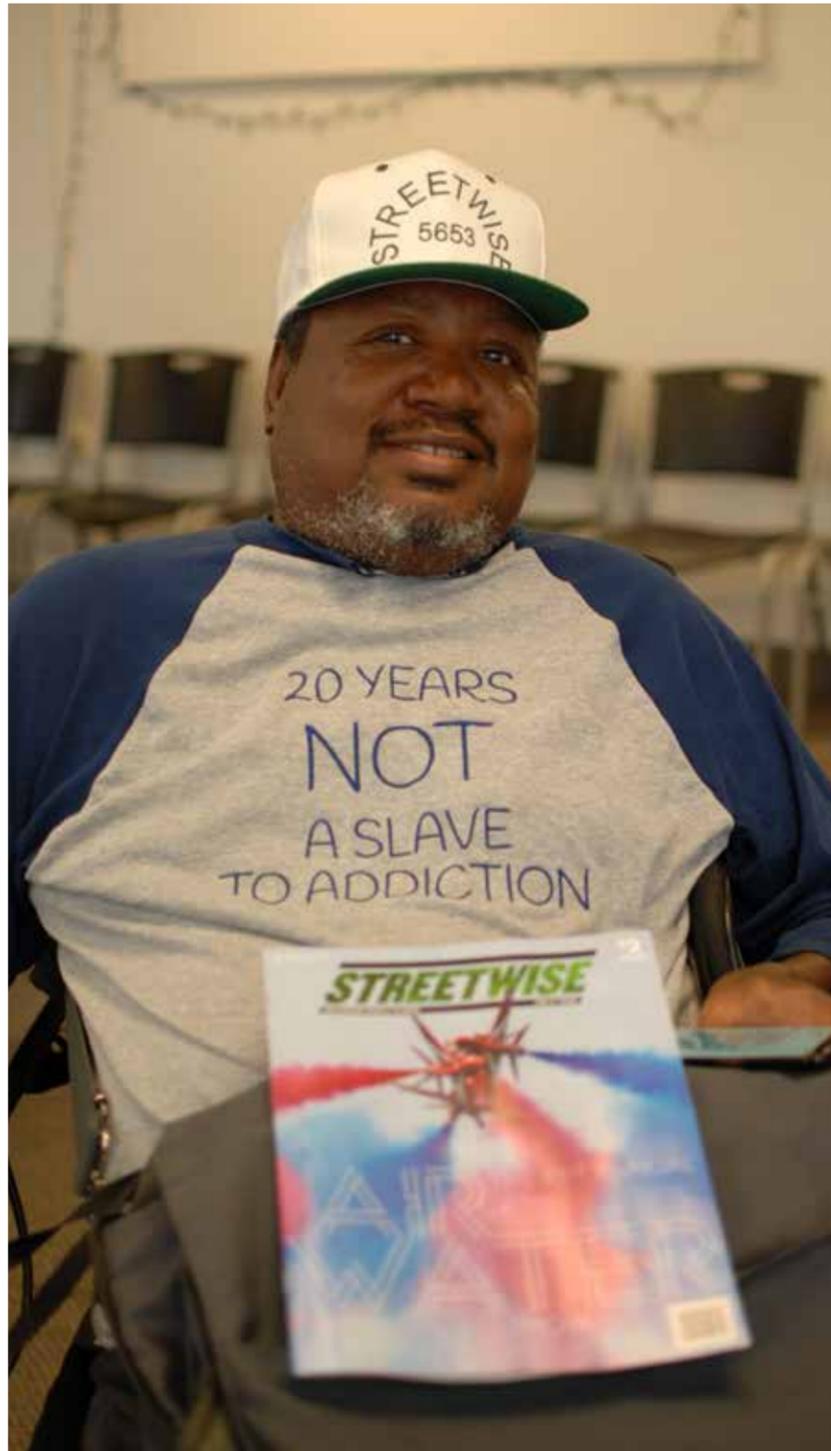
In 1989, Smith tried to go cold turkey by isolating himself at his mother’s house. But when he went downtown to buy a tie and a shirt, he ran into an old friend who told him where he could get the drug. He left the store and came home.

“There are physical, mental and emotional elements to addiction,” Smith said. “The physical is the pain your body feels when you withdraw. The emotional is that if you do drugs, you can’t stop. The mental is the self-centeredness, thinking you can stop on your own. I was clean three months and the suggestion just ticked it right off.”

