WALTER “REDD” MOORE

Walter “Redd” Moore has been a member of Skid Row for over 20 years and a member of the downtown recovery community for over a decade. His life’s work revolves around being of service to members of the fellowship. He’s worked as a recovery counselor and a veterans counselor. His vanity plate reads: “DYE4NA”
THE DOWNTOWN WOMEN’S CENTER WAS FOUNDED IN 1978 BY JILL HALVERSON. JILL MET ROSA, A MENTALLY ILL WOMAN WHOSE HOME WAS TWO SHOPPING CARTS IN A DOWNTOWN PARKING LOT. HALVERSON LEARNED FROM ROSA THAT THERE WERE NO FACILITIES WHERE HOMELESS WOMEN COULD BATH, EAT A GOOD MEAL, OR GET OFF THE STREETS. IN FACT, THE CLOSURE OF MENTAL HOSPITALS IN THE EARLY 1970S DIRECTLY CAUSED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF WOMEN TO BECOME HOMELESS. AT THAT TIME, DOWNTOWN MISSION FACILITIES PROVIDED MEALS TO WOMEN BUT DID NOT OFFER SHELTER. WOMEN THEREFORE SPENT THEIR DAYS AND NIGHTS ON UNSAFE STREETS OR IN RUNDOWN HOTELS. SINCE 1978, THE DOWNTOWN WOMEN’S CENTER HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO PROVIDING PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND A SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY FOSTERING DIGNITY, RESPECT, AND PERSONAL STABILITY, AND TO ADVOCATE ENDING HOMELESSNESS FOR WOMEN.
Harry Rodgers
Activist-Homeless Organizing Team
Justiceville, 1953-1985

"The United Nations has recognized the right to shelter as a basic human right. We, homeless people, have to empower ourselves. We have to let people know that we will not accept living like this—living with no place to live."

To learn more about Harry Rodgers and his work, visit the website of the San Francisco Tenants Union.