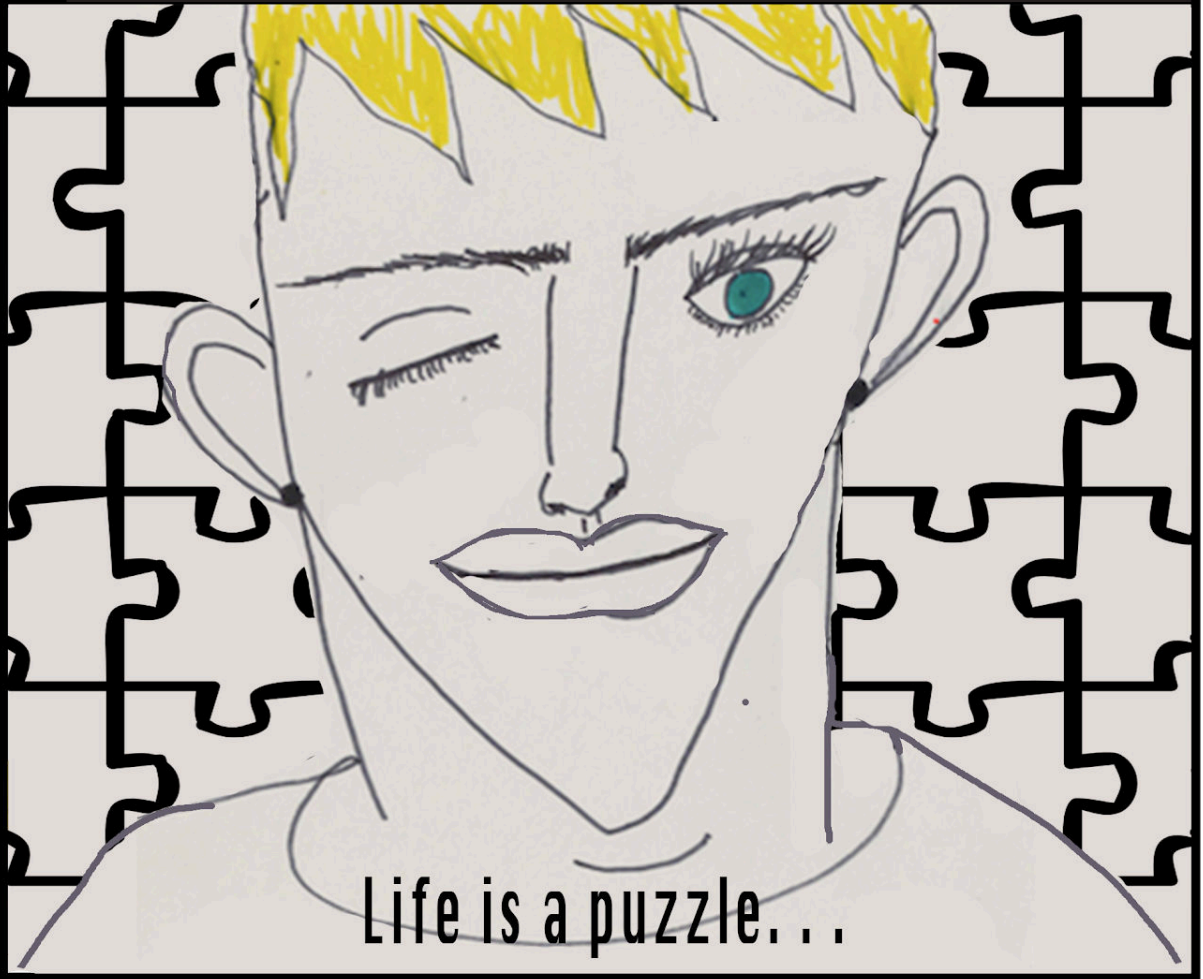


issue 47 FREE

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE

# TWACKED

A ZINE FROM THE GUYS OF THE BOULEVARD



**AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2020**

# THE G.U.Y.S. PROGRAM (Guys Understanding Your Situation) A HARM REDUCTION ART PROGRAM FOR THE GUYS OF THE BOULEVARD

Angelo Quiroz-Branscum - Health Educator

## Friends Community Center

A DIVISION OF FRIENDS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.

Friends Community Center is based on the philosophy of harm reduction.

