



Help Us Help You Empowering the Homeless Community to Change Their Lives

Presented by:

Myrtle Beach Police Department



Your Presenters

- **Lt. Deborah McCorkle**

Patrol Division

Street Crimes Unit

13 years with Myrtle Beach Police Department

Advocate of community policing and problem solving her entire career

Your Presenters

- **PFC Kimberly Poirier**

Patrol Division

Street Crimes Unit Community Team Officer

6 years with Myrtle Beach Police Department

Advocate of community policing and problem solving to effectively change quality of life for citizens of Myrtle Beach

About Myrtle Beach, SC

- One of the fastest growing areas in the U.S. according to the U.S. Census Bureau
- A year round population of 25,000 and covers approximately 22.5 square miles
- Mild climate, miles of beaches and numerous attractions
- Summer population often exceeds 100,000 daily



City of Myrtle Beach Philosophy

“First in Service”

- **Safety -- Comes First**
- **Excellence -- Constantly Improving**
- **Respect -- For Ourselves and Others**
- **Value -- The Individual and the Organization**
- **Integrity -- Fairness and Honesty**
- **Communication and Courtesy -- To All**
- **Education -- Knowledge to Help**



The Myrtle Beach Police Department

- 240+ officers and staff
- Wide range of protection and enforcement services
- 187 certified police officers
- Patrol, Investigative, Support Services and Administrative Divisions
- All with a variety of specialized units
- Community-oriented policing philosophy
- Around the clock patrols



The Issue



- **2003 City of Myrtle Beach conducted an initial analysis of downtown area (newly named 5 Points), evaluation of calls for service, environmental factors, community opinion**
- **2003-2007 In time officers found from daily encounters a growing homeless population involved in criminal and nuisance related activities such as loitering, trespassing, public intoxication and breach of peace that effect the quality of life**
- **647 homeless persons identified in January 2007 during U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.) homeless count**

Data Evaluation

- 2005 – Myrtle Beach Records Section analysis found 1% of subjects arrested were listed as homeless.
- 2006 – 6,238 calls for service in a two city block area
- 2006 Calls for Service in Myrtle Beach
 - 1,766 disorderly behavior
 - 3,809 public intoxication
 - 314 liquor law violations
 - 3,782 loitering
 - 1,900 trespassing
 - 350 breach of peace



The Plan of Action

- Assigning community team officers to the area
- Increasing police presence
- Problem oriented policing
- Networking with local agencies and businesses
- Establishing other departments and agencies that can help



The Challenges

- Communication

What to do? Where to start? What is your department doing to analyze and address these problems?



The Challenges

- Community assistance agencies



The Challenges

- Day labor businesses



No more "Hustler's Corner" or Gazebo.

The Challenges

- City parks



The Challenges

- Public library



Seeking Assistance

- From City departments
- From Local Businesses



Seeking Assistance

- Meeting held to discuss concerns and ideas



Seeking Assistance

- From community assistance agencies



Seeking Assistance

- From community volunteers



Attendees

- **Police officers**
- **Community assistance agencies**
- **Day labor businesses**
- **Health care professionals**
- **Library staff**



Information Gathering Building the Bridge

- Find a working solution
- Identify underlying issues specific to the homeless population
- Address specific concerns
- Provide knowledge
- Share information on employment opportunities
- Eliminate criminal behavior



Information Gathering Building the Bridge

- **Officers –**
 1. **Identified homeless individuals**
 2. **Conducted field interviews**
 3. **Evaluated specific issues regarding employment**



