

# eScholarship@UMassChan

## Endless Home Visit

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# Family Medicine Moments

March 28, 2024

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

## Endless Home Visit

By Hugh Silk

The long walk up the hill  
Through snow and wind  
    Deep, into the woods

I stand 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, and water

*"I appreciate you"*

Return days later

Your home is gone

City moved you on

But we will look for you again

An endless home visit

To a home, that is not a home

Not allowed to be

Belongings scattered

Health care disrupted

Lost for now

We still care.

Even if some don't