

Letter to the Welfare Office from the Social Worker of the Old Woman Living in the Shoe

estimated reading time

3:00

by Lockie Hunter

I am writing again to express my dissatisfaction with the services of your department in dealing with the inhabitants of the structure that occupies the block between Howard and Washington Streets, cross Street of Broadmore.

Those kids are running in and out of the shoe all night long. Sliding down the tongue, swinging from the laces. Is this what is deemed "appropriate housing"? I saw the old woman herself sitting on the toe yesterday, and I asked her how she was feeling. She told me, I have so many children that I don't know what to do. Is this not the role of our welfare office? To help those who don't know what to do?

Moreover, I am convinced that not all of those children are hers. Some local children have taken up residence in the shoe to have a place to sleep at night. Jack Horner joined her brood last month after the dissolution of his own parent's marriage. Clearly the administration of foster care and adoption procedures has fallen short.

Something must be done.

I propose a four phase action plan, which I have outlined below.

1. Facilities:

Raze the shoe and replace it with affordable government subsidized housing units. Open retail space on the first level where the children could be employed. Add a community room. If this proves cost prohibitive and the residence must be kept, consider insulation. Athlete's foot is a common problem in the dwelling. The sole, poorly insulated, is often damp, resulting in a fungus which can spread through the porous walls and infect the inhabitants. Once properly insulated, we should turn our attention to aesthetic concerns such as the purchase of new laces. We can turn this footwear eyesore into a place that the entire neighborhood will be proud of!

2. Nourishment:

Provide bread, not just broth. I was shocked when the old woman told me that, she gave them some broth without any bread. Her food stamps only provided for broth, which this government estimates as enough to sustain life. This is unacceptable policy. She tried to borrow bread from her neighbor Mrs. Hubbard but her cupboards were bare. How does this fit with the vision of "compassionate conservatism?"

3. Education:

Offer child care training to the old woman. She told me that after she gave them the broth without any bread that she whipped them all soundly and put them to bed. Whippings! Imagine. As a single custodial parent with an overwhelming burden, she has to make choices. No one has provided her with the skill set that she needs to handle that many children. Your office must reconsider my request for anger management classes. There are so many of them crammed into that one shoe, well, you can imagine the smell. A "whipping" probably seemed the only alternative to her.

4. Financial:

Aggregate all of the benefits into one account. The little boy who lives down the lane has been in residence in the shoe for over seven months though she's received no aid on his behalf. Assuming the old woman is now permanently assigned as his legal guardian, then his benefits need to flow directly to her.

I believe these action items, coupled with increased vigor in prosecuting deadbeat dads, will provide the old woman with much needed assistance.

Sincerely,
Goose (M.S.W)

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