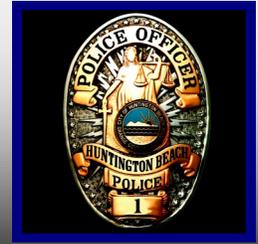


# REACHING OUT

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

## THE HTF WELCOMES MELISSA



MELISSA AND ASHLEY'S TRUSTED TUESDAY OUTREACH WORKERS



Melissa Antalek is the latest addition the Homeless Task Force and we are very happy to have her. Melissa hails from Whittier where she lived before joining the Navy at the age of nineteen. In the Navy, Melissa served as a Turbine Systems Mechanic. Ever modest, Melissa states, "Basically, I worked in a hot, dirty engine room and helped keep the ship running." Melissa was the first female engineer on the ship and was one of only seven women ship-wide when she started. "There was a strong sense of camaraderie. I was very lucky. I met great people in the Navy, including my husband."

Melissa got out of the Navy in 2012, married and moved to Texas. "It was in Texas that I became heavily involved in homeless issues. I did volunteer work for a veteran's organization called Team Red White & Blue as the Community Outreach Coordinator, doing clothing drives and reaching out to the homeless. She also volunteered for Haven of Hope in San Antonio, a noteworthy and all-encompassing nonprofit dedicated to the homeless. Lastly, she started the San Antonio Chapter of Operation Turkey. "I am really proud of that one. I thought I was just volunteering, but in 2015, I wound up leading the entire program which requires hundreds of volunteers to facilitate cooking and delivering Thanksgiving dinners to the homeless."

Melissa went to school in San Antonio and managed to get an AA in Liberal Arts, even though she had two young children. After her husband finished his stint in the Navy, Melissa lobbied for a return to California in order to be near family. Since 2016, Melissa has lived in Orange County and really enjoys it.

In California, Melissa worked for OC 4 Vets as Peer Navigator. She dealt with resume building, housing, mental health and any other issue that required attention. She worked in Santa Ana and sought out veterans in the various homeless shelters in order to assist them with VA resources.

"I love Huntington Beach. So many people in this city are willing to help others. It is my goal to assist homeless people in becoming self-sufficient when they are ready. I enjoy facilitating connections between the individual and organizations that can help them." Melissa has hit the ground running and we are fortunate to have her.

Good eats  
anyone?



On Tuesday, March 27, from 4pm—9:30pm, the **Self Help Interfaith Program (S.H.I.P.)** will be having a fundraiser at StoneFire Grill located at 18727 Brookhurst Blvd. in Fountain Valley. **BRING A FLYER** and 15% of proceeds goes to this nonprofit that houses our homeless. Email [jan@legrandmarketing.com](mailto:jan@legrandmarketing.com) for a flyer.

## A hearty round of applause for...you



EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE BEFORE HITTING THE ROAD

**LEFT:** The HTF provided this gentleman with the funds necessary to rent a car and drive his wife and three small daughters to Florida. He wanted to thank you. They had been homeless for quite some time, sleeping in motels and in their vehicle when money ran low. He will be featured in a later newsletter, as he promised to keep in touch. He wants to detail his journey for you, as he knows that your donations made it possible for him to rent a vehicle and make the road trip to a relative's house to live temporarily. "I look forward to sitting around a dining room table to a homemade meal with my family."

ON MARCH 19TH AT 4:00 P.M. THE HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HOSTING A STUDY SESSION ON THE STATE OF HOMELESS IN OUR CITY. YOUR HOMELESS TASK FORCE WILL BE PRESENT. YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO COME AND LISTEN.