

NAME: Homelessness with Company
Gilday_Diana

ABSTRACT:

Janet Denny is a 62-year old homeless woman who lives in College Point Queens. Denny grew up in College Point and lived with her grandmother. When her grandmother passed away, she left the house to Denny and she could have lived there rent free for the rest of her life. However, the house was sold by the estate executor without Denny's knowledge and she ended up on the street. Nomadic by nature, she wandered around Queens for years, setting up "shop" and in 2017, she was living in a makeshift hut near Fort Totten park in Bayside, a boarding town of the one she grew up in. Local Bayside activist and media personality Gregg P Sullivan, through one of the facebook pages he ran, found out she was living down there and decided to pay her a visit. After that visit, he decided to help her out by getting her into the shelter system and giving her small jobs with his media company. The two developed a friendship, but his friendship wasn't enough to keep her off the street. Expert on homelessness social worker Larry Grubler weighs in about why there are so many individuals like Janet in New York City, and what needs to be done to help get people off of the street.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/vUhxUHcnL0k>

Visuals	SOT or NARRATION
Janet by herself in a park	I'm Janet, Janet Denny this is my hometown, College Point
College Point town	62 YEAR OLD JANET DENNY IS HOMELESS
Janet wandering college point	I didn't have any siblings, any sisters or brothers
Janet wandering// Flushing HS	BEFORE SHE BECAME HOMELESS// JANET WENT TO FLUSHING HIGH SCHOOL AND HAD AMBITIONS OF GOING OFF TO COLLEGE UNTIL THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENED
Janet by herself in a park	I had my grandma, my mom passed away early when I was in school
Historic College Point sign// Janet standing on a College Point street	SHE LIVED IN COLLEGE POINT QUEENS HER WHOLE LIFE. NO STRANGER TO BAD LUCK// JANET LOST HER MOM WHILE SHE WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. HER ABSENT FATHER, PASSED AWAY WHILE SHE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND A FEW

	YEARS LATER SHE LOST THE ONLY FAMILY MEMBER SHE WAS CLOSE TO, HER GRANDMOTHER
Janet sitting in park	and then finally it got to where my grandma who owned the house-and it just didn't work out, it just went downhill
Janet in park with all her belongings	JANET, WITH NO LIVING FAMILY, HAD NOWHERE TO TURN TO FORCING HER TO THE STREET
Gregg walking and Janet on her bike	Nat sot
Janet and Gregg talking together	YEARS LATER HELP CAME FROM THE TOWN OVER IN THE FORM OF BAYSIDE RESIDENT AND LOCAL ACTIVIST GREGG SULLIVAN
Gregg sitting in front of black backdrop // Bayside Queens FB Page // Bayside Gables Sign// Houses// Gregg in front of backdrop// Homeless encampment by highway // Fort Totten Park Sign// Cars turning on to highway// Blue tarp with miscellaneous belongings	I run some social media pages that have gotten very popular, //Bayside queens being one of them and about 23,000 people watch it.// And everybody talks about the neighborhood// and it is wonderfully, community neighborhood based and some of the// people on it we're starting to talk about // a homeless encampment near one of our parks// called Fort Totten, right at the entrance//so the cars coming off the highway saw this// blue tarp and a kind of a little makeshift hut that some homeless people were in and they started complaining about it and some people were very very nasty
Facebook Comments complaining	nat sound
Fort Totten Rd sign	THE MASS AMOUNT OF COMPLAINING IN THE FB GROUP UPSET GREGG WHO FELT THE PEOPLE IN THE GROUP WERE BEING TOO CRUEL
Gregg sitting in front of black backdrop	I took the initiative and I went down to see these people who were in this encampment

Gregg talking to Janet	THAT ONE VISIT ENDED UP CHANGING HIS LIFE AND JANETS
Gregg in front of backdrop	I am not a social worker, I'm not a lawyer but I am a humanist// and I am out there and some of us//were born with that extra empathy gene and some of us are not. And I just look at some of the injustices and I am offended// when I find people deciding that they are better than other people only because they are better off
Janet's childhood home	IF HER GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE NEVER GOT SOLD, LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FOR JANET
Janet standing near her childhood home	It's just a heartbreaking thing, you know,
Janet near clothing donation box	UNFORTUNATELY, IN NEW YORK CITY , THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN JANET'S SITUATION.
Larry sitting in front of Zoom backdrop	I just think we have a widespread problem. I think there are not enough resources, there's not enough housing
Larry talking on Zoom	CEO OF TRANSITIONAL SERVICES FOR NY AND SOCIAL WORKER LARRY GRUBLER IS ATTEMPTING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT THROUGH TRANSITINATORY HOUSING AND PROVIDING RESOURCES SO PEOPLE CAN EVENTUALLY GET A PLACE ON THEIR OWN AND LIVE INDEPENDENTLY
Larry sitting in front of zoom backdrop	But it's like spitting in a bucket, it's like a bucket full of water, there's so much that needs to be done.
TSINY Website	THE ORGANIZATION ALSO OFFERS RESOURCES FOR THOSE STRUGGLING. LIKE IN JANET'S CASE
Larry on Zoom backdrop	Support, advocacy, to get to an understanding, to get to another point in your life. And without someone making you feel like you're failing if you don't achieve "X"
Janet leaving donation bin	UNFORTUNATELY FOR THOSE LIVING ON THE STREET LIKE JANET IT IS HARD TO

