

Headline **Centre aims to offer jobs, reunite them with kin**  
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# Centre aims to offer jobs, reunite them with kin

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Archdiocesan Office for Human Development (AOHD) aims to reunite the homeless people with their families and get them jobs.

Carl D'Cunha, AOHD's feeding programme coordinator, said crime rates would go down if the community and the families of the homeless folk were ready to accept them.

He added that he did not want them to depend on the feeding programme at the food distribution centre for too long.

"My dream is to see them walk away from the streets and lead a better life.

"I will always ask them, especially the young ones who come here, how long they were going to sleep by the roadside or under bridges and be dependent on free food."

D'Cunha said people often asked the centre to help them look for a job but they failed to realise that they needed money for the first month to travel to work, eat and get a place to stay.

The centre, which is located at Bukit Nanas and opposite St Johns Institution, has provided the homeless with a place to shower and free lunch every Mondays to Fridays for the past 12 years.

He hoped private companies, especially security companies, would hire them.

D'Cunha also constantly talked to the homeless about their problems.

"Some opened up to me and told me that they had HIV. I would send them to our community home in Batu

Arang."

AOHD volunteer Ahmad Taufik Ismail, 19, said it was an eye opener to work with the homeless and this had made him appreciate life better.

But the engineering student felt that youngsters should not run away from homes to live on the streets as it would not solve their problems.

Taufik said it would only make the situation worse as they would be more exposed to danger.

"Most of those who come here are not only homeless but jobless as well. They may end up committing crime to get money.

"Young people who have the time and resources should give the less fortunate some hope."

HOMELESS IN KUALA LUMPUR	
	Cases
Unemployed	646 (46.6%)
Poor	246 (17.7%)
Poor, old and abandoned	145 (10.5%)
Poor and old	50 (3.6%)
Drug addicts	66 (4.8%)
Abandoned	61 (4.4%)
Mentally unstable	29 (2.1%)
Terminally ill	29 (2.1%)
Homeless	22 (1.6%)
Former inmates	16 (1.2%)
Disabled	15 (1.1%)
Runaways	22 (1.6%)
Depression	7 (0.5%)
Alcoholics	5 (0.4%)
Refugees	4 (0.3%)
Unwanted by family	3 (0.2%)
Others	21 (1.5%)

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P. Mahen, 42, a former convict, depends at times on the Archdiocesan Office for Human Development for his meals.