

HB Task Force on Homelessness

*How Non-Profits are assisting those experiencing
homelessness in Huntington Beach*

*Bill Nelson, MA
Fresh Beginnings Ministries*



Non-Profits in HB

- Two kinds of organizations
 - Faith Based
 - Churches
 - Para Church Organizations
 - Non-Faith Based
 - SOS
 - Food Finders
 - Women Helping Women
 - Working Wardrobes etc...



Non-Profits in HB

- Faith Based Organizations:
 - Beach Cities Interfaith Services
 - FCCHB – Community Resource Center
 - St. Wilfords Episcopal Church
 - Fresh Beginnings Ministries



Non-Profits in HB

- Non-Faith Based Organizations
 - SOS
 - Coast to Coast
 - Better Futures
 - Working Wardrobes
 - Women Helping Women etc...



Non-Profits in HB

- Recovery Homes
- Sober Living Residences
- Safe Shelters
 - Battered Women and Children



Non-Profits in HB

- Most helping profession non-profits agree on the concept of long term effects from assistance given.
 - 1. “Handouts” are NOT effective.
 - 2. A relational approach works best.
 - 3. Volunteer commitment is crucial to success of any long term assistance.
 - 4. The goal for assistance must be to bring the person experiencing homelessness to self-sufficiency.



Non-Profits in HB

- Hindrances to finding self-sufficiency:
 - 1. Depression
 - 2. Mental Illness
 - 3. The longer on the streets, the harder to see a possible different way of life
 - 4. Life on the streets is a life of no responsibility.

Non-Profits in HB

- Issues that Non-Profits and others face:
- The face of homelessness has changed
 - Economy – In HB 2000+ families are one event away from becoming homeless.
 - Mentally ill with no available facilities
 - Homeless family population growing



Non-Profits in HB

- Here is what we know:
 - Homelessness cannot be arrested away.
 - Trying to pick them up and drive to another city does not work. They ALWAYS come back!
 - The saying “necessity is the mother of invention” can be seen in the homeless population. When services are removed they will find a way to survive.



Non-Profits in HB

- In the opinion of a few that work on our streets everyday, the solution is at best complex.
- What you are trying to do here will take commitment, time, energy and above all teamwork with resources.
- *One key is to get them to remember who they were before they became who they are.*

