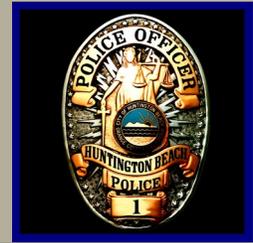


REACHING OUT

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

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM YOUR HOMELESS TASK FORCE

We are very grateful for your support. Recently, the Homeless Task Force assisted three families who are willing to share their stories. Interestingly, each family has three kids and all mother's share the same first name.



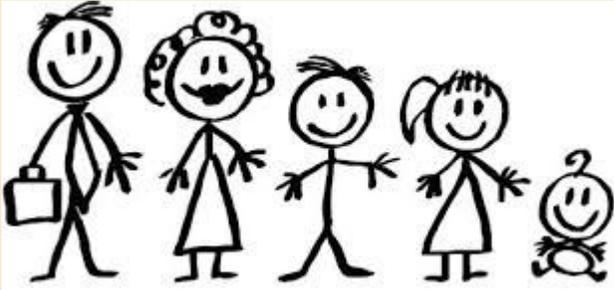
The family on the left came from out of state to live with an uncle in San Diego. Unfortunately, it became clear very quickly that it was not going to work. The family was forced to live in their truck, which is where they came into contact with Officer Ricci. Always a soft touch when it comes to children, he bought provisions for the family and temporarily placed them in a local motel. The family is now connected to **FAMILIES FORWARD**, a housing nonprofit that specializes in homeless families, and getting the assistance they need.

On the right, we have a young family who just moved into their first Huntington Beach apartment. "For years we were couch surfing or renting rooms. Some landlords rented each room in a home to a different family. Some wouldn't let us use the kitchen." Mom found out about the HTF and asked for help. They were connected to **OCCHC**, a housing nonprofit that just happened to have an open unit. The HTF helped them apply and the apartment is theirs. "This has changed our lives. Now our kids have their own beds and own rooms. We are so happy and so grateful."



November 2018

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



Too shy to be photographed, our next young family was unable to fully support themselves, and living with in-laws seemed like the answer. However, as the family grew, things unraveled. The person with whom they lived, did not fully share information and apartment evictions became the norm. One day, the eldest daughter, who was then five, asked, “Mommy

when are we going to have our own home?” The innocent question rocked her mother. “It broke me. I knew I couldn’t do this anymore.”

Rather than staying with relatives any longer, the family decided to move into a motel. It was better for them to be in the motel together than suffer living insecurely any longer. Dad had steady, reliable employment and worked hard. With most of their income going to pay for the motel, there was little left for the basic necessities, not to mention a down payment for an apartment.

Dad heard about a rental assistance program from a co-worker and Mom gave the Homeless Task Force a call. The HTF interviewed the family and referred them to Mercy House, one of the nonprofits that oversees the TBRA program funded by the City of Huntington Beach. **Janiss Diaz of Mercy House** helped the family find a rental unit within their budget and followed up with case management. Mom gives Janiss many accolades and appreciates how much she helped.

As Mom tells it, the best part of it all was surprising their daughter. “The day we got the keys, we picked our daughter up from school, telling her we had a surprise. We pulled up to our new home and told her it was ours. It was very emotional. We had been keeping the secret for a month.”

ORANGE COUNTY PIT COUNT

Orange County will be holding a Point-In-Time (PIT) and survey on January 23, 2019. Volunteers will help conduct surveys of neighbors experiencing street-level homelessness in partnership with an expert homeless service providers. Volunteer positions at PIT deployment centers and donations are additional ways you can get involved. You can get additional information and sign-up by visiting www.everyonecountsoc.org.

HTF NEEDS BUS PASSES

Anyone so inclined to donate, may drop them off at the HBPD on Main Street, to the attention of Lt. Ferrin. Otherwise, please feel free to mail them in. Any bus passes are greatly appreciated as they are used exclusively for our homeless residents who wish to make a change. Thank you!

Homeless Task Force Coordinator 714-536-5583 Homeless Task Force Case Managers 714-536-5576