

Partnership to Address Homelessness Succeeding *SCORE Exceeds First Year Goal to Help the Homeless*

January, 2019



A homeless camp was identified and visited off Nathan Hale Drive

In late December members of SCORE (Shared Community Outreach and Engagement) made one of their periodic visits to homeless “camps” in the woods near a neighborhood in Pascagoula. The primary focus of such visits is to assist Open Doors Homeless Coalition, as well as contact and identify individuals who are “service-ready”. The coalition helps these individuals move from the streets and assists with housing and job preparedness.

The SCORE partnership also includes members of law enforcement who look for evidence of criminal acts, such as human trafficking or those evading arrest or unregistered sexual offenders or predators.

In January a census of all the homeless in our community will once again be conducted by Open Doors and the SCORE coalition. This is considered the “baseline” of those in our community who are homeless and not receiving services from any organization.

The goal of the group in their first year, which began in March of 2018, was to find housing “off the streets” for 25 individuals. They exceeded their goal by helping 28 formerly homeless people receive housing, with more pending application. That’s 112% of goal achieved in 9 months of operation.

“This is about a holistic approach to helping those on the street,” said Frank Corder, Assistant City Manager of Pascagoula and the SCORE Chairman. “It’s important to work closely with those who provide the services, like Open Doors, as well as our other non-profit sector partners. But, we also look at this issue through the perspectives of law enforcement and zoning,” he said.

“Property owners should maintain their lots and work to comply with codes and ordinances, to help keep our community clean,” commented Mayor Dane Maxwell. “I’ve made code enforcement and cleaning up Pascagoula a priority for this administration, as we support the efforts of the SCORE coalition,” he said. “It’s a win – win. Code and ordinance compliance helps us all, and the work of the SCORE coalition helps identify individuals who might be in need of assistance and services.”



Debris and other trash on property degrades the value of the land and is a nuisance for neighbors. It also can become an “invitation” for the homeless.



Assistant City Manager and Chairman of the SCORE Coalition, Frank Corder, walks the property off Nathan Hale Drive in December, as members of Open Doors, along with Code Enforcement and law enforcement visited a homeless "camp."



Members of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition and SCORE team meet to discuss the results of their visit to the site.