

Homeless Task Force Team

Progress Report May 2017

Contacts

After warnings, the Homeless Task Force officers arrested or cited 13 individuals in May. This month, 31 individuals declined assistance. Although the road to substantive housing is often lengthy, the HTF looks forward to guiding those who are ready to make a change. We hope that individuals receiving the citations will be among those who eventually decide to accept assistance.

Monthly Highlights

The Homeless Task Force was able to connect two families and one elderly woman to a rental assistance program which is built on the ultimate expectation of self-sufficiency. These programs require the participant to be employed and capable of taking over full rent at some point. Sometimes homeless individuals actually have income sufficient to support a modest studio apartment, but they do not have first and last month's rent, or they have poor credit. Rental assistance, if accepted by the landlord, can provide the foundation necessary to achieve stability.

A local automotive repair company kindly gave a car dwelling homeless woman four new tires and an oil change at cost. The HTF is working with this lady on housing options and requested the favor. She is highly functioning and looking for work, so the new tires allow her to search for job opportunities in a broader geographical area. The HTF greatly appreciates the community assistance.

Our HTF received an expression of gratitude in an email accompanied by a video. On the video was a gentleman holding and kissing his little baby. We received the video because this man had once been homeless in HB. It was through the efforts of Officer Ricci and Officer Schloss that he was accepted into a fabulous program that assisted him in successfully turning his life around.

We received a call from an out of state gentleman looking for his homeless brother. He believed his brother was in HB, but he was not sure. After the HTF reached out to a neighboring city, the homeless man was tracked down and given his brother's contact information. The gentleman was extremely grateful for the reconnection, as he had not seen his brother in years and wanted him off the street.

Points of Interest:

Posters asking people not to give money directly to the Homeless, (Hand up not a Hand Out) have been distributed in Downtown merchants and Libraries.

The Point in Time count conducted in January of 2017 shows an increase in homelessness in Orange County of 7.6% from the last PIT count in 2015. Orange County now has approximately 4,792 sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals.