



Our walls at Midland Shared Spaces is featuring a solo showing for Conrad Coleman opening in December and going through late March entitled Life on the Streets ... Homeless in Midland, Texas.

**Malcolm McElvaney** - Congratulations on your solo showing over at Midland Shared Spaces. How did you get into photography initially?

**Conrad Coleman** - I was introduced to photography as a broadcast journalism major in college. Since then I have practiced it as an on again off again hobby, photographing subjects and places of interest to me. Most recently, after retiring from a career in pharmaceutical sales, I became more serious about photography, and have been spending more time with my camera.

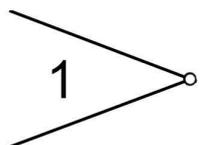
**Malcolm McElvaney** - Has that early introduction to photography through broadcast journalism influenced the way you approach the projects you pursue?

**Conrad Coleman** - Absolutely. At heart I will always be a “journalist”, and as such, I am always looking to tell a story. When something or someone sparks my interest, I want to document it, and photography has become my medium of choice.

**Malcolm McElvaney** - Given that photography is your medium of choice what is the story behind the photographs on display at Midland Shared Spaces now?

**Conrad Coleman** - After listening to my wife’s stories for two and a half years about some of the people she was meeting on the streets (while serving breakfast to the homeless as part of Breaking Bread Kitchen’s mobile ministry) I became interested in the “homeless problem” in Midland.

Having lived in Midland all my life, I was pretty ignorant about the significant number of people in Midland who do not have a place to call “home.” I went out



with her on the truck a couple of mornings, and started talking with other people about homelessness, and quickly realized that I was not the only ignorant one!

That's when I decided that I could help by using my camera to tell some of the stories of the friends I was meeting on the streets to bring awareness of the problem to a larger audience .

**Malcolm McElvaney** - Kelly Stout was nice enough to photograph the exhibit for me and picked out one image in particular to highlight here. What is the story behind this particular one?

**Conrad Coleman** - This is Shane . He is one of my favorite people . Whenever I see him he always has a smile and hug for everyone. Shane lives in a tent on the Southside of Midland near a convenience store . Many homeless people live near 24 hour stores for easy access to a bathroom, and in Shane's case, a place to buy beer. Shane says he has been drinking since the age of five. He says his father gave him beer, and was physically abusive. When I interviewed Shane last year I asked him where he saw himself in five years. He said: "Dead, if I don't stop drinking, but I DO love my beer!"



What I like about this photo is it shows the hard life he has lived. You can almost see the many years of pain and suffering in the deep lines on his face.

**Malcolm McElvaney** - Thank you for giving us some of your time to talk about your photography display and what it means to you. Should anyone reading this feel inclined to help you with the homeless issue in Midland what could they do?

**Conrad Coleman** - Malcolm, thank you for taking the time to write the article. One of the best ways people can help is to donate to The Field's Edge on the website at <http://www.thefieldsedge.org/>.