Information Gathering Building the Bridge

- Officers, community assistance volunteers and public library personnel –

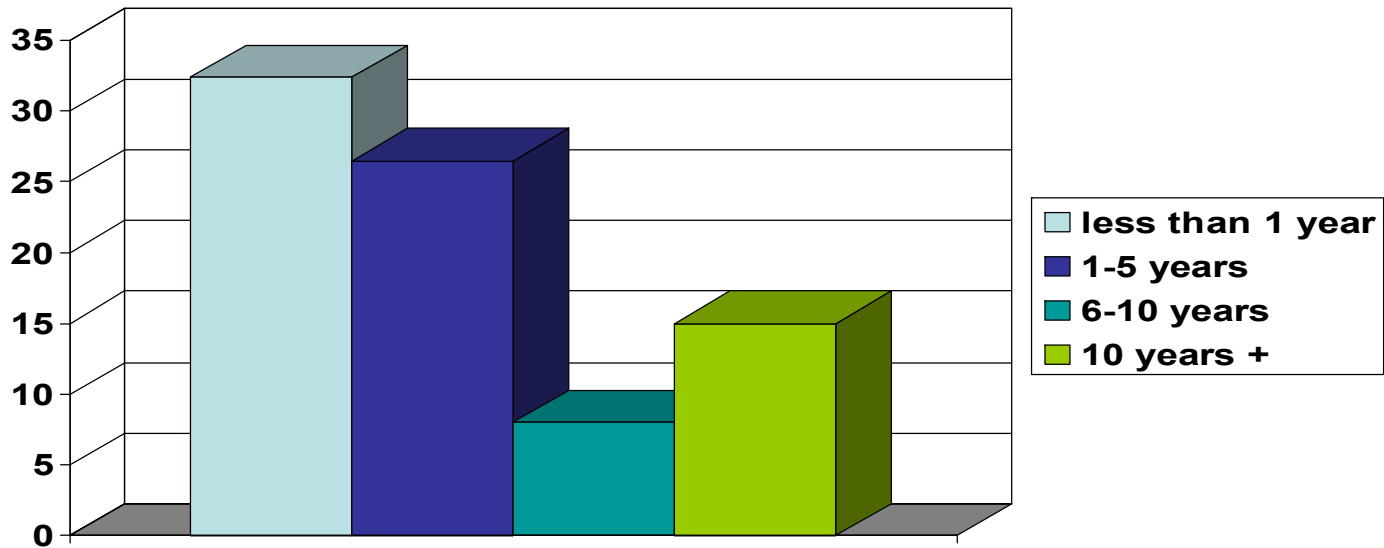
Distributed surveys to gather information from homeless individuals

Rejected by family and society, law enforcement now has to deal with someone who has nowhere to go. Police may be the only contact point for help. What type of questions would you ask your homeless?



