

Endless Home Visit

Hugh Silk

Abstract: I provide homeless outreach medical care in our city, Worcester, MA, alongside a very dedicated social worker. We go where the people are. Until they are not. Our city continues to back a mandate to take down tents/homes displacing marginalized individuals and disrupting essential health and social service care. My experience is expressed here.

Keywords: anti-homeless legislation, forced dispersement, poetry

The long walk up the hill
Through the snow and wind
Into the woods
I stand now outside the tent
“Homeless outreach”
I hear my voice call out
A stirring
Clean needle kits, Narcan given
Suboxone refill done
“Are you ok”
Hand warmers, socks, water
“Hang in there”

Return days later
Your home is gone
City moved you on
We will look for you
The endless home visit
To a home that is not a home
Not allowed to be
Your belongings scattered
Health services abandoned
Left alone
We still care.
Even if they don't

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