	FIND THESE RESOURCES ON YOUR OWN.
	nat sound
	WITH JANET'S PERMISSION, I TRIED REPEATEDLY TO CONTACT HER -SOCIAL WORKERS TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT JANET'S SITUATION. DESPITE MY MANY EFFORTS, THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL RESPONSE. JANET SAYS THEY DO THE SAME THING TO HER
Janet in front of store	Diana: "So since last Wednesday you've been calling with no answer?" Janet:"Yeah. Well last Wednesday, well something came up that I needed to do so I didn't make it to haven, but I guess she wasn't there anyways. But I've been leaving messages and Gregg and me were leaving messages so at least she'll know I was trying my best to get in touch"
	I TRIED TO CONFIRM JANET'S STORY WITH HER SOCIAL WORKER BUT NO ONE ANSWERED
Gregg and Janet together	DESPITE NOT BEING A SOCIAL WORKER GREGG GOES TO GREAT LENGTHS TO GET JANET HELP AND A LOT OF THE TIME HE USES HIS OWN RESOURCES TO HELP HER OUT
Gregg giving Janet masks	Gregg: Here's a new one Janet: I think this one was too big for me or something Gregg: Too big?? Well I'll get rid of this one for you Janet: Thank you
Gregg in front of backdrop// Bayside LiveTV graphic// Gregg talking for BLTV// Janet and her cat in his office// Janet and Gregg together//	I started taking Janet and giving her jobs working with me. I have a local TV channel called Neighborhood Live Tv, at the time it was// Bayside LiveTV// and she would just help me with the camera work and carrying stuff around//and sometimes I would let her stay and sleep in my office// and we became friends

Janet and Gregg in BLTV office	Gregg: Hello I'm Gregg Sullivan Janet: Im Janet Denny Gregg: And this Janet's thrift shop
Janets thrift shop video	GREGG HELPED JANET OPEN HER OWN OCASIONAL THRIFT SHOP TO EARN SOME MONEY. HE WOULD PROMOTE THE THRIFT SHOP USING THE MEDIA INFLUENCE HE HAD IN BAYSIDE.
Janet and Gregg going through the bags	GREGG AND JANETS FRIENDSHIP GREW OVER THE YEARS AND HE WAS ALWAYS THE PERSON SHE COULD RELY ON. GREGG WOULD CONSTANTLY LET JANET STAY IN HIS HOME, AND EVEN INVITE HER OVER FOR THE HOLIDAYS.
Janet and Gregg on bench together	Gregg: "We do it, lets wish everybody a happy holidays" Janet: "Okay" Gregg: "Well we just had hanukkah, we hope you all had a happy hanukkah" Janet: "Happy hanukkah" Gregg: "And we wanna wish you a" Janet: "Merry Christmas" Gregg: "Merry Christmas" Janet: "A Happy New Year" Gregg: "Happy new Year, Happy new year"
Photos of Janet with Fluffy	GREGG EVEN LOOKS AFTER JANET'S CAT FLUFFY FOR HER, TREATING THE ANIMAL AS IF IT WERE HIS OWN
Fluffy	Good Morning Fluffy Say hello That's Janet's cat fluffy doing a mic check for us
Janet and Gregg going through a clothes bag	IT TOOK JANET A WHILE TO OPEN UP TO GREGG BUT OVER TIME, SHE GOT MORE AND MORE COMFORTABLE WITH HIM AND HE BEGAN TO LEARN HER STORY
Gregg in front of backdrop	Her grandmother left her a two family house, free and clear, no debts free and clear. Left her a two family house in which Janet had one part of it and some other people who were paying rent lived in the other. And it was

