

Give a man a fish, he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish, he feeds a village

Meet Keahi, age 47. Once homeless, he was found begging for food and money near a traffic light. One day, a radio manager stopped, and heard his 'golden' voice. He loved it so much he hired Keahi as a radio announcer at his radio station. Keahi was a lucky fellow! He now has a job, a house, and is living a happy life with his dog.

However, there are many people who are homeless and living in squalor. With no end in sight, everyday their lives look bleaker and bleaker. These people have not been as fortunate as Keahi. The homeless have many faces. Some are drug addicts, war veterans, and some have mental health problems. And sadly, Ching Sanctuary must be narrow in its scope. It cannot help all the faces of homeless.

Ching Sanctuary will focus on providing resources for our homeless who are trying to get a job or start a small business to make a decent living. Applicants will be screened to see if they are eligible: they do not have severe mental health problems; they are not addicted to alcohol or drugs; they are motivated to re-train or acquire new job skills; and if they have a prison record, they are now ready to stay out of prison. The Ching Sanctuary will use community volunteers to provide courses on budgeting, finding and applying for jobs, and being successful at keeping jobs. These volunteers will provide the homeless with a network of contacts, resources, job opportunities and training. As people transition into jobs, assistance and support groups still be available for extra support. The Ching Sanctuary will help by giving the homeless a fixed address and a phone number to put on their job applications, suitable clothes for attending

interviews, a place to groom for their interviews, and even provide a bus pass so that they can get to their job interviews.

In 2007, the number of homeless people in Hawaii was 6,000. Yet, that number continues growing for different reasons. Once a minor problem, homelessness is now a major issue. This isn't just some people's problem, but *everyone's* problem. Homeless people are people like you and me; but they need a helping hand to get their life together. They are part of our community, and I believe that Clarence T.C. Ching would have been one of the first to attack this problem of homelessness head-on if he were still alive today. In fact, the homeless problem has increased tenfold since he died, and he would definitely be moved to do something.

Mr. Ching's work focused on loving all people and giving back to the community. His Foundation donates to many worthy causes. He was so kind and generous and he received much joy from helping people. This sanctuary I am proposing will reflect what Ching once said, "Ask not what your community can do for you. Ask what you can do for your community."

Sites:

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2797>

http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/40916364/ns/today-today_people/t/golden-voiced-homeless-man-lands-dream-job-house/