Day 5 DCCK

This is the last day we work in DCCK. Although everyone is exhausted, we still wake up early, pack up and work hard in the soup kitchen. It has become natural for us to say ‘hi’ and ‘how are you’ to people at the streets. This improvement unconsciously changed our daily behavior and our attitude towards homeless people. This improvement also makes homeless people feel warm that know that there are groups of people in the world care about them.

After saying good morning to workers in the kitchen, everyone is excited that there are no more tomatoes to be cut. Stephanie, Keelin, Annie and I are assigned to cut potatoes. While we are washing potatoes, I tell them that potatoes with stem grown on them are poisoned. None of them knows this truth. Therefore, I guess that American potatoes are different from Chinese ones. Annie and I joined the potato-cutting group after we finish washing all of them. There is a black woman standing beside me, and I try to get to know her even though I have already forgotten her name. She went to South Korea for high school because her father was serving there as a veteran.

“Did you go to Korean school?”

“No, they have American schools there.”

“Did you go to college in America?”

“No, I did not.”

“Why?”

“My father could not find any job when he came back from Korea, my family needed me to find a job as soon as possible instead of sending me to a college.”

“What did you do?”

“I went to a training school to be trained to use machines to measure heart rates.”

“Did you find a job later?”

“No, after I graduated, they did not need me anymore. Instead, they need nurses.”

“Did you find any other jobs?”

“No, that’s why I am here now. I am trying to do something to put in my resume to find jobs. Fortunately, I still have a place to live. But my life ain’t huge difference from homeless people.”

Veteran homelessness has obviously become a severe problem of homelessness, even though people put effort to work on it. The result is not very effective so that there is an impressive decrease of veteran homelessness.

Since it is the last day of working in DCCK, the CEO of DCCK Mike has planned to talk to us about how they raise the funding for DCCK. They are now struggling with a program of schools in the District of Colombia. They lost about 15,000 dollars per month by taking care of meals of schools there. It is a huge amount for a nonprofit organization. They are considering whether to give up or continue doing this plan by going to a coming meeting. According to Mike, they don’t expect to earn any profit at all. However, he expects that at least the demand and supply should balance out. If the organization lose money from one program, others programs will be influenced because it does not have profit from any of these programs to provide excess money to fix the deficit one. What really surprised me is that they get 0 dollars from federal government.

I completely respect what they are doing and feel my responsibilities in my future life. We are all human beings, and one is not different from each other. We ought to help each other in order to make a better life for ourselves.