

A practical way to help the homeless find work and safety

Tec talk by Richard J. Berry.

There's a better way to get money you need than panhandling on the corner. There's a better way to help your brothers and sisters in need than handing a few dollars out the car window. We know there's dignity in work. We also know that people are much more likely to invest in themselves if they believe that their community is willing to invest in them first. Richard Berry has one of the best jobs in the world, he got to be the mayor of a great American city, Albuquerque, New Mexico. After seeing a gentleman standing on a corner and holding a sign that says that he wants a job, Richard decides to give him and more people like him a job.

If you want to start an initiative like this, you have to consider if there's anything left to do in your city and if there's people that need something to do, because there's a better way. In Albuquerque, with the pilot program of giving work to homeless people, it has been cleaned up 400 city blocks in the city and 117.000 pounds of trash have been picked up.

People ask, "Well, Albuquerque is 600.000 people, this wouldn't work in our city, we're too big, we're too small". Richard disagree; he thinks that if you have one panhandler on one city block you can do that; if you live in a city of eight-and-half million people, you can do that.

Now, cities are hearing about "There's a better way", other mayors are calling the team and are starting to implement programs where they bring the dignity of work to their equation. Finally, if you and your city is ready to step up, if you're ready to think differently about those persistent social issues, if you're ready to lift people up in your community through the dignity of work and make your city profoundly better in many ways. Well, there's a better way.

Opinion

It is difficult that these projects can work in any city, but because we are thinking in this way, we don't start anything. I guess that my community has to think positively, we are not going to arrive anywhere if we think things are not going to work. So, I guess an initiative like this can make the difference, can solve part of the actual social issues the city has. But, sometimes is difficult to think it can happen when you see government doesn't pay enough attention to these problems and you see homeless people who doesn't want to have a job, or get money by themselves in a good way. I really don't know If my city can do something like this, I hope it does.

Additionally, I also have considered that prisoners should help with some work in the city because they are in jail doing nothing good for the city, and being kind of relaxed because they just eat and sleep. Finally, I guess, there's a lot of work to do in the city and we're not taking advantage of people who want to work or need to work, if they work, the city will be better, but, are we willing to pay their work?

New Words

Panhandling	Shelter	Gather	Insurance	Tumbleweed
Prior	Struggle	Pantry	Stubborn	