

## Takin' Jenzi Home

By Henry Danger

We're movin' Jenzi  
She's gettin' run out her place  
movin' Jenzi  
She's got to find another space  
movin' Jenzi  
Can she crash upon your couch?  
movin' Jenzi  
In the basement of your house?  
movin' Jenzi  
Got to get a new spot soon

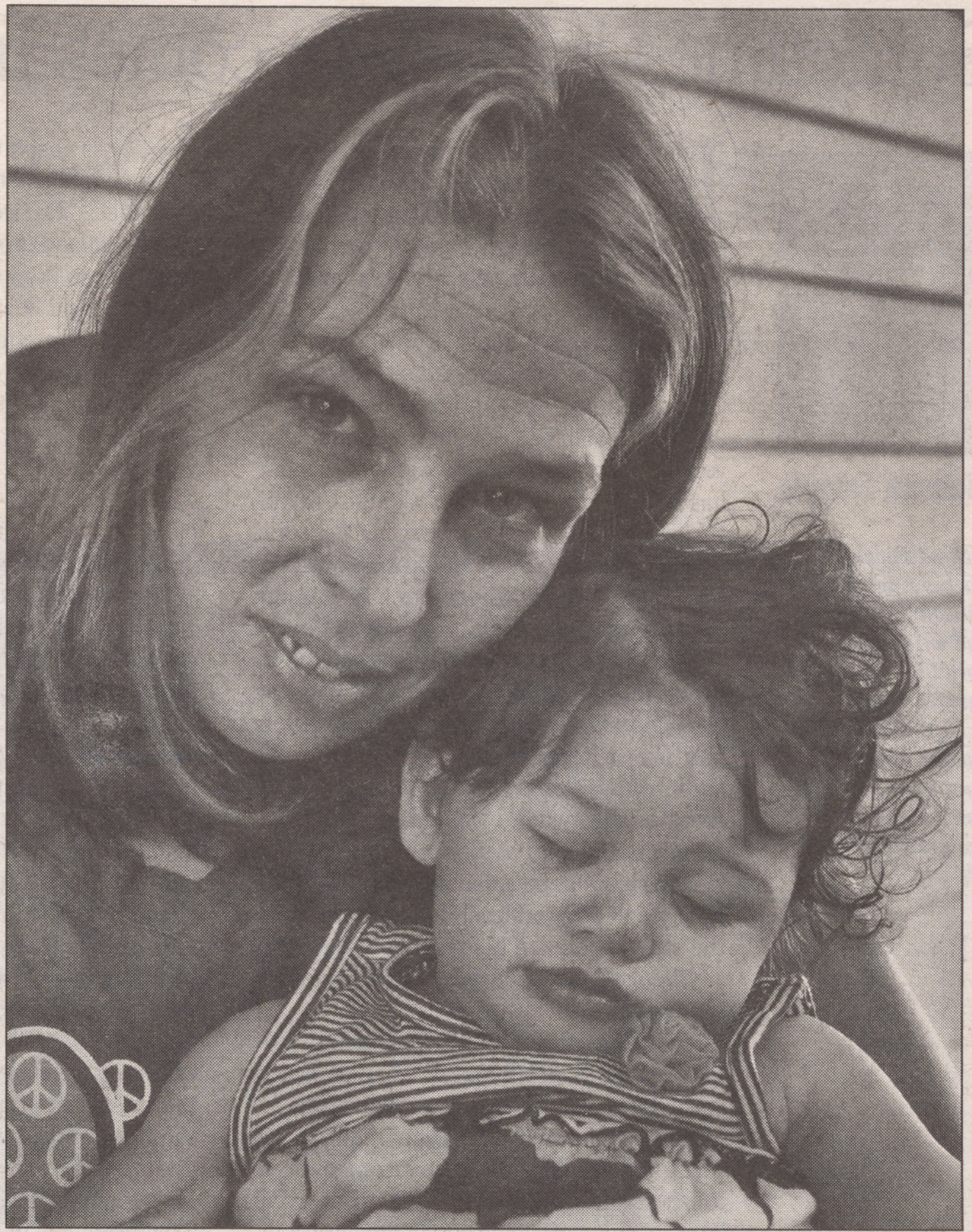
And we're takin' Jenzi home  
Though we don't know where she's goin'  
It's the seventh time this year  
We all love Jenzi dear

We're movin' Jenzi  
She could sleep out in the shed  
movin' Jenzi  
A sheet of cardboard for her bed  
movin' Jenzi  
And we're movin all her stuff  
movin' Jenzi  
When is too much never enough?

