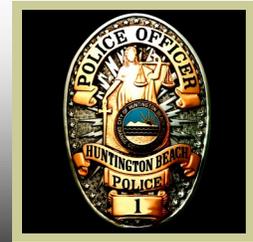


# REACHING OUT

EFFECTING CHANGE ONE PERSON AT A TIME



H U N T I N G T O N   B E A C H   P O L I C E   D E P A R T M E N T

## A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF HANDY

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

The seven member Homeless Task Force delivered its measured recommendations to the City Council on March 21st in a Joint Study Session.

The FV United Methodist Church, with support from the Greater HB Interfaith Council, is hosting a **Helping Hands Homeless Resource Day** on **April 23rd** from **6:00am to 1:00 pm** at the Fountain Valley United Methodist Church located at **18225 Bushard St. in Fountain Valley**. Volunteers must register by April 20th at [JustServe.org](http://JustServe.org).

This publication is designed to provide information to you, the residents of Huntington Beach, about our efforts at homeless outreach and placement. As you may appreciate, the problem is complex and multi-dimensional. There is no one-size-fits-all approach, nor are two clients identical. Please know that we care. Please know that we are working hard and please understand that your participation is critical to our success. Working together, we can make a difference one person at a time.

### GOOD THINGS HAPPENING

Last month, Officer Ricci and Officer Schloss were able to reunite a family with their relatives in Alabama. The California dream proved to be elusive for this young couple and their four year old daughter. After having difficulty finding meaningful employment and housing, this family asked the HBPD for help.

After reaching out to a relative in Alabama to ensure a reconnection with family, your Police Department spent nearly \$600 to get them safely home. The family was quite grateful.



Family of 3 reunited w/ family in Alabama

## THREE PEOPLE HOUSED IN A DAY!

March 10th proved to be a very busy day for the Homeless Outreach Officers. Typically, finding meaningful housing can be a lengthy and difficult process. However, Coast to Coast received recent donations that allowed the officers to simply take

initiative. Three homeless women, one of whom was elderly, asked for help.

The officers drove the ladies to a nonprofit group home in a nearby city. At this facility, clients receive assistance with job searches and practical lifestyle skills,

all the while having a clean, safe place to live. The HBPD was able to pay for the first month of housing from its Coast to Coast fund. Thereafter, the housing nonprofit will find sponsors until the clients find employment.

THANK YOU!  
FIVE PEOPLE  
**DONATED BUS  
PASSES** TO THE  
POLICE OFFICERS IN  
LAST FEW WEEKS.  
THIS IS A VERY  
HELPFUL TOOL AND  
GREATLY  
APPRECIATED.

WE ASKED.  
YOU GAVE.  
HER LIFE IS BETTER.  
THANK YOU.

“Their gifts made me whole again. After I got an apartment, I had so little. Their gifts actually made it feel like a home.” - BERNICE

H U N T I N G T O N   B E A C H   P O L I C E   D E P A R T M E N T



“I HOPE SOME DAY TO DO THIS FOR SOMEONE ELSE. I HOPE TO PASS IT ON.”

Bernice found herself homeless after the two women for whom she was a live-in caregiver passed away. She realized that she no longer had the memory to take responsibility for a client’s medications. “After caring for the ladies for twenty years, I found myself with no place to go and no job prospects.”

Someone was kind enough to help her purchase a van and it became her home. That is, until she met Officer Ricci. He suggested she go to Colette’s Children’s Home. From there, Colette’s connected Bernice to Mercy House, a nonprofit whose goal is to break the cycle of homelessness, and she was placed in an apartment.

“Many homeless people are just like me. I simply didn’t have enough retirement to afford my own place. It’s an awful place to be.”

After reaching out to you, she was given the furnishings she needed to make her new apartment a home. She points out every item donated and speaks kindly of the people who dropped them off. “I am so grateful. I thought I would die in my van. Now my dog and I have a home.”

W H A T   D O   T H E   N U M B E R S   T E L L   U S ?

That your officers have been working diligently. From January through mid-April, Officers Schloss and Ricci have had over 330 contacts with homeless individuals, often the same individual more than once. Of these contacts, 129 were willing to accept some form of service. Bus passes, resource lists, DMV forms, mental health referrals, relocation assistance and housing were among the services provided. Seventeen people were taken off the streets, either through housing or reconnection with family members during this time.