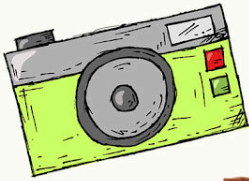
The overall objective of our prevention programs is to reduce the harm that can result from drug use by preventing HIV infection and managing the physical, psychological and psychosocial manifestations of drug use without the requirement of abstinence or recovery. Success is evaluated by any change in behavior that reduces physical, psychological or psychosocial harm to our participants, their loved ones, and/or their community.

Dr. Cathy Reback  
Executive Director, Friends Community Center  
Senior Research Scientist, Friends Research Institute, Inc.

FRIENDS COMMUNITY CENTER WISHES TO THANK THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF HIV AND STD PROGRAMS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE GUYS UNDERSTANDING YOUR SITUATION (G.U.Y.S.) PROGRAM.

**TWACKED**

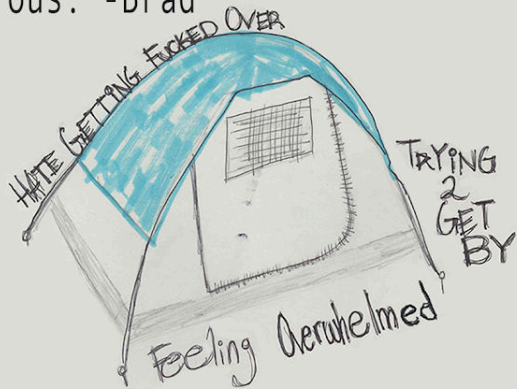
# Writings, Art, Poetry & Photos from the G.U.Y.S.

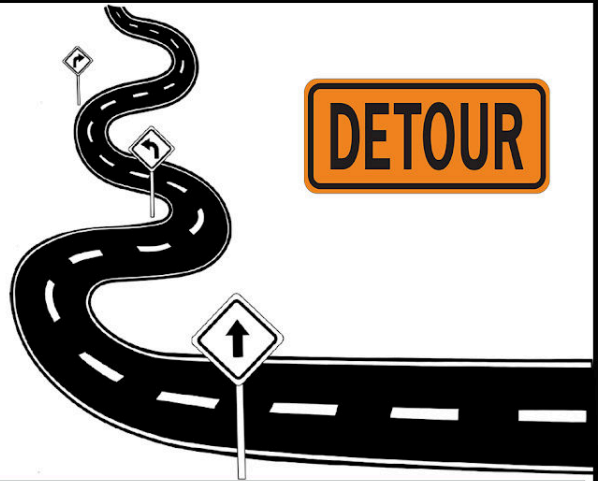
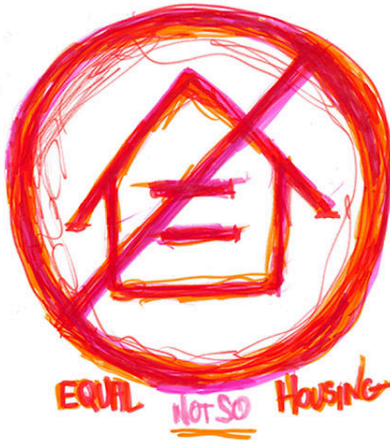


# Life on the Street



Life on the street is fucked.  
You are on your feet all day.  
If you lay down somewhere  
you get woken up by the  
police and told to leave.  
Then you get all your stuff  
ripped off. It's hard to keep  
clean and to get food.  
People look at you funny.  
Life on the street is truly  
hard and dangerous. -Brad





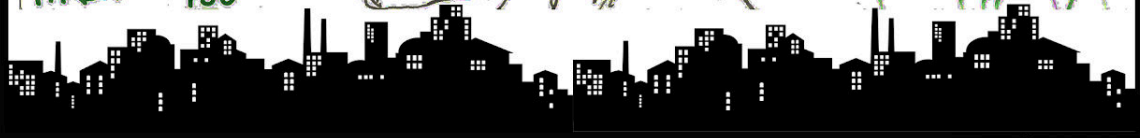
**I will not die on  
the streets of  
Hollywood!  
I will be housed  
and die in my  
home. . .**



JUST  
PLAIN  
TIRED

THANK  
YOU

PAUL



# Coping with Drugs to Survive



Scorpio

## Being Happy

Being stress-free and having no drama around me is one thing that makes me happy.

Having good weed makes me happy.

My friends being happy makes me happy.

Being comfortable in my own skin makes me happy.