So we're takin' Jenzi home  
Though she don't know where she's goin'  
It's the seventh time this year  
Gotta get her outta here

We're movin' Jenzi  
Gotta get her out tonight  
movin' Jenzi  
Gotta be gone by first light  
movin' Jenzi  
The sweeps are comin' through at dawn  
movin' Jenzi  
By then she's got to be long gone

See we're takin' Jenzi home  
Though she don't see where she's goin'  
It's the seventh time this year  
We all love Jenzi dear  
We all love our Jenzi dear  
Come on home now, Jenzi dear



Street Biography

PHOTO BY KENDALL

## Sheri Hobbs

BY KENDALL

Sheri began living on the streets when she was 12. She was running away from an unsafe home where addiction led to abuse. The streets were a safer place to be. In the streets she was taken in by other houseless people who made a home for her and protected her.

"My street family believed in me. They saw strength in me and goodness. I never got abused in the streets. It was street elders who taught me values: You never take from people with less than you, make sure nobody in the group goes hungry. When I was 12 I met my boyfriend, and I stayed with him till I was 19. I still love him. He's my childhood sweetheart, my first child's father. He has seven more years to serve in jail, and I'm married to someone else now. My husband lives in California, and I hope one day I can get my kids back and go live with him, but my first love will always be my first love."

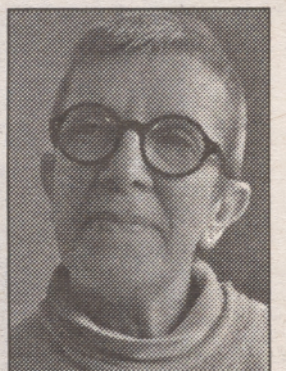
Sheri became a meth addict on the streets and was ridden by that addiction for some years. She used dirty needles, she was careless, she spent six years in jail, and she says with some wonder, "It's only thanks to the grace of the Creator that I don't have AIDS or Hepatitis C."


She's 34 now and has four children, but only the baby, born while she was in a treatment center, lives with her. The other three are in foster care. Sheri and the baby live in housing for women who have been through drug treatment and are clean and sober. She works at City Team Ministries in Women's Services. "I work there several days a week. At the City Team center women can get showers, a sandwich, some clothes, and a little kindness. I like to be there for them."

"What I want for the future is to continue working with my people. I'd like to get a paid job in a nonprofit. I don't ever want to forget where I came from. I've been clean for two years, and my street family is still my main support. If I go without, they get on me, they're like, 'Why? why? Just tell us if you need something, we'll get it for you!' They keep people who are on drugs away from me because sometimes I'm tempted to take care of them, but that's when I have to back off. We have to decide to take care of ourselves first, and then if we're working on that, we can accept support, but not caretaking."

"What would I like to change? I'd like to see more compassion. I'd like people not to judge us. I'd like them to know that every one of us has a story, and it's probably not the story they think it is. If people have compassion, maybe they can volunteer in programs for houseless people, or maybe they can give money, if they have it, to organizations that help us. They can donate to Outside In, Sisters of the Road, Yellow Brick Road. Without these organizations we'd have no health care and we'd be hungry, and when we're sick and hungry, we can't make good decisions. But money is not the main thing. The main thing is not to judge us, and to have compassion."

Kendall is a photographer, writer, listener, and retired college professor. Her work includes "Singing Away the Hunger," by Mpho Nthunya, and many stories of people on the margins of society who prevail.





**MIRADOR  
COMMUNITY STORE**

*Natural Kitchen  
& Home*

2106 SE Division  
503•231•5175  
miradorcommunitystore.com  
Mon-Sat 10-6 • Sun 11-5

**Canning jars &  
equipment,  
cookware, kitchen  
tools & appliances**

**Organic cotton  
sheets, towels,  
& blankets**

**Food dryers**

**Juicers**

**Books on meat-free  
cooking, gardening  
& sustainability**

Read up on the news that's important to you at  
[news.streetroots.org](http://news.streetroots.org)