

A Reader Says

Better to provide help for homeless than resent them

I would like to respond to the letter to the editor, "Homeless and subsidized residents bad for Redlands," (Aug. 8). I believe we should be doing more for our homeless.

People become homeless for many reasons: loss of a job, health care expenses, rising rent costs without a rise in wages, domestic violence, child abuse, mental illness and/or substance abuse.

The New Yorker reported on Sept. 22, 2014 about a program in Utah called Housing

First that gives homes to the homeless and another program called Rapid Rehousing that quickly places homeless families in a home of their own and not a shelter.

Utah spent on average \$20,000 per homeless person each year for shelters, ER visits, ambulances, and police. The cost to house someone including a case manager is \$8,000.

Utah also found that it is more successful treating those with mental health and/or substance abuse

problems when they are in a stable environment.

The letter discusses how homeless people throw trash around and don't take responsibility for public property. But where is our moral responsibility to help these individuals and families?

Jesus said "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

— *Christine Nicoloff, Redlands*