

# Jamal's family life takes a surprising turn

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Some of his Muslim ways got dropped. He'll drink a beer occasionally, nothing stronger, and he doesn't fast with the family during Ramadan. He thinks it's foolish.

Jamal fits easily into the international fabric of the Curran House residency, enjoys it, and is grateful to be there, he says. Everyone on the fourth floor is his friend, he says, "Other floors, too. Sharen has done a lot for me," he says, and mentions Lozano Listana, a TNDC employee from the eighth floor whose Filipino American family was The Extra's first diversity profile. (See April 2015 issue.)

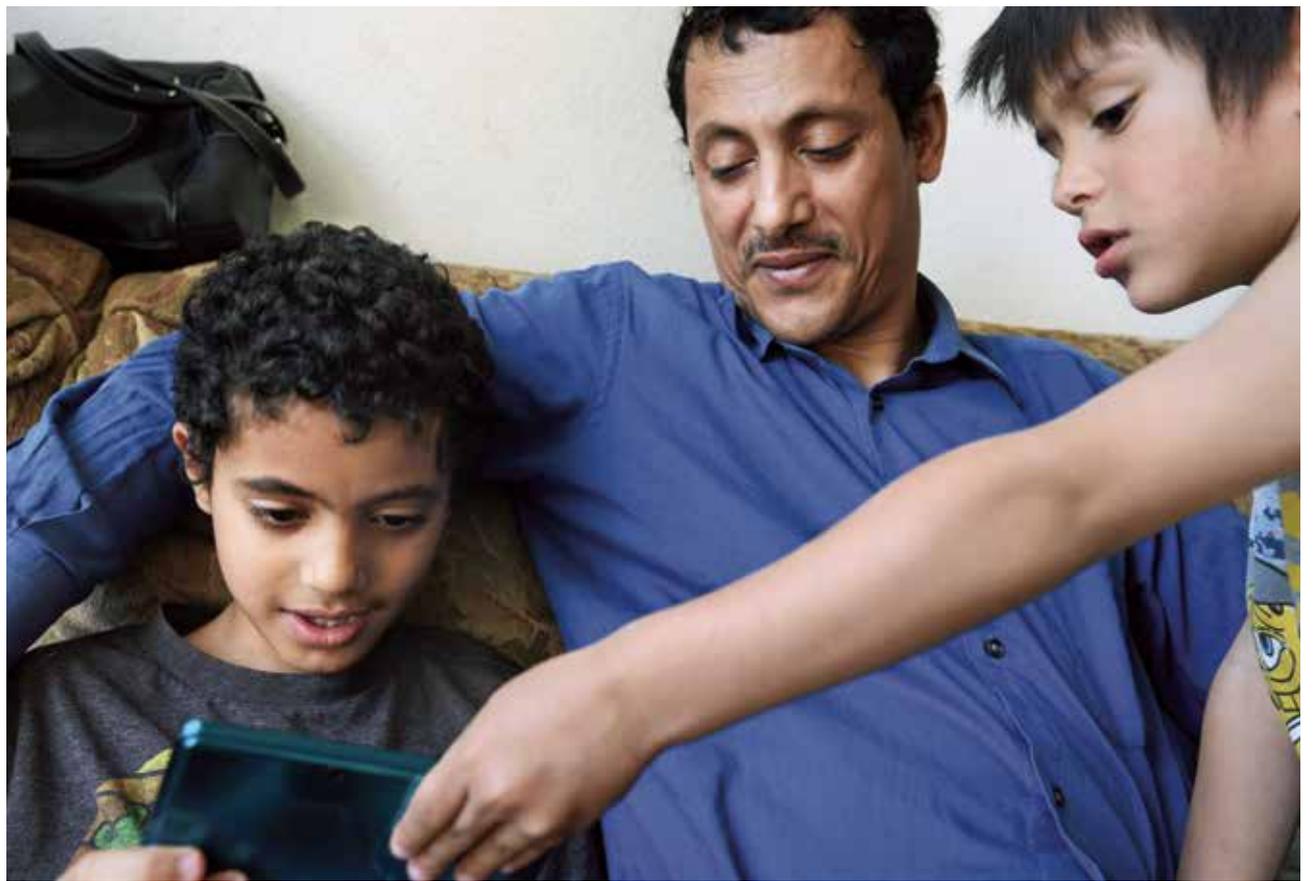
Just then, Listana bursts through the door to the patio to say hello and shake Jamal's hand. Then another TNDC worker, Ryan Thayer, community organizer of the Corner Store Coalition, comes over, too. "The Kaid's done a lot here," Thayer says, mentioning their planting and watering the building's large roof garden. "And their daughter Nada is a born leader."

