

# WHY WE NEED SUPPORT

...and how you can help



The Indigenous Anarchist

It humbles me to ask for help from strangers. It is not something I want to do. I do my best to remind myself that I am not the first to need help, that being in-need is not a reflection of my character but my circumstance, and that many times I have had opportunity to be the helper and did so without asking for reciprocity. So, I humble myself because I know some people are helpers and there is no shame in being in-need. Maybe together we can make our society that much better. Thank you for your care.



My daughter and I before we were homeless.  
I don't like taking pictures of myself right now.



I am a brilliant kind woman with a funny sweet child. We are mixed. My primary identity is as a Lakota/Lebanese woman, college-graduate, and mother. I don't have family for support because I was raised in a violent home and no longer have a connection to my birth family. As soon as I was able to I left home for college, became an avid volunteer, and graduated with awards.

After graduating college I became a mother. I was in a committed relationship of ten years when my daughter was born. Unfortunately, the relationship seemed to deteriorate over time to the point of verbal and emotional abuse. When my daughter was four I realized she would form memories of the way her father talked to/treated me and decided I didn't want that for her. I tried relationship counseling but nothing got better. So, we ended our relationship. I thought we could end things amicably but my ex became vicious and convinced our landlord that without him I wouldn't be able to afford rent. So, we were kicked out. At the time he was the primary income earner. I now realize I should have figured out a better job for myself before leaving. I needed escape but I didn't plan it well. As a result I ended up living in some terrible and abusive roommate situations. At one time I even had to leave all my belongings behind in order to escape a hostile situation. I found myself lost in finding a safe place to make a better condition for ourselves.

As a former social worker, I applied for help at every place I could think of and asked around for more. I was mortified when I learned that nobody wanted to help us or that I didn't qualify for help based on arbitrary requirements. Again and again.

We did a lot of couch surfing, some of it safer than others. I protected my daughter from the brunt of it but it was miserable for me.





Eventually, I got a well paying job. 17\$ an hour. Without having someone to split rent with, and with the added cost of childcare, I was barely making ends meet. We had nothing extra. I was able to make this work for a couple years, on my own. But I got fired, with no real explanation, as I had received several raises for good work, and only a guess that I didn't fit in well. I do try to fit in but people tend to find me odd. Ironically, I was able to train five new hires to fit in better and each got promotions.

Though I received unemployment for a while I couldn't find another job that paid as much and therefore I couldn't afford rent. I didn't have savings because it all went into summer school for my kid so i had a place to leave her while i worked in the summer. I applied for hundreds of jobs and got only a handful of callbacks. I missed rent for the first time in my life. I was quickly evicted. This happened in the middle of a snowstorm. I did raise enough money to pay the rent last minute but the landlord wouldn't accept it late.

My daughter and I slept in our car and hopped around friend's houses until I got another job offer. 12\$ an hour. Not enough to get housed. I reapplied for low-income housing and was told I'd been put on the three year wait-list (doesn't even guarantee a place in three years). I begged anyone and everyone to help me make this budget workable. Everyone told me it was impossible. Unfortunately, even though I was the top-ranking new employee, I was fired two months into the job for having a poor "tone of voice" on a phone call. In tears I went immediately to the local crisis center who told me "Chin up, keep trying". I was left to start over, yet again.

I didn't get a job right away so I moved to the South coast to escape Winter. We've been living in a van for a couple years now. I've asked for help thousands of times. Without a home I can't maintain a job and my daughter doesn't get a normal life. . It's an endless cycle.





Our dog, Odie, enjoying a hotel night.

## **A HISTORY OF SERVICE**

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I want to share my history of service work so folks know that I give-back as often as possible.

I was a breastfeeding counselor (LLL Certified) for several years. Many families who were desperate for help feeding and understanding their newborns were aided by care I provided.

I started and ran a very successful group for gentle (attachment) parents. This connected numerous families who formed childhood-long friendships and support systems.

