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In a big room full of bunk beds covered with bright, lovingly-hand-made quilts, a crowd of women of all ages who had no other home to go to gathered, to listen to what may have been the most heartfelt concert in Prescott this year. It was Friday, Oct. 10 — World Homelessness Day —and Grammy-nominated country musician Steven Cade had brought Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS) a guitar, which he signed, to leave so that people had something to play while they stayed there.

Nashville-based Cade donated his first guitar to a shelter four years ago, kicking off his nonprofit, Giving Guitars. Since then, the organization has given concerts and 250 guitars to 154 shelters in 24 states and three countries. The Courier talked to Cade about the ideas behind the organization, to PASS staff, and to women who “were just passing through” the shelter, as Cade told the crowd during the concert, affirming that homelessness was just one step on their life path rather than something that defined who they were.



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Not everybody wants to deal with those people. I find the people that need the most help don't have a lot of people helping them. I've been to a lot of shelters, and I know they don't get the attention that other institutions get in our world. I hope other people will catch wind of whatever shelter or foster home we go to.

Our mission is getting voices out, too, from the homeless. We always perform in the shelter. I wouldn't have it any other way. I want to go in where people need some hope and inspiration. A lot of people tell me, thank you for coming, because we couldn't even afford to go to a concert.

Gloria Queen, neighbor and former PASS client

I lived in Springfield, MO. My kids are all grown, and moved. So I went with a bunch of my friends to Elk City. Then I got a call from my uncle, who wanted me to come to Sedona. He got a house the



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Grammy-nominated Steven Cade gives concert, guitar to Prescott shelter residents

By GILLIAN 'GUS' ANDREWS, The Daily Courier
Oct 10, 2025

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Steven Cade, founder of Giving Guitars, handed off a signed guitar he donated to Prescott Area Shelter Services case manager Danielle Hollinger after he performed for PASS clients on Friday, Oct 10, 2025. The donated guitars are intended for clients staying at the shelter to use. (Gillian "Gus" Andrews/Courier)

By GILLIAN 'GUS' ANDREWS, The Daily Courier



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Steven Cade, Founder, Giving Guitars

Music has been a big help for me, to be able to express myself through songs when I'm feeling really down. I pick up the guitar and it lifts me up. I want to share that with other people. Hopefully they learn to play it. Maybe they could teach somebody else how to play.

Since we started this, we've seen worship bands form, talent contests, music therapy programs, all out of these homeless shelters we've been to. It's been tremendous. We're going to a shelter where they wore out their guitar, so we're going to give them another one.

In America, there's about 750,000 people who are homeless, including women, kids, veterans, people with disabilities. It's a tragedy. When I was a child, I don't remember seeing that many homeless. There must be something that we can do, because these are human lives. Human lives. It's not like ants or something. There's a heart at. There's dignity. There's a story behind the lives.



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Gloria Queen, neighbor and former PASS client

I lived in Springfield, MO. My kids are all grown, and moved. So I went with a bunch of my friends to Elk City. Then I got a call from my uncle, who wanted me to come to Sedona. He got a house there.



So I gave everything away. I came up here, and sat at the bus terminal in Flagstaff for two days.

A police officer came in, and I said, would you see if you could find my uncle? I was hoping he'd show up and was serious. As kids, we'd go spend the whole summer with him while Mom and Dad worked.

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I was in PASS six months. They bought the place across the street, and I was the first one to go over there. Now I got a little studio apartment. The landlord dropped it from \$850 to \$750 so I could have it. My friend Mary, that died in the hospital here, she left me her little silver Eclipse car. I hadn't had a car in six years, so it's like blessing after blessing just keeps coming.

In the spring, I'll go to Athens, AL. My daughter's there. She's having a fit because I'm up here by myself. I said, You've got a husband and all that. Enjoy your life. Don't worry about me. Beside that, I said, I'm not getting older, I'm getting younger.

Danielle Hollinger, Emergency Case Manager, PASS

Our biggest demographic trend this past year has been women 55 or older. They're displaced due to being on fixed income--either the property they're living in has been sold, or once the lease is up, the landlords want to increase rent. They're not able to find adequate housing. I have several women probably in their 70s and 80s coming on Monday for that very reason.

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The police couldn't find him. That officer took time to go around to all the tent cities. He called the shelter, and nobody there'd seen him.

I thought ohh God, what am I gonna do? But I have enough faith in me and in God to where I didn't really worry. I look at it this way: when you get Social Security, no matter where I go, my money goes with me.

The officer took me to the Flagstaff shelter. Oh my God, that was horrible. The six months I was there, three women disappeared. They found them dead. They were taking them and doing what-all they want. One guy told me, don't you ever walk outside that fence at night by yourself.

POWERING PROGRESS



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Danielle Hollinger, Emergency Case Manager, PASS

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When people come here, they're usually in the middle of a really big crisis. When they reach out and we have space available, we're able to offer them stability, showers, a bed, clothes, food.

Within a week or two, they usually are not feeling

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When people come here, they're usually in the middle of a really big crisis. When they reach out and we have space available, we're able to offer them stability, showers, a bed, clothes, food.

Within a week or two, they usually are not feeling so much in crisis, and are able to work on getting back on their feet.

A lot of people think, oh, so-and-so is homeless because they're drug addicts. That's not the case. That's a very small percentage of the women that I serve here. We require everybody to be sober, including alcohol and marijuana. Some people just went through rehab; they're in recovery, and we facilitate that by hooking them up with services. If somebody relapses while they're here, we advocate for them to go to rehab again. We'll hold their bed for them if they complete it. We want them to have a place to land.



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I haven't had one person in this room tell me that they choose this lifestyle. If they had an option, this would not be their choice.

We always run a wait list. It usually takes a couple of weeks to get in, depending on our bed availability. We're a 90-day shelter. Sometimes people are in housing before the 90 days are up. If not, and they have income, we're able to take them into transitional housing.

We are in big need of toilet paper and paper towels. I was going to do a toilet paper and paper towel drive. Anything else, ladies, you can think of off the top of your head?

(someone calls from across the room) Big Ziploc bags!

Maybe cleaning supplies, like Clorox wipes.



Tags

Drug Rehabilitation

Homelessness

