

Truly Thankful

By Suzy Hopkins

It always troubled me to observe the massive quantity of food provided and consumed by my relatives on Thanksgiving Day when there were, and still are, people who can't be sure of having even one meal a day.

As an adult I decided to help on Thanksgiving Day at the women's shelter in Sacramento. This shelter was specifically for women escaping a violent environment (W.E.A.V.E.). Many of them had nothing but the clothes on their backs and their children. They were fed three meals a day for two weeks when they were expected to have made other living arrangements with the assistance of the shelter staff. However, Thanksgiving was a special day for the residents and their children. The volunteers brought flowers and brightly colored paper table cloths to decorate the tables, special paper plates with pictures of turkeys and pumpkins, special treats for the kids and lots of traditional foods for all. The little kids were squealing in anticipation. To make anyone whose life had been shattered so happy, was definitely the best Thanksgiving ever.