In college I was part of a group who put on both Pow-Wows for the community but also weekly culture nights for Indigenous folks and our friends. We started the culture nights and they still happen today bringing local Indigenous community together on a regular basis.

I have successfully volunteered as an official mentor on multiple occasions. Each time my mentee has been wonderful.

I was a volunteer teacher for culture school, summer school, and aiding kids into college after high school.

On numerous occasions I've volunteered services of housekeeping and childcare for community in need.

When invited I've volunteered labor at animal sanctuaries to help the space be safe for the animals.

I was an active activist for many years. I helped hold protests, counter white supremacy and train for community defense. I took herbal and street medic classes to help keep folks safe in crisis.

For a few years I happily helped host queer and trans community events on a regular basis.

I've participated in food and item donation, as well as resource mapping, on countless occasions.

I actively fundraised to help several individuals meet their basic needs.

**I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE THIS WORK**



My precious child ...who because of homelessness... once had an alcoholic slushie thrown on her, by a grown man, while she slept.

# EVERYTHING IS HARDER

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There is this societal expectation that allows people to look the other way when their friends and neighbors struggle, the expectation that you dust yourself off and pick yourself back up.

But what happens when that's not enough?

Why do we expect those who are going through the worst time in their life to find a hidden reservoir of opportunity and strength? Why do we ask people to double their pain instead of help them from our places of privilege?

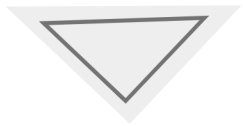
When you are treated as less than nothing, as you focus on just surviving the day, it can be impossible to see the path out.

Lying social workers	Violence
No showers	Assumptions
Angry Strangers	No ability to lay flat
Perverts	Predjudice
No bathroom	No stove
Police Officers	No refrigerator
No bank account	No mailing address

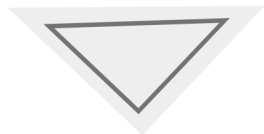
## BREAKS SPIRIT

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It's incredibly difficult to explain how much being homeless breaks your spirit. I experience violence on a near daily basis, people are full of vitriol for anyone homeless. Every time I get close to crawling out of this I face a devastating setback at the hands of a state agency or business with no accountability. It's an endless circle of being pushed to the bottom while everyone watches.



That's not all. Nobody wants to build real friendships with Homeless people so it's very isolating. And there's little opportunity for joy. In fact, there's very little comfort. Heck, even finding appropriate hygiene is a struggle. Every moment is moving from place to place to avoid authorities. Life becomes bleak and nobody takes you seriously, least of all the folks who are supposed to help you.



More than that I'm angry all the time. It's heartbreaking to be hated by people who have everything you don't. It's infuriating to be looked down on when I'm a beautiful person. Being homeless is often a situation that feels deeply hopeless. It's so hard to live this way.



At the beach

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

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I've learned some hard lessons: Social services has huge gaps for people to fall through, without a loving family there is no safety net, and that people give what they want to give not what you need.

Currently, we are living in a van. My daughter is now twelve and has missed a significant portion of having a safe childhood. After repeatedly exhausting all possibilities in my hometown and realizing it was essential that I move somewhere that wasn't as cold in the Winter I had opportunity to try new resources. As of now, I've traveled through nine states and lived in four different major cities across two states. I sought out resources in every one, and asking for help in surrounding towns as well. There has been nothing. It's been the same everywhere. I've tried to earn income and save but saving is difficult when you don't have a safe place to leave your kid while you work. I have saved some but it's not a lot.

Because we have had to move so much we haven't made friends and my daughter has been homeschooled. This started during the pandemic and so far we haven't found a way to enroll her that wouldn't lead to her embarrassment. This causes us to be largely ostracized and alone. I often feel hopeless and depressed.

Right now, we have the cops called on us once or twice a week, usually for parking in one spot for more than a couple hours or someone just being prejudice. We have been harassed, our car has been intentionally damaged, perverts have followed us, people have thrown things at my kid, men constantly yell at us and have left my daughter in tears several times with the names they call me.