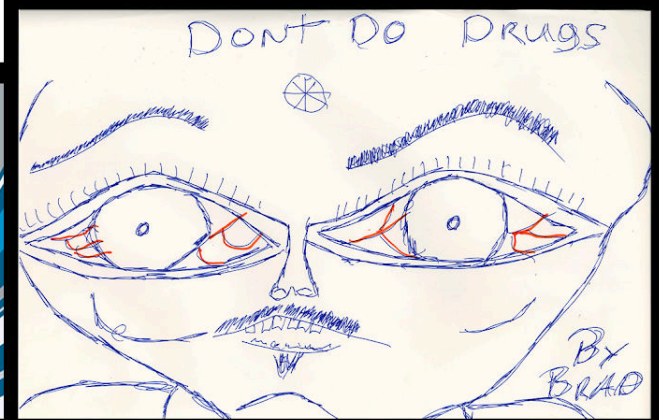
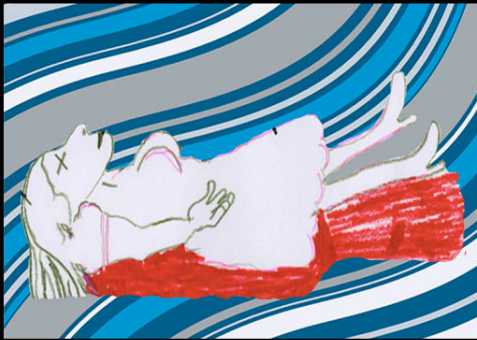
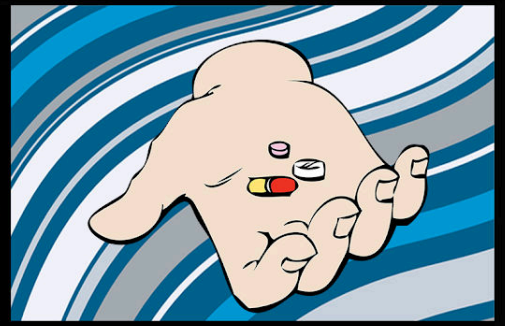


When I do speed it takes me away from the place my mind goes to! When I smoke weed I can better deal with the bullshit that comes with being homeless.





METH BLURS  
real life - but  
there are better  
ways

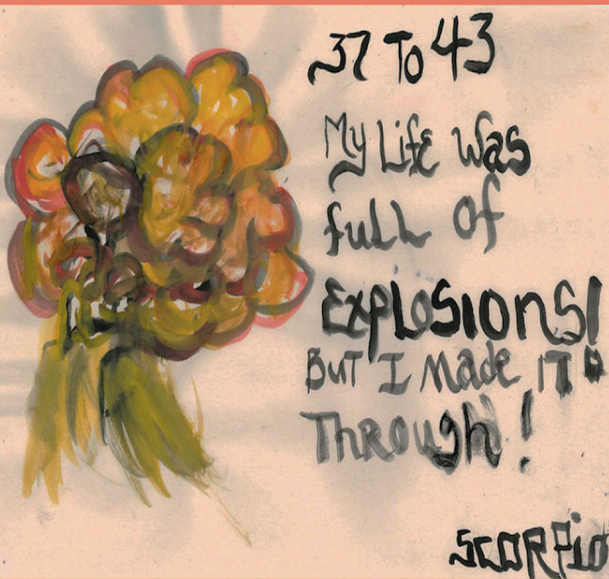


## I'm Depressed and Why I'm Out in the Streets...

My girlfriend Jodie lost her life over drugs and hanging with the wrong crowd... Fuck me up cuz nobody feels my pain, hurt and loneliness. There's really nothing to celebrate... sometimes I really feel like giving up...

-Anthony

## After the Fire, Life Began to Grow



For the year 2020, I project a more at **peace of mind** while I am more **calm** and **patient**.  
**I believe** this will make me **happier**.

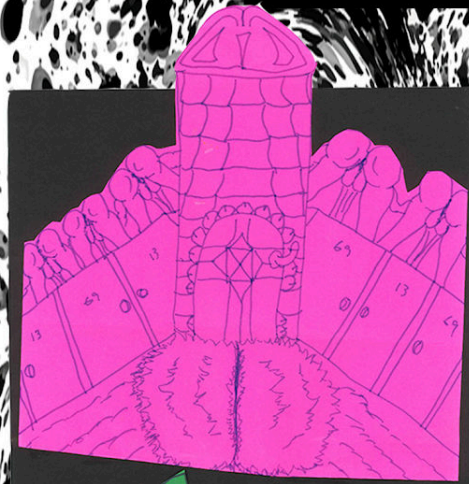
- Scorpio



We Are Pridefully G.U.Y.S.