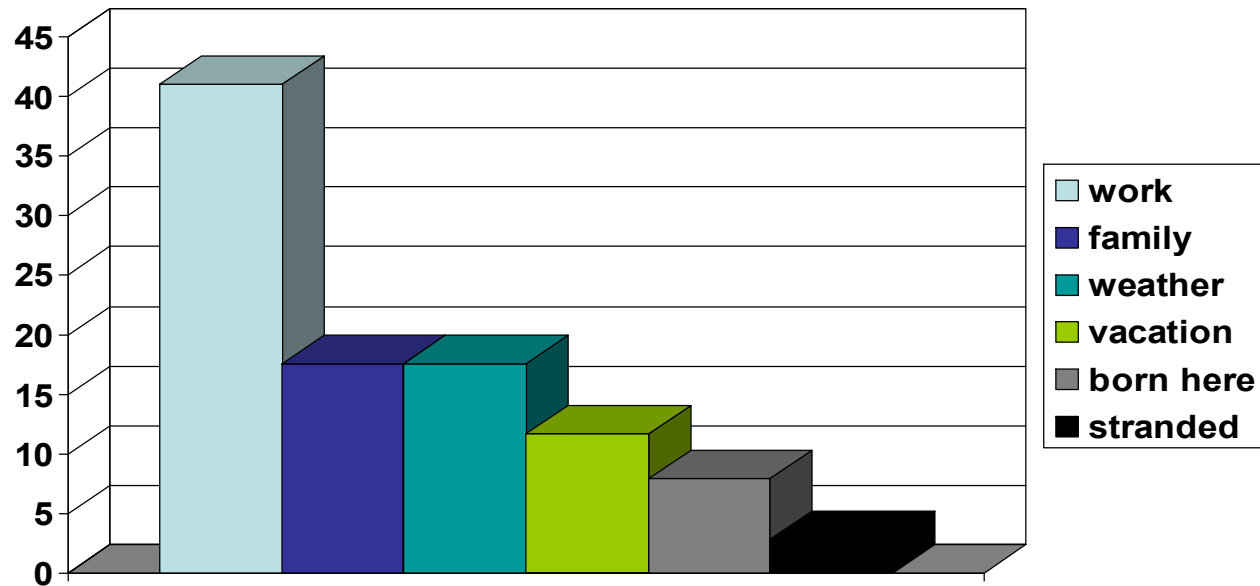
Survey Results

1. How long have you been in Myrtle Beach?



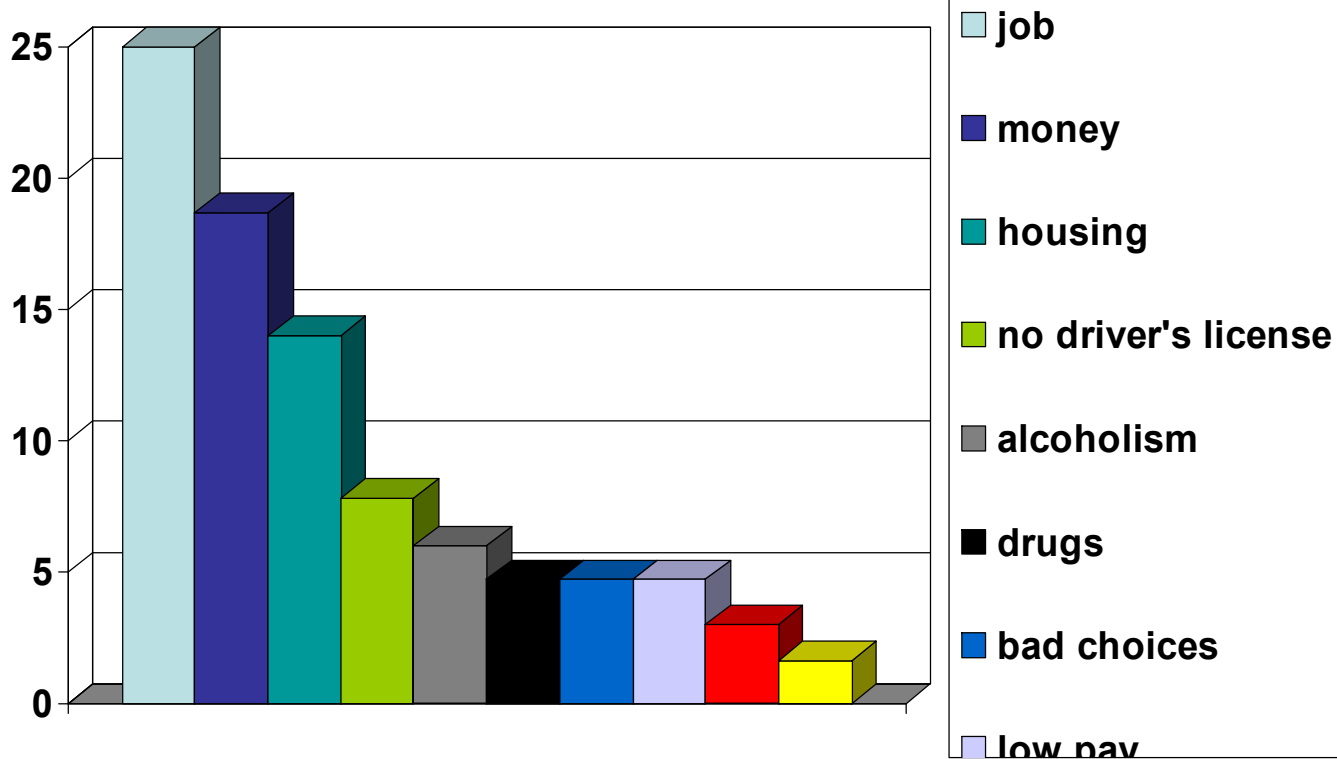
Survey Results

2. Why did you come to Myrtle Beach?



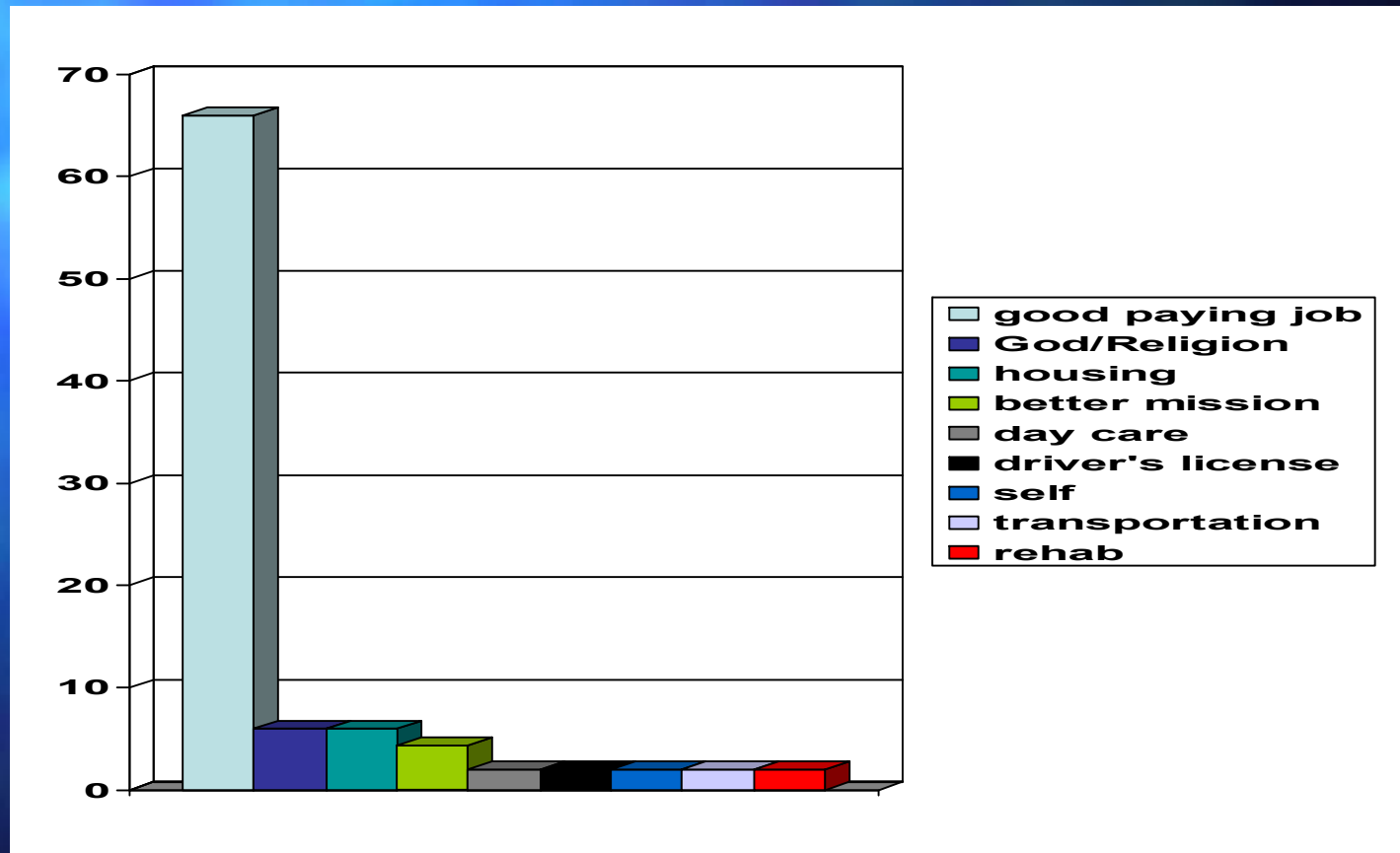
Survey Results

3. List the things that you consider a problem in your life.



Survey Results

4. List one thing that could really help you get out of your situation.

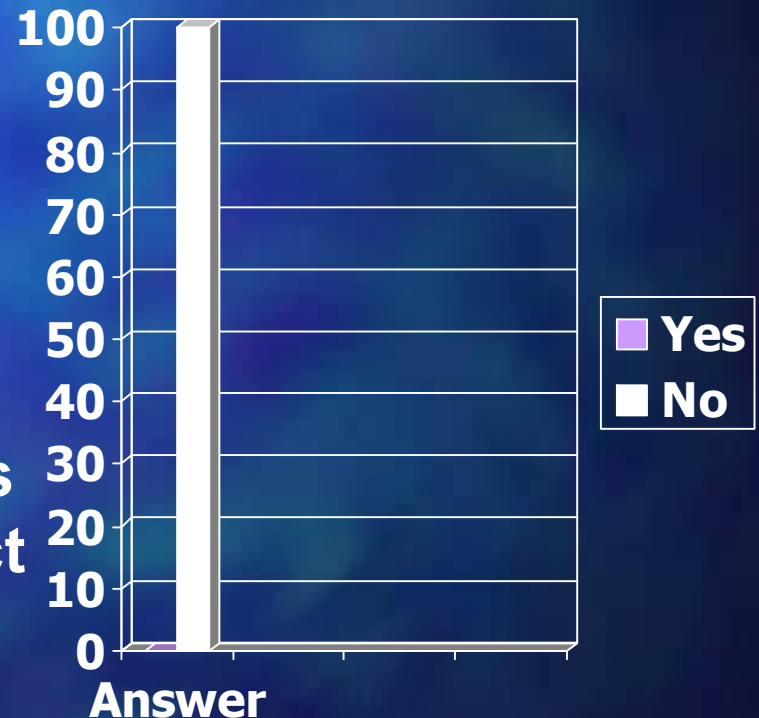


Survey Results

5. Do you want to continue to live as a homeless person?

100 percent of survey respondents said "NO"

How do you feel about helping someone who has in some cases betrayed their family, lost respect for human kind and lives on the streets?



What Now?

- Key issues have been identified
 1. Lack of appropriate identification
 2. Communication
 3. Medical and mental health issues



The Next Step

- Focus on providing information and accessibility
- Increase awareness of homeless issues



Help Us Help You

- First event took place on December 14, 2006



Help Us Help You

What do you think drew agencies to participate?