It feels like we are expected to just die, and to do it quietly.  
Life is hard.

## LOOKING FORWARD

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So far, I've had multiple bank accounts declined, I've had my phone number randomly shut off, my health and food benefits declined, my applications for housing disappeared, been subject to near daily violence and generally blocked from most paths out of homelessness. I have a college degree and used to work in social services, I know how to meet deadlines and fill out paperwork. The problem is the system is designed to keep us in poverty ..it's not that I lack intelligence, willpower, or hard work. So how do I give my child the rest of her childhood back?

I'm going to keep working hard and I'm going to ask for help.  
Again and again until something shifts.

Right now, I'm hosting a fundraiser. Maybe with your help I can crawl out of this struggle. And you better believe if I succeed once I'm going to try to do it again...for someone else. Because everyone deserves a home.

***All you have to do is ask yourself... are my daughter and I are worth your time or money. Personally, I think our lives are a beautiful investment.***

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How will I pay utilities and property tax?  
Or RV upkeep and parking spots?

I have a great mind and I like to work. I wrote up a budget analysis that you can find at our website. It shows that the monthly expenses of home ownership are more manageable than that of rent, particularly with the housing barriers I currently face. Right now, I have a Patreon membership that provides me with monthly income. I should be able to expand that once I'm in a more stable environment. I also plan to work outside-the-home. This combined income will serve us. Home ownership, in particular, would allow me the backup of nannying, or similar from-home jobs, for extra income. I've detailed some of these options in my budget analysis previously mentioned.



Trying yellow watermelon

## HOW YOU CAN HELP (IF YOU WANT)

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Create art, jewelry, sweaters, zines, etc.. and sell them towards this fundraiser.

Share the fundraising flyer or post.

Flyer on next page is for everyone's use

Fundraise among your friends, family and social media network and then donate it to our survival.

When my bank account is established start a gofundme on our behalf.

I will announce these updates!

Suspend your Netflix (etc) account for one month and put that money toward this fundraiser. It'll improve our lives so much!

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I also need help establishing references and getting a bank account.

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Please don't offer help unless you have already double checked to make sure it is possible.

www.hometolivein.org



# HELP AN INDIGENOUS FAMILY

**They need a home!**



## Read Their Story

An Indigenous mother & daughter have been fighting homelessness for multiple years and are seeking our support. We can support #landback by making sure Indigenous women have homes.



## Suspend, Donate, Share

We're asking you suspend your movie account for a month, donate the proceeds (or more) and share this flyer!



Natasha-Joseph-17



redradicalrising@gmail.com

# DONATION INFORMATION

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Scarlettredradical  
redradicalrising@gmail.com



Natasha-Joseph-17



The Indigenous Anarchist



theindigenousanarchist@gmail.com



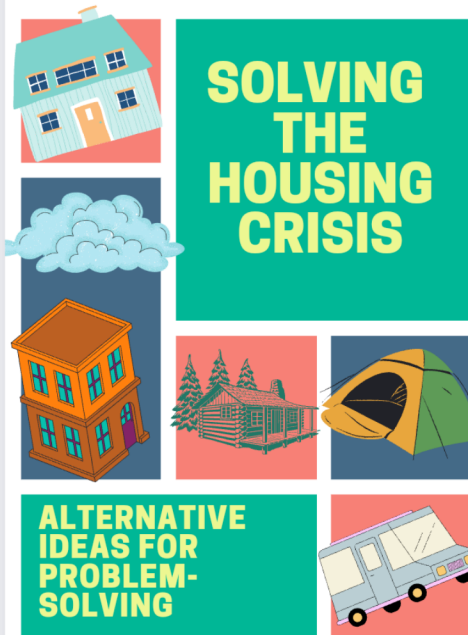
# WHAT YOU GET FOR DONATING!