# Sex Can Be Risky



WELCUM



DAS WHY I DON'T FUCK AROUND

# Sex Can Also Be Safe!



One way to TRANSMIT HIV  
IS Through PreCum.

So always  
Remember!

U=U  
and PrEP  
keep my  
communities  
safe!



Using Lube

Using  
Condoms

AND getting  
TESTED

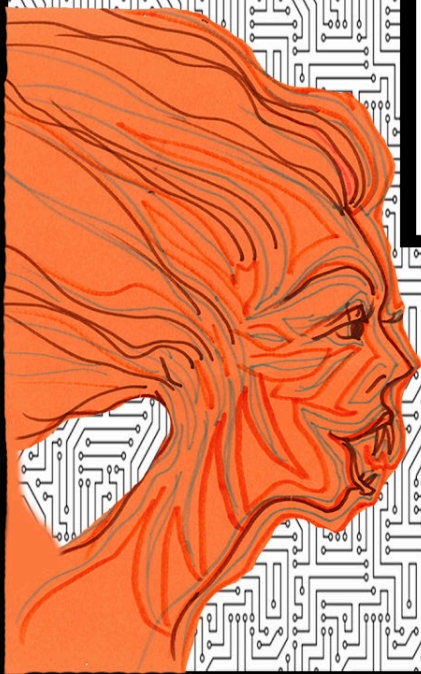
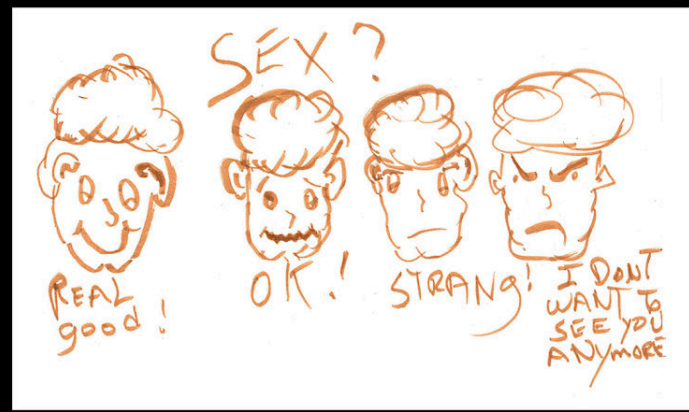
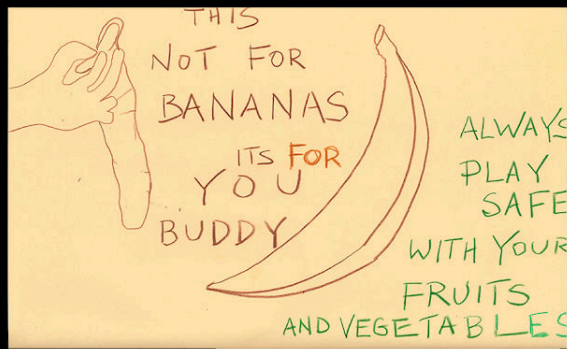
Are good practices to help  
prevent  
CATCHING HIV.

# Racism on the Streets



**#ALLBLACKLIVESMATTER**





# Moving Forward

HAVING YOUR OWN  
LEARNING TO BE RESPECTFUL  
LIFE IS TOO SHORT  
LEARN TO KNOW  
EARN WHAT YOU GET  
ALWAYS REMEMBER  
NEVER FORGET

I LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES  
I PUSH MYSELF TO DO BETTER  
LIFE IS NOT EASY

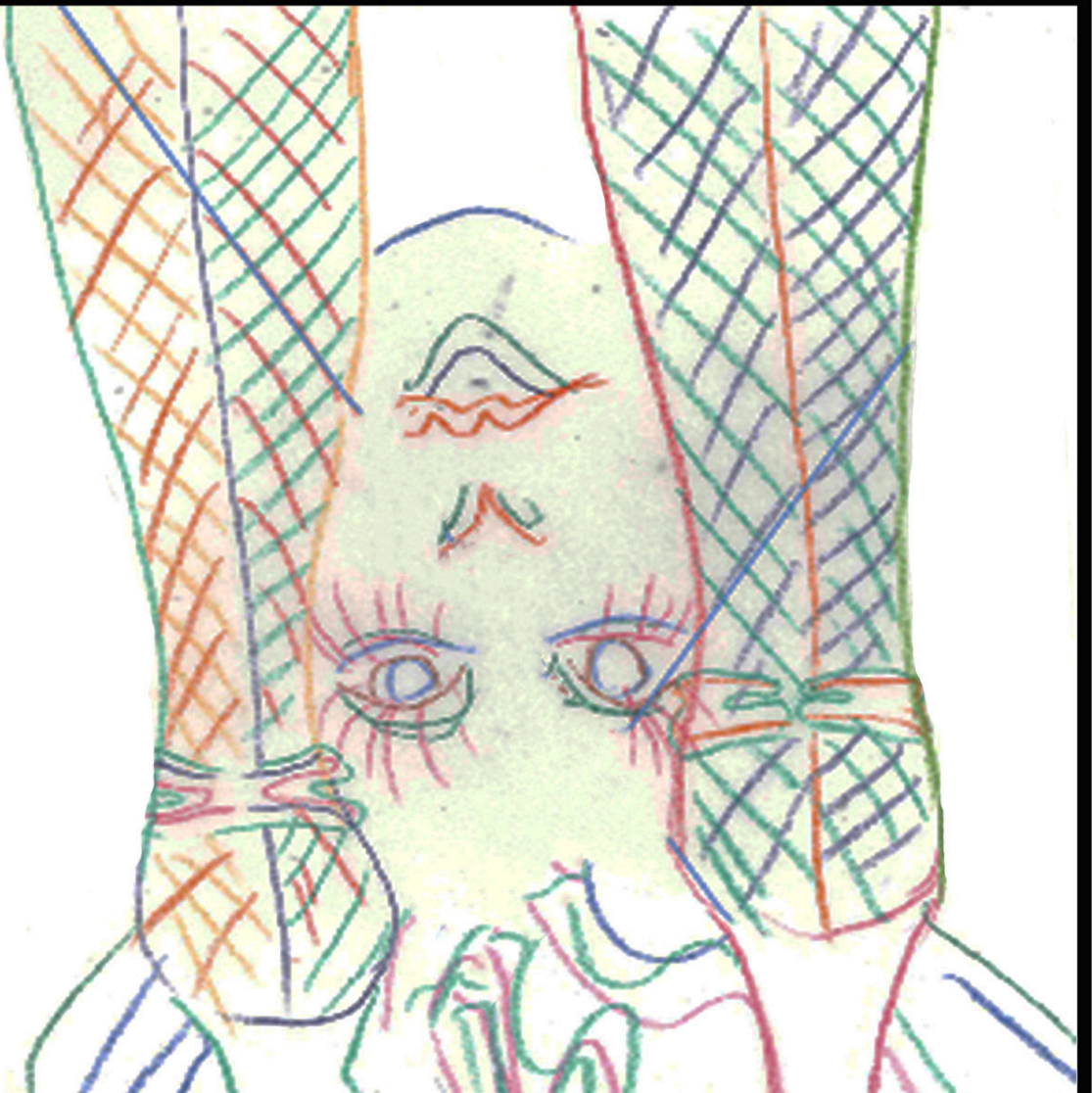
EXCEPT WHAT WAS GIVEN TO ME  
I DON'T MAKE NO MORE EXCUSES

I WANT TO ALWAYS WANT PEACE NOT DRAMA

I'VE COME A LONG WAY

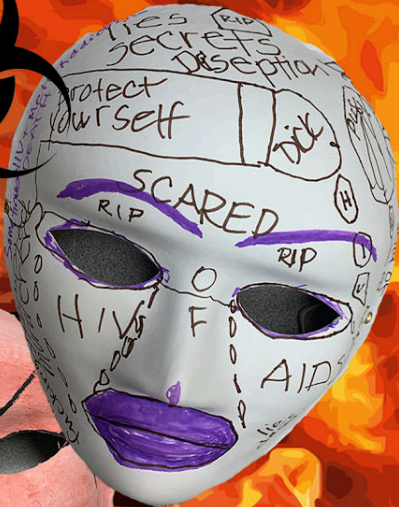
I ALWAYS REMEMBER WHERE I COME FROM  
WHERE I'M MOVING FORWARD IN LIFE

-Mr. Rico Guave # 1



**People are always trying to label people. If I don't immediately get with a girl she calls me gay. I stay in my own lane. I have my own people that are close to me and know that I am bisexual. Some people hate you because their insecurities get in the way.**

