

money on cigarettes and soda.

"I don't get along with my parents," she says. "I don't want to live with them, I want to live by myself."

Jackson works for the mission, cleaning the women's dorm and brining in donations. But she has had no luck finding a job.

"I look for a job," she says, "but

I've forgotten all my references...I can't find anyone to help me get a job."

Without a job, however, Jackson knows her dream may be a long way off.

"[In a year] I'll probably be outside sitting in the cold, sitting outside right across the street," she says. "I look forward to someone

inviting me home to live with them."

A world of its own

Bea Thrower has seen "both sides of the fence," as she puts it.

"I came here in 1993, homeless myself. I came here an alcoholic and a drug addict."

Nearly four years later, Thrower works the second shift at the Oliver Gospel Mission.

Thrower, for the last three years, has "just been doing what I think is right - not for me, but for the clients."

"I started out in the female dorm," she says, remembering her first days at the mission. "I volunteered my services washing sheets and doing laundry to pay for my stay here."

Now, she sees the same things every day, but from the "other side."

"I feel as though this place here is a world in itself. Some of the things I see here are very amazing. Since I've been here, I've seen about four or five clients really get out and prosper."

But such cases do not occur

often, and Thrower's work at the mission is often frustrating.

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- Bea Thrower
mission worker

"But I guess if I stop caring and stop sharing my experiences," she says, "then there is no need for me here...I get called the b-i-t-c-h sometimes, but if I don't get called that at least once or twice a week, I don't think I'm doing my job."

"I made it here. I made it from here. And until the lord opens a door and tells me to leave, I'm gonna remain here."

"I know I'm not here to save them all, but if I can get one out of a hundred to turn their life around, I feel good about my job."



(Above) Nell Jackson has been homeless for nearly ten years. Her children stay with their grandparents, and she lives at the mission. "I dream every day of a two bedroom apartment," said Jackson.

(Right) On this night, volunteers from the Keenan High School JROTC program have come to volunteer at the mission. Adrian Jones is handing out meals to more than 100 people.