Patreon members get all benefits without further donation

## HOME ON THE ROAD:

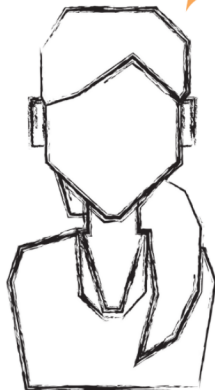
Information for when living in your vehicle is your only choice

Hi, I put some tips together for folks who need to live in their car. This information is from my personal experience and research. I hope you find the information here useful. You deserve to feel safe.



CREATED BY NATASHA JOSEPH

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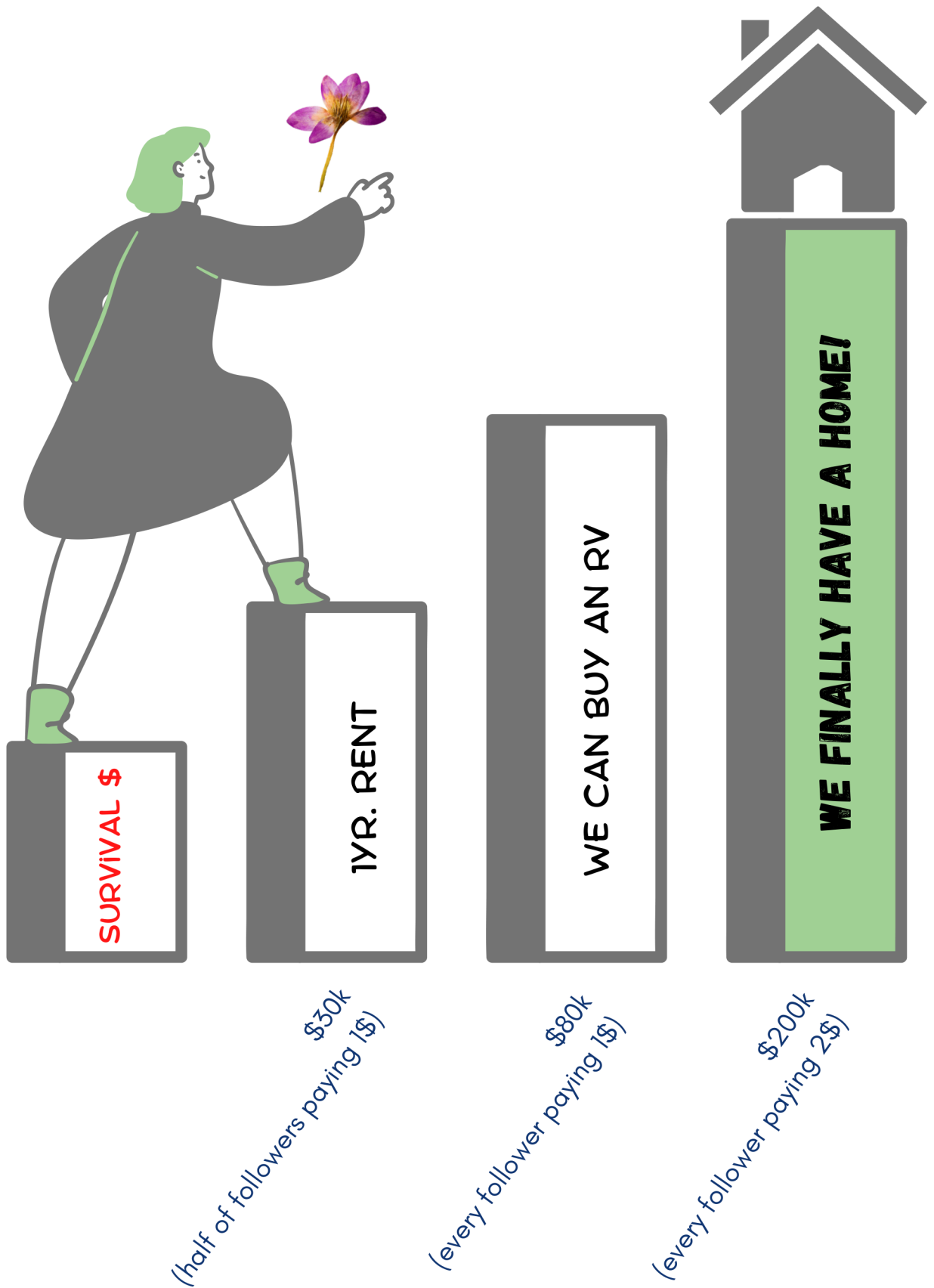