But the ultimate turning point came 10 years later when Smith became angry about the little pill that was controlling his life. He learned that Mercy Hospital was doing combined detox and rehab and made an appointment for three days later. But in the interim of not using he became really sick; he lost control of his bowels, vomited and was teary-eyed and lethargic. Although he was using a cane and not yet a wheelchair, he was also falling down frequently.

On his way to the hospital in a taxi, he was so sick he picked up some drugs. “So the mental part of the disease told me I was too sick to go in. I wouldn’t get the help I needed.” Since he hadn’t eaten, he stopped by the Burger King at 23rd and Michigan, two blocks from the hospital. “My head was so messed up I couldn’t even figure out what I wanted to eat. I looked at the clock, saw I was late and thought about coming in the next day.” But instead he passed out.

When he awoke, he learned the ambulance had taken him to Mercy Hospital. “This was God-sent all the way. I shouldn’t have passed out. I believe my last thought, ‘I could go the next day,’ was God doing something for me I couldn’t do for myself, which was stop using.”



After five days in detox, he went back home and found his pain had diminished. He immediately went to a 12-step meeting.

“It was hard to believe people were celebrating clean time between five and 20 years. I couldn’t believe people could stay clean five, 10, 20 years, even more.”

Percy Smith and one of his regular customers, Sara Borowiec, who submitted this picture. “Percy does a great job for our community,” she said.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Photo by Alexandria Maloney.



“Then I got a ‘hope shot’: I saw someone I recognized stand up and say he had five years clean. I remembered him five years before; he looked so bad. He had urine- and feces-stained clothes. His hair was matted together so much it looked like dreadlocks. The hope shot was, if he can maintain sobriety for five years, I am sure I can maintain.”

About a month later, however, Smith felt scared that he might use again. “You get these temptations. It could even be something you see on TV, the news. It could be seeing an old friend who may not be using but you remember the last time when you were hanging out and using. That’s the mental and emotional part, the compulsion to want to use. I was told to never forget about your clean time. This is something you celebrate.”

Ultimately, meeting with a clinician, reading the literature and making the 12-step meetings “helped me to see life differently. I learned I don’t always need a crutch. Help is available when you ask for it.”

Six years later, in 2005, his brother-in-law came to his grandmother’s house and asked what he was doing.

“Not doing anything,” Smith said. “Just living clean, going to meetings.” His brother-in-law, who was a StreetWise vendor, then introduced him to the organization and the spot where Percy sells the magazine today.

Smith had learned to take sobriety one day at a time, but he saw other vendors he felt were just “slaves to addiction, working all day, getting high all night until their money was gone.” He had enough clean time that with the blessing of the StreetWise vendor services manager and the executive director, he started a Lifesavers group at StreetWise every Thursday at 1 p.m. “I met people from all over the world who struggled with addiction: a guy from Japan, a couple from Israel and more who came to meetings at StreetWise.”

There was also Smith’s daily maintenance. “I don’t use, for nothing, for nobody.” His pain comes and goes but he uses the

synthetic tramadol sparingly – not every day – because it is also addictive.

Although Smith has disability income, selling StreetWise has helped with light bills, food bills, “getting some of the things I want and most of the things I need,” including his associate’s degree in addiction studies from Harold Washington College and his bachelor’s degree in mental behavior science from the University of Illinois at Chicago. In 2008 he married Bridget Cannon; he has one child still living from a high school sweetheart and his wife has three. “They don’t call me ‘father’ but they appreciate and respect me.”

In 2013, Smith had been working 10-hour days selling StreetWise and making meetings when he passed out at a meeting and later went to the emergency room. Two pressure sores from sitting on a hardened seat on his wheelchair had abscessed. Doctors had to dig so much tissue that the infection nearly reached bone.

After four months of antibiotic therapy and a wound vacuum, he was out of the hospital and then back in two weeks later. “I was taking things for granted. The doctor was telling me to stay off the wounds. ‘Don’t sit for more than an hour.’” Smith learned how to obey his doctors. He obtained a wheelchair that reclines so he can offload his weight. Now he can sit for up to three hours at a time and his wounds are smaller.

Since 2016, Smith has been able to maintain infection-free living and he still sells StreetWise on Webster Avenue. He had to stop the Lifesavers group because there was no one to substitute for him if he had a health issue, but he would like to begin it again if he could find an alternate leader. He also began a memoir using a voice-activated computer so that he didn’t need a typist. In 2015, however, his computer was unplugged during renovations to his apartment and the work was lost. He is hoping that the hard copies are wrapped in plastic and packed away in closets he has been unable to access since then.

“Mostly, I am happy to be alive and moving around,” he said.



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