Agencies included:

Social Security

Health Department

Veteran's Affairs

Alcoholics Anonymous

Narcotics Anonymous

Day Labor Businesses

Local Churches

Homeless Shelters

Public Schools – G.E.D.

Merchant Marines

Salvation Army

Public Transportation

U.S. Army Recruitment

Health Care Professionals

Mental Health Professionals

Shared Care Insurance

THE RESULTS

- 25 provided information on housing
- 20 provided information on public transportation
- 10 provided with emergency shelter information
- 51 assisted with identification cards



THE RESULTS

- **31 placed in jobs**
- **2 given glasses and medications**
- **4 given assistance with food**
- **15 helped by Social Security Commission**
- **42 received medical assistance**
- **2 entered Narcotics Anonymous**
- **15 signed up for GED (Graduate Equivalency Diploma) and English As a Second Language classes**

Continuing Education

Shelter.....

Homeless Outreach Line
843-497-3960 or 997-8350

Street Reach (overnight for men and women)
843-626-3643
509 9th Avenue North, Myrtle Beach

Myrtle Beach Haven (family shelter)
843-626-2427
1 Terminal Street, Myrtle Beach

Food.....

Community Kitchen (free lunch, Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
843-444-9383
1411 Mr. Joe White Ave., Myrtle Beach

Helping Hand (provides food and crisis assistance)
843-448-8451
1411 Mr. Joe White Ave., Myrtle Beach

Withers Swash Park Ministries (a meal on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Park or at the Community Kitchen Saturday at 11:30 a.m.)

Identification and Transportation

Businesses require proper identification for employment. The **Social Security Administration** office is on Fourth Avenue North in Conway.

For a driver's license or identification card, the **South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles** office is on 21st Avenue North in Myrtle Beach.

The **Coast RTA** operates the public transportation authority, with service to Conway and elsewhere.

Myrtle Beach Police Department
1101 North Oak Street
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
843-918-1382

Code Violations and Fines.....

