

## Robert: A Poet's Journey



*"I have a lot more to offer."*

Last year, right before COVID shut down life as we knew it, Robert transitioned from a life of, as he describes, "living as a vagabond" for 20 years to being housed at SHC's Downtown @700 apartment community. Since then, Robert's life has taken an amazing trajectory. After committing himself to a life of sobriety, in December of 2019, he has undertaken a daily regimen of exercise, meditation, learning, and writing poetry. "I credit being stably housed for all I have achieved this year," he states. "I couldn't have done all I did. And I have a lot more to offer."

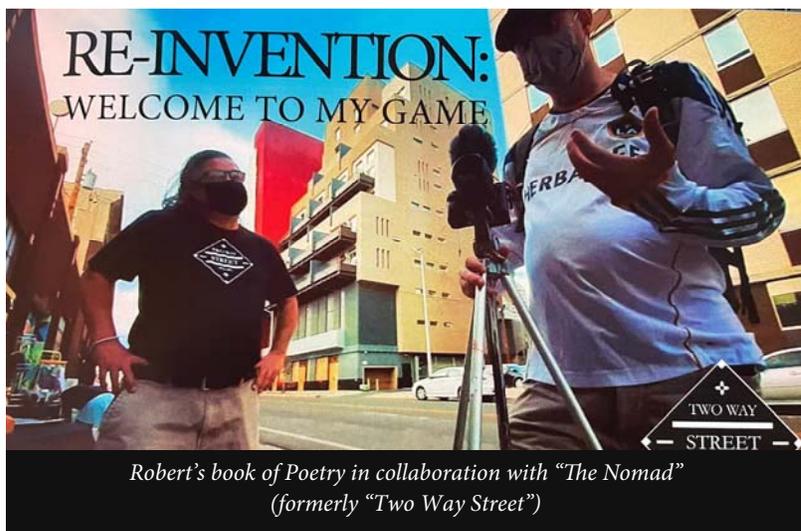
Robert's enthusiasm for life is infectious. As part of his own self-care, Robert takes long walks with his dog, does 100 push-ups a day, and takes natural supplements. Moreover, Robert has a voracious appetite for learning, always reading, researching, and meditating on what he has learned. Then he

writes. His poetry is personal, political, and deeply honest. He published several of his poems in *The Nomad* (formerly *Two Way Street*), a community-based publication providing job opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and poverty in Albuquerque.

Joanna Scott, editor of *The Nomad*, describes Robert as an "autodidact" and "multi-potentialite," in that he has a genuine love of all things and wants to learn as much as he can. "He's come through a lot of struggles and he is actively choosing to continue to grow and shape this artistry he has developed," Joanna says, "he is not afraid to think outside the box and recognize his own value. He was once voiceless and being able to share his art with the world has really empowered him." He also believes in the paper that has given him this opportunity to share his work. "Robert is exceptional at helping people understand the mission of *The Nomad*. He is the most successful vendor of all time, even during COVID."

At *The Nomad*, individuals purchase copies of the publication and then sell it for a suggested donation as a street vendor to earn money. While Robert has earned money selling the publication, he wanted to sell a product of his own, one he could take personal pride in. With the help of *The Nomad* and "with important people helping me," Robert published his own book of poetry, "Re-Invention: Welcome to My Game." He plans on selling his book on a donation basis. His first release party took place very recently, on his birthday, and plans on having several more opportunities to showcase his work and sell his book in the near future.

TO SHCNM  
 I say Thank You  
 For giving me  
 The Ability  
 And  
 Freedom  
 To  
 Find ME  
 Through  
 The Stability  
 Afforded Me  
 For  
 Once Given the  
 Chance  
 To Thrive  
 And not Merely  
 Survive  
 Having  
 The Veil Lifted  
 From My Eyes  
 Growth thru  
 Knowledge  
 And Blessings  
 Realized  
 ~ Robert C.



Robert's book of Poetry in collaboration with "The Nomad" (formerly "Two Way Street")

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## Staff Promotions



SHC is proud to announce the promotions of Cassandra Porter to Programs Supervisor and John Gauthier to Community Housing Manager. Cassandra steps into the Programs Supervisor position to support and oversee the delivery of person-centered, trauma-informed, housing and services for persons emerging from homelessness to housing. She provides holistic leadership and direction to the Community Housing team as they implement a range of housing services. As Community Housing Manager, John oversees contracts, program implementation, compliance with regulations, policies and procedures, as well as internal protocol. He manages a team of Housing & Services Coordinators as they implement a range of housing services and directly manages referrals, intake, housing searches and housing retention. You can learn more on our staff page:

[www.shcnm.org/about-us/our-staff](http://www.shcnm.org/about-us/our-staff)

## Grant News

We are thrilled to announce that SHC is the recipient of grants from these organizations who support our work of ending homelessness through affordable and permanent supportive housing!

- SHC has received COVID Relief Grants from United Way of Central New Mexico to address the immediate, basic needs of our NM community members affected by COVID-19 and the economic impact of the pandemic.
- PNM awarded SHC funds for our programs that reduce homelessness and shares the PNM Resources Foundation vision of moving New Mexico forward together.
- SHC received a grant from Walmart Giving for ending homelessness for individuals and families in New Mexico
- Bank of Albuquerque, WAFD, and Wells Fargo all awarded SHC grants to support our efforts to maintain existing programs and develop additional affordable and permanent supportive housing units in New Mexico.



*Thank You!*  
*To everyone who made our Welcome Home fundraiser a great success!*



[www.shcnm.org/donate](http://www.shcnm.org/donate)