"We're all family," Listana says over his shoulder, as he goes back to work.

To Jamal, the neighborhood street life outside is not so nice. It's confounding and profane.

"Some people are nice, but (generally) outside the building is no good. The Tenderloin is poor people. They drink alcohol and lay down in the street. Drugs everywhere. But they are victims. I asked one why he takes drugs. He said he had nothing and no one, and did it for the pain.

"But nobody try to hurt me or



Jamal Kaid relaxes at home with his 7-year-old son, Mubamed (left), who is playing a video game. Mubamed's pal, Matthew Cabrera Herrera, 4, gets in on the fun.

shoot me. Not one. At work, I have my backpack and I know they (other workers) need money, and nothing is taken. On the street they say, 'Hi, brother,' and shake my hand. They think I am Muslim.

"All the homeless know me," Jamal says. "I ask my wife, 'Please make some food for me.' "And she did.

Then Jamal reveals his life has taken a lamentable turn. Nabihah, he says, has left him. He is pretty sure she took Alma, Nada and Muhamed with her to live with her father in Detroit. No note, no communication.

"And she took all my money, every cent, left nothing," he said. She even

emptied the savings account.

Whatever the amount, it was considerable. Last year a speeding police car chasing a drug dealer on the lam struck Jamal in the middle of the Leavenworth-Turk intersection. He sustained bruises and a bad arm injury and was taken to a hospital by ambulance. The arm has since healed. In December, he received a \$40,000 settlement from the city. That, or what of it remained after six months, was to be the nut to kick-start his carpentry business.

"She took my dream," he says, and pauses. "I want you to write this."

He figured she would give much of the money to her father and other Yemeni relatives in Michigan to help them along. He didn't know when she would come back. She wasn't answering her cell phone.

Later, he thought of Abdo Hussein, the homeless man at the store. He went over and offered him a bed.

"I had an empty bedroom," Jamal said. "But he said no. He's staying in a storage room." He frowned. "Sleeping between boxes."

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**September 2015**

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**Port of San Francisco**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Port of San Francisco (the "Port"), a department of the City and County of San Francisco (the "City") announces **Contract #2774R, Pier 94 High Mast Lighting Project**. Located at Pier 94, the scope of work consists of removing two (2) 100-foot high lights and installing two (2) 80-foot high modern lights. Bidders may either be Class A or Class C-10 licensed, and must be either a San Francisco certified: (1) Micro-LBE or (2) Small-LBE contractor. The LBE requirement for this is 20%. Partnering Level 1 is required. Refer to Section 01 31 33 for more details. Estimated construction cost is \$303,000. To be qualify to bid, the Contractor must have documented experience in performing a minimum of three (3) projects similar in scope and complexity during the last five (5) years. If bidder does not meet the experience requirements stated in this specification, the City may determine the bidder to be unqualified to perform the work under this contract. Additional electrician requirements are in Section 16530 paragraph 3.02.A. Pursuant to Charter Section 3.105, all contract awards are subject to certification by the Controller as to the availability of funds.

**Bids Due: 9/8/15, 10:30 AM, Pier 1.** For questions contact Arnel Prestosa, (415) 274-0627. Information located on [www.sfport.com](http://www.sfport.com) and [www.sfgov.org/oca](http://www.sfgov.org/oca).

**Assessment Appeals Board (AAB)**

Notice is hereby given of 12 vacancies on the AAB. Applicants must have at least 5 years experience as one of the following: Certified Public Accountant or Public Accountant; licensed Real Estate Broker; Property Appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or Property Appraiser certified by the California Office of Real Estate Appraisers. For additional information or to obtain an application, please call 415-554-6778.

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