Breach of Peace \$277

Disorderly Conduct \$173-\$484 (may involve fighting)

Indecent Exposure \$484

Pedestrian on Highway \$148

Trespassing \$277 (after being given a warning by business or resident or if posted)

Minor in Possession of Alcohol \$173

Public Intoxication \$173

Littering \$277 (Includes cigarette butts)

Sleeping in a Vehicle \$121

Operating Without a Business License \$484 (includes window washing)

Resisting Arrest \$484

Sleeping on the Beach \$121

Sitting or lying down on Public Sidewalks \$121

Changing Clothes in Public \$484

Aggravated Solicitation \$484

Park Ordinance Violations \$277 (panhandling, sleeping in an area longer than a one hour nap, washing body, taking care of general hygiene or having belongings consistent with setting up a camp)

Loitering \$277 (using an area for an unreasonable amount of time or sitting around on public property, if drug or prostitution conviction within the last two years)

A Guide to Shelters and Emergency Assistance



Provided by
Myrtle Beach Police Department

Agencies and Resources Offering Help for Homeless, Low Income and Special Needs Persons.....

Homeless Outreach 497-3960 or 997-8350
Call for assistance and information if Homeless

American Red Cross 477-0020
Emergency assistance for fires, hurricanes

Associated Charities 448-6321
Assistance, clothing, etc., when available.

Bethany Christian Services 236-5433
24-hour hotline for adoption and mothers' and babies' services

CareTeam, Inc. 236-8429
Assistance and support for HIV/AIDS

Citizens Against Spouse Abuse 626-7595
CASA: emergency shelter and assistance, 24-hour crisis intervention counseling for parent and child, etc.

Catholic Charities 488-2112
Assistance and services for those in need

Christian Missions 293-2411
Food, clothing, household items, utilities, etc., in emergency situations

Coastal Rescue Mission 448-1352
Food Pantry – Loris

Coastal Workforce Center 234-9675
Job listings, unemployment assistance and guidance.

Community Kitchen 448-9383
Free lunch served daily, Monday – Friday.

Department of Social Services 444-6107
Myrtle Beach – food stamps

Ecumenical Clothes Closet 651-3751
Clothing for the needy

Faith-based Community Coalition 448-3949
Assistance for special needs persons, homeless and those in crisis

Family Outreach 248-5392
Services and supplies for mother and new baby.

Grand Strand Community Against Rape (Rape Crisis) 448-3180
24-hour crisis help and rape prevention assistance

Helping Hand – Myrtle Beach 488-8451
Crisis assistance, food, rent and utility assistance on a limited basis

Helping Hand – North Strand 399-0862
Crisis assistance, food, rent and utility assistance on a limited basis

Helping Hand – South Strand 238-4594
Crisis assistance, food, rent and utility assistance on a limited basis

Little River Medical Center 839-3939
Medical assistance at rates based on income. Free homeless assistance available at the Alliance Inn Clinic

Myrtle Beach Haven 626-2427
Temporary shelter, food, clothing and referrals for homeless.

New Dawn, New Day 457-8738
Ministry serving women who are leaving sexually oriented businesses

People for Caring 421-1749
Program for unved mothers, offering housing, food

Project Lighthouse 626-1446
Strategic planning, survival, youth services.

Rape Crisis Center 448-3180
24-hour crisis help and rape prevention assistance

Salvation Army 488-2769
Emergency food, clothing and household items; emergency rent and utility assistance; jail ministry; disaster programs

Street Reach Mission 626-3643
Crisis care for needy; emergency shelter, food and clothing, as available

Swash Park Ministries 340-6588
Meals, food, clothing, blankets, sleeping bags and, occasionally, shelter

Waccamaw Center for Mental Health 347-4888
Mental health services for individuals, families and groups

Hurricane Evacuations.....

If an evacuation is ordered by the governor, local news media, police, the American Red Cross, the city and other organizations will identify evacuation shelter locations, most likely across the Intracoastal Waterway. Transportation to the shelters will be available, and pick-up locations will be identified. These will include Coastal Grand Mall, Food Lion at 79th Avenue North and Colonial Mall. **Do not stay if an evacuation is ordered. Storm surge, strong winds and debris are deadly.**



In an evacuation, always take your...
Identification (Driver's License, Social Security Card, etc.)
Important Documents (Marriage License, Birth Certificates, etc.)
Medications and doctor's name and number
Children's special information (schools, special needs, etc.)

Follow-Up



Currently there is a committee that includes local business leaders, government representatives, volunteers and law enforcement.

Help Us Help You meetings continue quarterly.

Life Style Program

EDIT BAY THREE



Myrtle Beach News