A zine on how asking for help doesn't mean we always get the assistance we need.



# WHICH GOAL WILL WE REACH?

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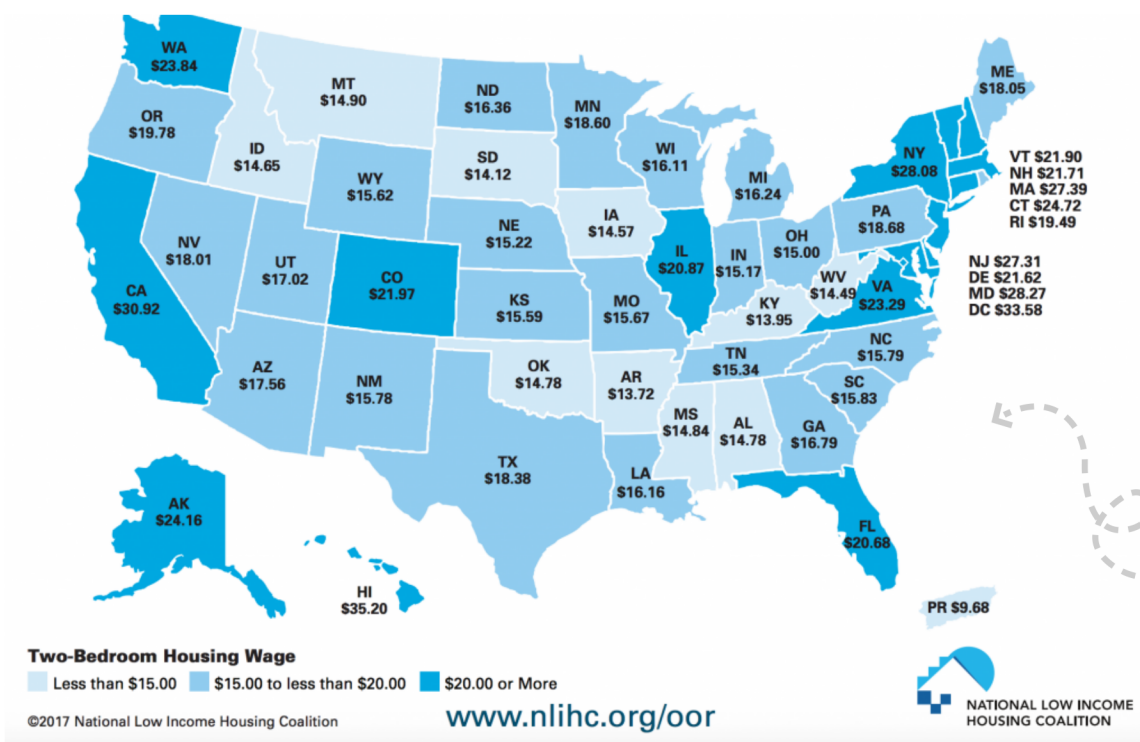
# INDEX 1: LIVING WAGE CALCULATOR

The living wage calculator is an equation that filters in the average cost of living in any given place and then tells you how much you have to earn to afford to live there. According to the living wage calculator there is no place in the United States currently where a person can make rent (and pay other bills) from a single income on minimum wage. In fact most places would require about a 20\$ hr pay for someone on a single income to make rent and their other bills. This impacts single parents most as they often lack the same resources for house sharing that childless adults have.

