



December 2018



Another Year Comes to an End...

It seems hard to believe that in just 30 days it will be time to switch to a 2019 calendar. I mean, I'm excited about it, the HMIS team made the decision to move from the monthly naughty puppies calendar to the daily one. 365 days of naughty puppies!

In all seriousness though, I always find myself reminiscent this time of year. I look back at the last 12 months and think about all of the things I did, things I said I was going to do but didn't, and things I said I wouldn't do but did. I visited new places, met new people, learned new things, and saw first hand just how much good there is in the world. Of course 2018 wasn't completely perfect, there were challenges as there are every year. But, it's those challenges that drive me to do better, be better.

I look at the work that you all do everyday and think about the obstacles and challenges you face to help each person that walks through your doors. I think about how much of your hearts each of you put into your agency mission, and give of yourselves to make the world a better place for those you serve. I've seen you overcome barriers and create lasting change. This year, and every year to come, it is you who is changing the world. It is you who is changing the life of someone in need. It is each and every one of you who put ideas into actions that save the lives of those in our communities. You all inspire me everyday. Your dedication drives me to work harder, love more, and be present. I'm thankful for each and everyone of you, for the work you do, and the lives you touch!

~Kelli

This Month In HMIS...



LSA Deadline Extended

We received the following email from the HUD Exchange:

*"Due to the complexities of the new Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) process, the deadline for submitting official LSA data for use in the 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress via the new Homelessness Data Exchange, Version 2.0 (HDX 2.0) has been **extended to 11:59 PM PST on Friday, December 14, 2018 and any Continuums of Care (CoCs) who have already uploaded their data will need to re-upload their Official data once HUD announces fixes to HDX 2.0.**"*

We thought we were done. We were wrong. We are one of the CoC's who will need to re-upload our data. Yay!



New Policies and Procedures Manual

Now that the LSA submissions are complete, Allyson and Kelli are shifting focus to updating the HMIS Policies and Procedures manual. We will be presenting the new changes to the HMIS advisory committee at the December meeting. We expect to release the new manual in early January.



HMIS Annual User Review

It is a HUD requirement that each person who has access to an HMIS database complete an annual refresher training in order to remain an active user. Kelli will be hosting multiple sessions throughout January both in person at the CARES Inc. office as well as online via webinar. The schedule of sessions will be available by the middle of December, Kelli will send out the session schedule via email as well as post it to the calendar on our website.

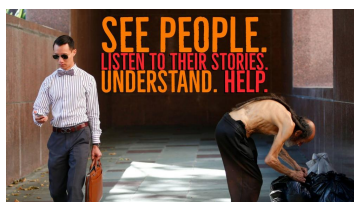
Because this is a HUD requirement, and user that does not attend either in person or online will have their log in deactivated on February 1st.



Agency Agreements

Annual Participating Agency and Data Sharing Agreements are currently being updated and will be sent to each HMIS participating agency by the beginning of January. All agreements should be returned by the end of January in order to remain active in HMIS.

You Might Find Interesting



[Invisible People YouTube Channel](#)

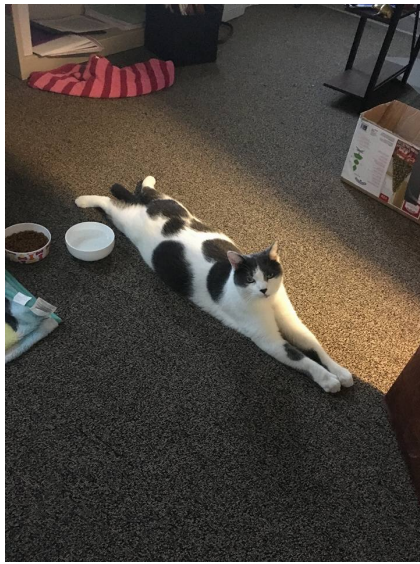
While clicking around on YouTube looking for ~~make up tips and haircuts for a round face~~ inspiring Ted Talks, I stumbled upon a video from 2013 of a man on a Google Chat live stream complaining about HMIS, *who does that?!?!?* Naturally I had to check out his page, which led to me sitting in my bed watching video after video after video. The stories are incredible. Click the link above for his channel; Invisible People



[The Deep, Uniquely American Roots of Our Affordable-Housing Crisis](#)

When Rosalina Hernández and her husband moved into their studio apartment on Los Angeles Street in South Central LA 15 years ago, the place was just for the two of them and the baby they were expecting. Back then, it wasn't too hard to find what they needed: an apartment they could afford with just a bit more space.

December is National Cat Lover's Month!



November 29th Was Miss Kitty Thang Thang's 1 year "Adoptaversary"!

Last year, CARES Inc., spent a day volunteering at the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society. We sorted and bagged donated bottles and cans, washed blankets and towels, and cleaned the crates in Cat intake room. I never should have been tasked with the cat intake room. I was set up for failure. I had promised my family I would not bring home a cat.

But there was this one, Gina, who was literally calling to me. She kept demanding to be loved. Every time I walked away she would start yelling at me. I asked the volunteer coordinator what her story was. Gina was found as a stray by Albany High School, and brought in by a good Samaritan. Fortunately she was micro-chipped, but when the shelter contacted her family, they were told to just keep her. They didn't want this amazing, majestic girl back?!?!?!?! I was done. I couldn't leave her there thinking no one wanted her.

My family tried to act surprised that I didn't make good on my promise to come home cat-less (They just *know* me). I brought her home and she immediately declared herself "The Boss" demanding that everyone love her - whether they wanted to or not. She also wanted a new name. Gina, just didn't suit her... And because she already believed herself to be "Miss Thang" - Miss Kitty Thang Thang just seemed the natural choice. It was meant to be. She is my kitty soulmate. Her face makes me smile every single day.

If you have ever given thought to experiencing all of the joys that having a pet in your life brings please consider the following benefits that come from adopting

You are saving a life

You'll get a great animal

**You'll save money
(unless they decide to chew your carpet)**

Pets are perfect selfie partners

It's one way of fighting puppy mills

You will most likely find your soul mate

[More Reasons to Adopt](#)

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