SFHOMELESS.NET

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING SFHOMELESS.NET

Background

The SFHomeless.net wiki is a community document which all users can modify and add to. It is a new way for the homeless, service providers, advocates, government, and the public to share community resources and information, and update them when changes occur.

The majority of the site is composed of articles. An article is a mini-web page that can be used for many purposes. Currently in SFHomeless.net, the articles are used to identify agencies that have some relation to the local homeless service provider community. For example, "Glide" has their own page which spells out their services. It also has links to own web page, and has contact information. But the content is controlled by the wiki users, and can be updated and improved as individuals see necessary.

One of the great advantages of the wiki is that it also allows Categorization of the agencies. There are over 50 categories such as Food, Medical, Housing Resources, etc. A user may not know which agency does what, and by clicking on the category of Food will be shown which agencies have been identified as providing Food. Glide's page, as an example, has multiple categories, such as Food, Medical, Shelter Reservations, and more. People will be able to find Glide even if they don't know Glide by name, but know the service they need by clicking on that category anywhere within the site.

Accessing the Information

The Main Page is located at http://www.sfhomeless.net .

Agencies can be listed by clicking on LIST ALL PAGES which is listed as an option near the top of the page. This will give over 700 agencies in alphabetical order.

Categories are also accessible in the same menu as above. Click on CATEGORIES right next to List All Pages.

Another place to find Categories in listed by subject. Scroll down to the Bar Association's box, which is a pink box on the top right where the boxes start. Click on CATEGORIES DISPLAYED BY SUBJECT.

You can also scroll to the very bottom of the Main Page and see the categories listed in alphabetical order. These categories, plus the displayed by subject ones, are only homeless related, and don't include some of the administrative categories.

Searching

You can search using the search boxes near the top of the Main Page. One is for simple searches, the other is for more complicated searches. Use both if one doesn't give the results desired.

When using the Google search, you need to add your search terms after the pre-filled "site:sfhomeless.wikia.com". For example, your search might look like:

site:sfhomeless.wikia.com veterans housing seniors

Creating a User ID

All users are encouraged to create a User ID for their activity on SFHomeless.net. This is so other users and administrators can see that changes made were by a reputable source. It is possible to make changes to pages without an ID or logging in, but then the page history shows an anonymous editor as making those changes, and some suspicion may be cast on the truth of that edit. It is actually very rare for someone to vandalize the site with incorrect information, but it is always better to have as much personal connection with the edits made so that we know it can be trusted.

Adding an Article

New articles are created by using the ADD RESOURCE box in the Editing Area below the colored boxes. An article is a new agency

and should only be added if that agency doesn't exist at all in any other article. You should also add categories when creating your new agency. You can copy them from one of the category listings described above, and on the list open up the page source by clicking on EDIT or VIEW SOURCE. Then scroll to where the category is listed and copy and paste it.

Modifying Articles

When viewing an article and finding incorrect info, or missing info, or if you just want to add something, you start by clicking on the EDIT tab on the very top of the article's page. The code for that page will appear, and although it may look intimidating, it should be easy to find what or where you want to do something. Then all you do is type it. You then click on Save Changes, and view what you did. If it needs some correction, go back in and change it around.

Additional Features

There's a lot more offered on SFHomeless.net that we don't want to fill up this introductory document with, so please feel free to explore the site and learn about what is offered, and how you can improve it. There is nothing quite like our site anywhere in the world, where the public is managing social resource information and helping each other to work and serve as efficiently as possible. Please contribute often and be part of something that has a real payback in the effort you make and time you spend.

Thank you!

Version 3, 8/3/09