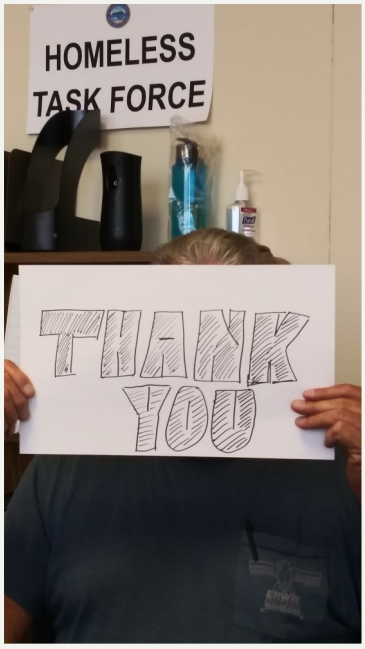
November 2019

REACHING OUT

EFFECTING CHANGE ONE PERSON AT A TIME

HUNTINGTON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

On November 22, the Homeless Task Force sent out an urgent homeless prevention request. We needed to pay the rent of a resident with a serious medical condition who fell behind due to expenses related to a pending medical procedure. You responded magnanimously. As a result, the HTF was able to cover her November rent. Additionally, the team was able to pay expenses associated with sending a homeless man to live with his cousin in Oregon. Lastly, when a 74 year old man unexpectedly showed up at City Hall and explained that he had nowhere to sleep because his car was in the shop, we were able to pay for two nights in a motel. All that, thanks to your generosity.

ABOVE: Elderly homeless man who was placed in a motel for 2 nights pending vehicle repair; BELOW LEFT: Officer MacLeith at the Santa Ana bus station helping with the trip to Oregon

Reverend James Pike of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection recognized the efforts of the HTF at the **Greater HB Interfaith Council's** 2019 Community Thanksgiving Celebration.

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

MEET KRISTY CONWAY

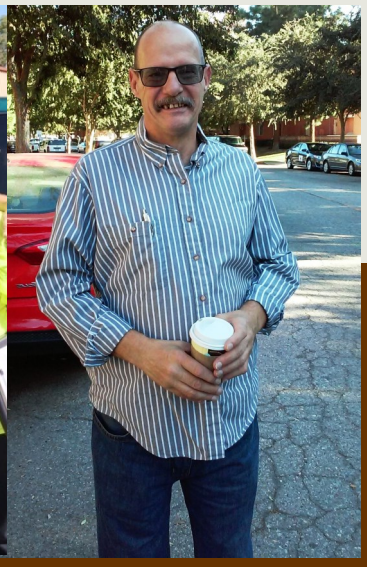
The latest addition to the HTF's case management team is a local. Having lived in Huntington Beach since 1997, the city in which her husband was raised, Kristy has the lay of the land. She attended UCI and obtained her Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology at Pepperdine University. She worked for a few years in substance abuse treatment, then left the field to focus on raising her children. When asked why she sought a position with the HTF, she stated, "I went to the open house at Central Library for information on the proposed shelter. I did not know there was a team specifically dedicated to homeless issues. When I learned how the officers and case managers supported each other's efforts, I knew I wanted to participate." When asked if anything about the job surprised her, Kristy was quick to respond, "Homeless seniors. I never knew we had senior citizens living in their vehicles. They're just poor." What would she like to see change? "I would like to see more housing options for our homeless. Nothing has to be forever, but even short-term beds would be a place to easily connect with clients in order create long term goals." The Homeless Task Force welcomes you, Kristy.

ABOVE LEFT: Kristy's joyful client in her new apartment; ABOVE RIGHT: Kristy organized the Oregon journey and provided food for the trip

* * * * * * * *

ABOVE: Reverend James Pike and GHBIC President, Marsha Rechsteiner, are flanked by Sgt. Thoby Archer and HTF Coordinator, Cathy Lukehart. A check for $1,000 was presented to the HTF, along with bus passes. The funds were raised at the Council's Community Thanksgiving Celebration.

* * * * * * * *



FLASHBACK

Three years ago, Officer Schloss and a COAST TO COAST volunteer named Sue, came across a veteran living in his vehicle. He had bounced between his vehicle and a backyard shed for eight years. When approached, he was told, "You don't have to live like this." The HTF connected him to the VA, and he was housed in the Village at Cabrillo in Long Beach to restart his life. SIX DAYS AGO HE CALLED. He wanted Office Schloss and Sue to know they changed his life. "I went from living in my vehicle to owning a 2000 square foot home in Georgia on a half acre of property. Now, God will allow me to help others. I intend to open my home to vets who need a new start. I just wanted you to know that somebody went a little further. I am so blessed." The photo above on the left is the day Officer Schloss and Sue met him. The photo on the right was taken three months later.