

Teaching Women To Fish

"There is a lot that happens around the world that we can't control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts, and we cannot prevent all conflict, but we know where the hungry, the homeless, and the sick exists, then we can help." - Jan Schakowsky. In order to solve the problem of homeless women and children in Hawaii, we need to provide job training, vocational training, and help with school applications and financial aid forms for the homeless women so they can make a living and support their children. Mr. Clarence T.C. Ching cared deeply about poor people. He built Kukui Gardens as a low-income housing project and did not make any money off of the project. If Mr. Ching was still alive, I wonder how he would feel about the homeless problem we have in Hawaii now.

First of all, we should provide job training for the homeless women so they can clothe and feed their children. There is an old proverb that states "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." We can provide job training for them by providing free or low cost education at our local community colleges. Also, we could help them by giving them counseling and assistance on school applications and financial aid forms. Volunteers could go to the shelters and meet with the women to help them formulate individual plans. Volunteers could also help them fill out the college and financial aid applications.

In addition, we could provide vocational training for the homeless women. Training programs could be provided such as culinary, hair styling, computer programing, medical assistant, and administrative assistant training. The training could be provided through grants and donations. There could be training provided right at the

shelter. Also, job placement assistance could be provided at the shelter for the homeless women.

In order to solve the problem of homeless women and children in Hawaii, we should provide job training, vocational training, help with school applications and financial aid forms for them so they can make a living and support their children. To conclude, almost two years ago I went to the Next Step Shelter to pass out presents at Christmas time for all of the children. I went there with my Sunday school class from my church. I was shocked at how many young women and children there were. There were young teenage mothers with probably no skills and unable provide for their children. I doubt that many of these women had any husbands or families that cared about them or else they would not be in a shelter with their small children. It makes me so sad to see little children living in those conditions. Providing them with education and job training would help to solve the homeless problem for women in Hawaii and get them out of poverty and into a house.