

# Ideas to help the Homeless in Our Community

## As described in Toxic Charity – Robert D Lupton

“What Americans avoid facing is that while we are very generous in charitable giving, much of that money is either wasted or actually harms the people it is targeted to help.” (pg. 1)

“When we do for those in need what they have the capacity to do for themselves, we disempower them.” (pg. 3)

“Giving to those in need what they could be gaining from their own initiative may well be the kindest way to destroy people.” (pg. 4)

“Even the most kindhearted, rightly motivated giving—as innocent as giving Christmas toys to needy children—can exact an unintended toll on a parent’s dignity.” (pg. 33)

“There is no simple or immediate way to discern the right response without a relationship.” (pg. 48)

“A hunger-free zone may be possible, but developing the dependency-free zone is the real challenge.” (pg. 101)

“To the extent the poor are enabled to participate in the system intended to serve them, their self-worth is enhanced.” (pg. 130)

“Little affirms human dignity more than honest work. One of the surest ways to destroy self-worth is subsidizing the idleness of able-bodied people. Work is a gift, a calling, a human responsibility.” (pg. 152)

“Becoming a neighbor to less-advantaged people is the most authentic expression of affirmation I know—becoming a real-life, next-door neighbor. When connected neighbors move into the struggling world of those who are poor in order to be friends (rather than profit-making gentrifiers), news possibilities begin to appear.” (pg.’s 154-155)

“Betterment does for others. Development maintains the long view and looks to enable others to do for themselves. Betterment improves conditions. Development strengthens capacity. Betterment gives a man a fish. Development teaches a man how to fish.” (pg. 167)

“Think of the transformation that would occur if mission trips were converted from make-work to development work; if soup kitchen servanthood were redirected to afford homeless men the dignity of securing their own food; if Saturday service projects shifted from pity to partnership; if government giveaways became accountable investments.” (pg. 189)

“Authentic relationships with those in need have a way of correcting the we-will-rescue-you mind-set and replacing it with mutual admiration and respect...”(pg. 190)

“The poor, no matter how destitute, have enormous untapped capacity; find it, be inspired by it, and build upon it.” (pg. 191)

**OATH FOR COMPASSIONATE SERVICE (PG. 128):**

-Never do for the poor what they have (or could have) the capacity to do for themselves. (pg. 128)

-Limit one-way giving to emergency situations. (pg. 128)

-Strive to empower the poor through employment, lending, and investing, using grants sparingly to reinforce achievements. (pg. 128)

-Subordinate self-interests to the needs of those being served. (pg. 128)

-Listen closely to those you seek to help, especially to what is not being said—unspoken feelings may contain essential clues to effective service. (pg. 128)

-Above all, do no harm. (pg. 128)

**Lupton, Robert D. (2011) Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It). New York, NY Harper Collins Publishers**