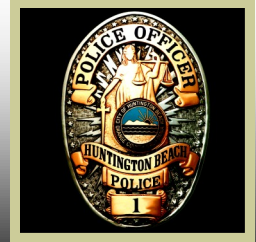


# REACHING OUT

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

## PATTY HAD A GREAT THANKSGIVING

### SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST

The Point In Time count of Orange County's homeless will take place on **January 28, 2017** and you can register to participate at [PointInTimeOC.org](http://PointInTimeOC.org). Don't forget to encourage our youth to volunteer!

Patty had been living in a park for nearly a year and had been homeless for two years. Then, in mid-October Officer Ricci encountered her while he was doing enforcement in a park after curfew. That encounter changed her life.

“Officer Ricci was no stranger to me, I am embarrassed to say. He has been known to give me a ticket or two.” Officer Ricci told Patty about a rental assistance program and wanted to know if she were interested. “I told him ‘yes’ and he made me promise to follow through. The next day I was in a meeting with the woman who oversees the program.”

Three days before Thanksgiving, Patty was living in a fully furnished apartment, thanks to your donations. She can hardly believe that complete strangers were willing to give her so much. **“These people put themselves out for me. I am so grateful that they had it in their hearts to help somebody who really needed it—someone they don’t even know. They’re taking a chance that I’m going to do the right thing and I will not disappoint. I am going to take full advantage of this opportunity.”**

Patty says she looks forward to one day being in the position to give back. For now, she is focusing on the job hunt and, thanks to the donated laptop, she does not have to go to the library to search. She has been applying for jobs ‘like crazy’ and hopes to have interviews by next week.



Although Patty did not want a photo of herself taken, she wanted to thank everyone for their help in making her apartment feel like a home.

**SIDE NOTE**  
IF ANYONE IS SO INCLINED TO DONATE BUS PASSES TO THE HYPD IT WOULD BE GREAT, AS WE ARE OUT

# ONE LIFE RENEWED

"I keep in touch with Officer Schloss because police officers are so used to hearing the bad stories. I figure I would let him hear a success story."

-ERIC



OFFICER SCHLOSS, ERIC, SUE FROM COAST TO COAST



"I JUST JOINED THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BECAUSE I WANT TO GIVE BACK. I WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THEIR FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM. "

Eric had been living in car for seven years when Sue from **Coast to Coast Foundation** happened upon him during her outreach with Officer Schloss. As Sue approached his car, Eric said, "Can I help you?" Sue responded, "That's my line." From there, she found out Eric was a veteran and informed him that Officer Schloss could help him get resources.

When Officer Schloss came over, he asked Eric to step out of his car. Although Eric had a sinking feeling, he got out of his care. "Officer Schloss didn't pat me down. He didn't ask personal questions. He just said, '**You don't have to live like this.**' That statement changed my life."

Inside, Eric was thinking, "I do have to live like this. This is who I am." Officer Schloss told Eric he could get him help through the VA, but he had to stop drinking. Eric explains, "I don't know what clicked. In that moment, I wanted this chance more than I wanted another bottle."

Eric served in 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Division from 1978 to 1985 and never realized how much the VA had improved since that time. He says, "Without Officer Schloss, I would not have known that current VA resources applied to me."

Having had a business, a 3-bedroom house, and a marriage, Eric's descent was slow and painful. He acknowledges his own complicity in his downfall when he says, "I am not innocent in this. I made my errors and I was dealt the consequences. When I met Sue, I was pretty much done with. I had gotten to the point of absolute hopelessness. When you're hopeless, everything else ends. Officer Schloss and Sue gave me hope again."

Eric was placed by the VA at the Village at Cabrillo in Long Beach, a beautiful place. He has a case manager whom he appreciates and he is working successfully on treatment and recovery. "In retrospect, I was supposed to be serving His purposes and I was serving my own. Maybe God has something more for me."