	given to an executor who was assigned by the courts after the grandmother died.
Janet sitting on park bench	I was like 30, I just wanted to find some peace and rest from everything that had been happening.
Janets childhood home	ACCORDING TO SULLIVAN, THE HOUSE WAS SOLD WITHOUT JANET'S KNOWLEDGE, LEAVING HER WITH NO HOME AND NO MONEY FROM THE SALE
	nat sound
Breaking Ground billboard	A FEW YEARS AGO, GREGG REGISTERED JANET WITH BREAKING GROUND A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT CREATES A SUPPORT SYSTEM TO HELP PEOPLE GET OFF THE STREET AND THEY STARTED TO PROVIDE HER WITH SOME ASSISTANCE
Janets cards from breaking ground// Gregg in front of backdrop	They from time to time get her free food card and free metro cards, these help.// A lot of the caring people help get them into a shetler or evaluate whether the shelter is appropriate or whether someone could be put into something more accommodating like a safe house
College point street	THE SAFE HOUSE BREAKING GROUND SET JANET UP IN IS IN BROOKLYN, 3 TRAINS AWAY FROM COLLEGE POINT. DESPITE HAVING THE SHELTER TO GO, SHE PREFERS TO STAY ON THE STREETS OF COLLEGE POINT WHICH SHE IS FAMILIAR WITH
Janet walking with her bike	nat sound
Janet at clothes bin	EVEN THOUGH SHE IS DOWN ON HER LUCK HERSELF, SHE STILL TRIES TO GIVE BACK TO THE TOWN SHE LOVES
Janet standing with clothes at bin	I brought these in, I brought them here so if anyone likes them they can take them
Church sign	DURING HER DAY, SHE LIKES TO GO TO ALL THE LOCAL CHURCHES AND STORE FRONTS AND HELP CLEAN SO THE OUTSIDES LOOK NICE

Janet and Gregg talking	I like to do all those things, being an asset, it's funny, Janet the Janitor
Homeless NYC	THERE ARE SO MANY JANETS IN THE WORLD, JUST IN NYC ALONE, 1 IN EVERY 106 PEOPLE WILL BE HOMELESS. TSINY CEO GRUBLER BELIEVES THAT POLITICS PLAYS A ROLE IN KEEPING PEOPLE ON THE STREET AND SHELTERS NOT BEING MORE WIDESPREAD
Larry on Zoom background	Nobody thinks that the homeless population really votes. So if you don't vote, why pay attention to you?
College Point proposed shelter	THERE WERE PLANS FOR A SHELTER TO BE BUILT IN COLLEGE POINT. THIS SHELTER, WOULD HELP INDIVIDUALS LIKE JANET LIVING IN THE TOWN AND GIVING THEM A ROOF OVER THEIR HEAD BUT POLITICIANS AND RESIDENTS VETOED IT IN FEAR OF WHAT IT WOULD DO TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD SUCH AS LOWER THEIR PROPERTY VALUES
Senator John Liu talking at a meeting	I know of lots of homeless shelters, and we do need homeless shelters, but not in the middle of 3000 children, 5 schools, and in an area that is not accessible
John Liu Shelter protest	GRUBLER THINKS THAT PEOPLE TEND TO BE MISINFORMED ABOUT HOMELESS ISSUES
Larry on Zoom background	But these people do vote, they should have a say but they've been disenfranchised because they've really been left by the wayside so people think they have no power in our society, so why pay attention to them? A lot of the general population just thinks that they're lazy, that they're not working, that they're not doing XY and Z
Janet walking around	GRUBLER EXPLAINS THAT THE PUBLIC FAILS TO REALIZE THAT WITH THE PROPER SUPPORT AND RESOURCES, HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS CAN BE SUCCESSFUL. MOST OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE PEOPLE LIKE JANET WHO JUST WANT A BIT OF STABILITY

Janet on bench	A place where you like it and its affordable, just everything that anybody would want
Janet on bench	AT THE END OF THE DAY, JANET JUST WANTS A PLACE TO CALL HER OWN
Janet sitting on bench	But I just want to keep on progressing, I could be in Brooklyn, I could be over in Whitestone. But I'd like to find something, some kinda steady, something established, something steady
Janet with Gregg// Pink bike	BUT UNTIL SHE FINDS HER STEADY HOME, SHE DOES AT LEAST HAVE TWO STABLE THINGS IN HER LIFE, HER FRIENDSHIP WITH GREGG SULLIVAN// AND HER TRUSTY PINK BICYCLE
Janet riding her bike away	nat sound

RESOURCES LIST

1. Interviews

- a. Gregg P. Sullivan
- b. Janet Denny
- c. Larry Grubler

2. Articles/Websites

- a. “Homelessness is a Shared Experience in the New York Metro Area”
<https://www.bowery.org/homelessness/>
- b. Transitional Services for New York <https://www.tsiny.org>
- c. Breaking Ground <https://breakingground.org>
- d. “College Point residents rally for a second time at City Hall against proposed homeless shelter”
<https://qns.com/2019/04/college-point-residents-rally-for-a-second-time-at-city-hall-against-proposed-homeless-shelter/>
- e. “Homeless shelter coming to College Point”
https://www.qchron.com/editions/north/homeless-shelter-coming-to-college-point/article_d9d1061e-ec27-11e8-b381-fb40a21d0df5.html
- f. Bayside Queens Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/baysidequeens>

3. YouTube Videos

- a. College Point homeless shelter. Senator John Liu. 12/17/18.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfwNul8xxhM>

- b. Homeless in NYC https://youtu.be/0eiDT_byRpU
- c. New York's Homeless Epidemic
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i06ag1MwTLc>
- d. NYC recovery challenged by spike in homelessness
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFayiMbZGzk&t=68s>