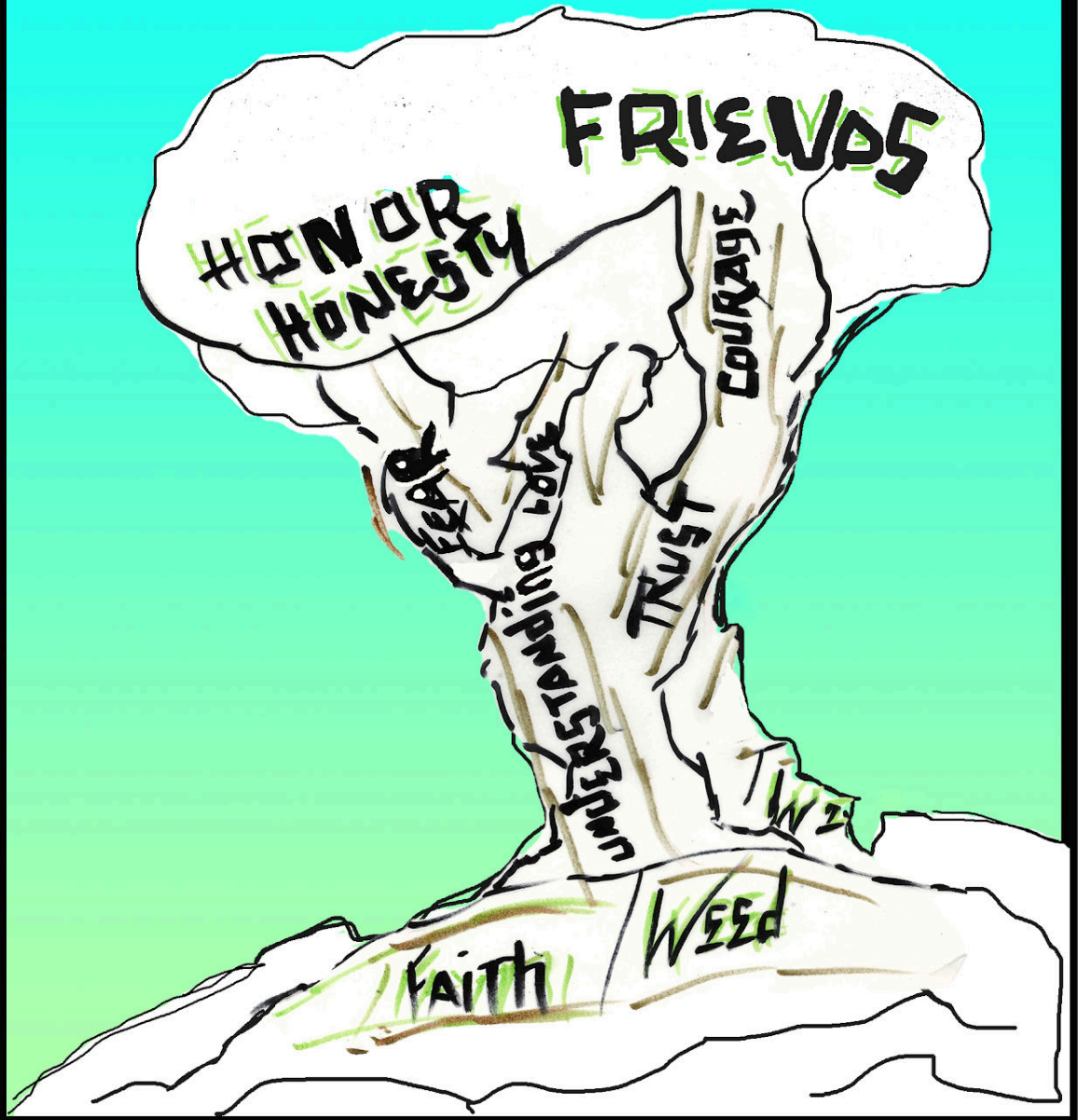
# Even though I have fears...