Unfortunately, almost nobody is willing to hire an unhoused person at 20\$+ an hour so they can get back on their feet and remain there.

This answers the question "why not raise money for rent?"

- To sustain a life while renting I would have to find a job that will pay me 20\$ an hour or more with a flexible schedule and keep it long term. It's much easier to first find stability so that both social and employment opportunities are able to be noticed and taken advantage of. A reminder that the federal minimum wage is still \$7.25 an hr. and the places that are hiring at over \$15.00 an hour have rent rates that reflect that. It's really necessary to save to own or live in a partnership. Partnerships and friendships are hard to come by when you are homeless. But with my own home I can teach from home, nanny, pet sit and etc.. if I'm ever down on regular work. Not only will I be presentable, well-rested, and well-fed but I will have a safety cushion to build income from as necessary!



## INDEX 2: BUDGET EXAMPLE

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Rent:	\$2,000
Car Insurance:	\$120
Phone:	\$100
Gas:	\$100
Pet Insurance:	\$50
Utilities:	\$300
Medical:	\$350
Toiletries Etc:	\$50
=	\$3,070

(\*not including food/daycare)

At a median 12\$ an hour one would bring home just short of \$2,000 (\*before taxes). One's medical would likely be through the employer but I've included it as a bill because on average between three and four hundred is what I'm charged through my employer while working full time to cover my daughter and myself. This would leave me never able to pay rent. It's an endless cycle. Amounts here are taken on averages found via internet search. I went with the low numbers.

Rent:	\$,1300
Car Insurance:.	\$120
Phone:	\$100
Gas:	\$100
Pet Insurance:	\$50
Utilities:	\$300
Toiletries Etc:.	\$50
=	\$2,020

(\*not including food/daycare)

Even if I take out health care and decided to live like many Americans, without, and even if i find one of the cheapest rentals for a mom & kid - a full time job at \*above\* minimum wage still wouldn't make ends meet.



See more detailed budget analysis through the website



## INDEX 3: COMMON QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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**Question: Have you used any social services like a women's/homeless shelter or 211?**

Answer: Yes! In fact I used to work in social services so have insider knowledge on where to look. Not only have I repeatedly tried getting this type of help, only to be flat out denied or waitlisted...I've also literally begged for any type of caseworker or consistent therapist to help monitor my progress. To no avail.

**Question: Have you considered getting a roommate to cut costs?**

Answer: Absolutely. It's hard meeting safe people while homeless. Unfortunately, in the past people have used my lack of power/position to be awful or unsafe roommates. This includes shelters which are very typically unsafe. I am still looking but it is difficult considering prejudice folks have of the Unhoused.

**Question: How do you plan on making income to support yourself ?**

Answer: Right now, I make money from Patreon. I hope to grow this. I also would like to get a part time job outside the home but I cannot do that without a house because my kid needs somewhere to be while I work. Most jobs do not hold hours only during school, my daughter is currently homeschooling anyway.

**Question: Society isn't likely to change soon, what do you need most to survive ?**

Answer: \*Consistent\* support and networking. I need people to care about us consistently and help us network until we are safe.



A short list on what I miss about being housed:

Hot cooked food

Having a refrigerator and pantry to store food

Trash cans

Taking a shower daily or even on whim

Daily hot coffee with soy milk without charge

Using a bathroom whenever needed

Shelter from extreme temperatures

A private place to cry/get dressed/take off a bra

A consistent comfortable place to sleep

Feeling safe

Having a home-base for work and projects

A place to leave my dog so the kid and I can go out and have fun

Watching my daughter sit on the ground and play

A place to invite friends

Having somewhere to go in an emergency

Having an address when businesses ask for one

A place to recover from illness

Shelter from the attitudes and bad days of others





In a power stance,  
she grows so fast,  
so deserving of rest



**" Most of all, I want a home."**

Credit: American Dog Magazine

**THANK YOU**