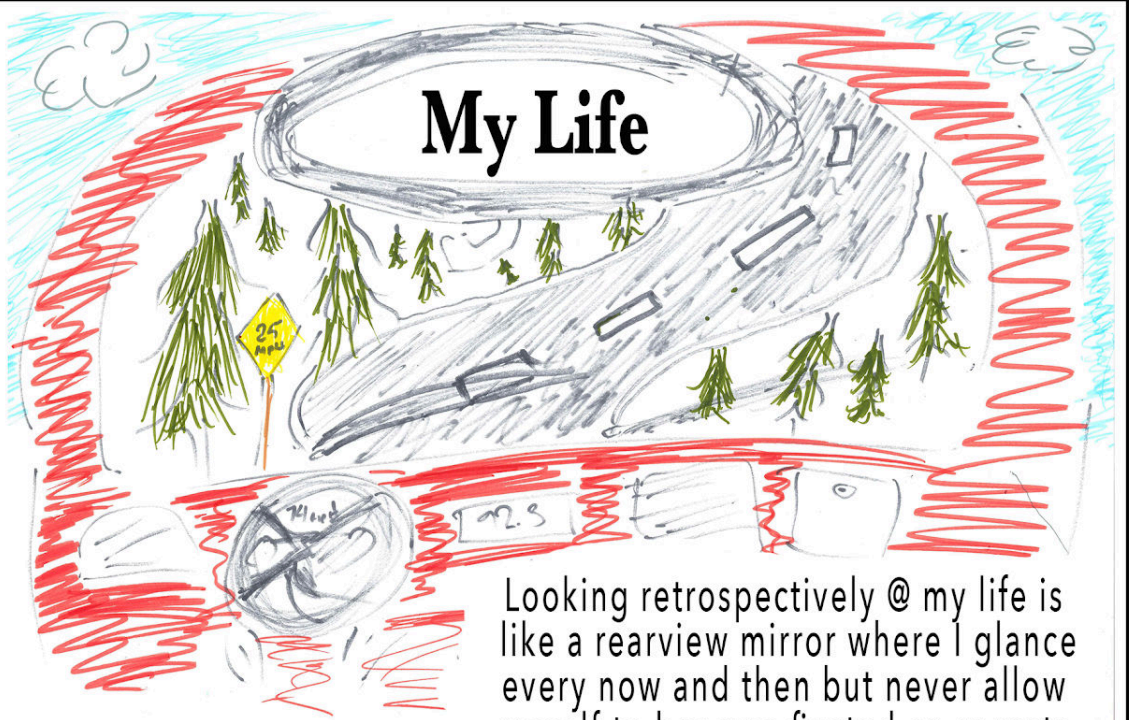


Death to me is being alone as well as having no one.



I remain grounded and resilient!





Looking retrospectively @ my life is like a rearview mirror where I glance every now and then but never allow myself to become fixated on regrets.

My friends are considered my family and they give me strength to go on even when I don't want to.



# Finding My Solutions

Solve  
MY  
Homeless

FIX MY  
SOCIAL  
Security  
MONEY

JOINED the  
SENIOR Center  
KEEP GOING TO  
DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS

Get a better phone  
AND GET ALL MY ID'S  
BACK AND IN ORDER

STAY OUT OF TROUBLE AND  
STAY SAFE AND STAY HEALTHY  
KEEP LOOKING FOR HOUSING  
DON'T FAIL AND GET INTO SOME  
KIND OF HOMELESS SHELTER



# TWACKED

## info you asked 4



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
(central office of Los Angeles)  
323.936.4343

MCINTYRE HOUSE  
323.662.0855

CRYTSAL METH ANONYMOUS  
855.638.4373

MINORITY AIDS PROJECT  
HIV testing free & anonymous  
323.936.4949

FRIENDS COMMUNITY CENTER  
323.463.1601  
risk reduction education and support groups  
for gay/bi men, MSM and transgender women

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HIV/AIDS HOTLINE  
800.367.2437

FRIENDS GETTING OFF  
free treatment for gay/bi crystal meth users  
323.463.7001

SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE  
800.273.8255

LA LGBT CENTER  
HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
323.993.7500 (primary phone)  
323.860.5855 (alternate number)  
323.993.7575 (youth center)  
323.993.8990 (PrEP Services)

TARZANA TREATMENT CENTER  
818.463.4266

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL  
COVID-19 Testing  
323.462.2271

<https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing>

EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT SUPPORTED BY FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE CENTER FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF HIV AND STD PROGRAMS.