Rock Hill Police Department

2019 Community Services Annual Activity Report

Prepared by: Lt. Tim Ayers, Community Services Supervisor & Tanzella Barber
Evaluation of Crime Prevention Programs 2019

The Community Services Unit of the Rock Hill Police Department provided a variety of Crime Prevention Programs through the efforts and support of the entire agency, including civilian personnel, during the calendar year of 2019. The crime prevention programs ranged from safety/crime prevention talks and training classes, to school and community visits/tours and police actively participating in special events. During 2019, the Community Services Unit was able to supply services to an estimated three hundred seventy-two (372) specific events that involved more than 38,700 citizen contacts. Three hundred fifteen (315) Rock Hill Police Department employees were needed to complete these tasks (officer/employee manpower- volunteering more than once). The Community Services Unit is a thriving and important part of the Rock Hill Police Department. The programs listed below are major contributors to the success of developing and maintaining strong and mutually beneficial relationships with the community.

Neighborhood Watch

The Rock Hill Police Department continued its efforts to provide positive interactions with the citizens using the Neighborhood Watch program in conjunction with the City of Rock Hill’s Neighborhood Empowerment office. There were approximately one hundred twenty (120) active neighborhoods with Neighborhood Empowerment in Rock Hill in 2019. Police officers often attend scheduled meetings and provide specific crime prevention information and crime data for the neighborhoods as requested by the neighborhood leaders. Rock Hill police officers attended approximately eighty-seven (87) neighborhood meetings during 2019.

The Community Services Unit provides crime prevention literature to all neighborhoods, both at the meetings and at the annual Neighborhood Forum. This literature is also available to any citizen as requested by the individual. These meetings are a valuable way in which the citizens may voice concerns and problems that they are addressing in their neighborhoods. Rock Hill Police helped neighborhoods with various concerns. These requests ranged from requesting Calls for Service for their areas and safety tips during the holidays to complaints of illegal activity, traffic violations, juveniles out late, suspicious people in the neighborhood and speeding. All requests were handled to the best of our ability and we continue to strive to serve the communities in a professional and competent manner.
In 2019, no new neighborhood associations formed with Neighborhood Empowerment and no neighborhood became inoperative. Neighborhood Empowerment will continue to make every effort to start new neighborhood organizations and the Rock Hill Police Department is available to provide further assistance to their start up needs.

**National Night Out** is a nation-wide initiative, normally held the first Tuesday each August to let the criminals know they are not welcome in our neighborhoods! The weather being too hot in August for outdoor gatherings lead to a change in the event date to Tuesday, October 1. Locally, the Rock Hill Police Department collaborates with Rock Hill’s Neighborhood Empowerment to host this event. Building strong relationships between law enforcement officers and community members help prevent crime and keep neighborhoods safe. It has grown steadily over the years. 2019 was another successful year for neighborhoods participating in the event by holding block parties, flashlight walks, ice cream socials, fish fries, barbecues, and back-to-school events! Over Thirty (30) neighborhoods participated in the 2019 National Night Out. In support of our neighborhoods, the Chief of Police and Rock Hill Police Officers made special visits to each neighborhood. The quality time spent at each neighborhood outing encouraged a closer and respected relationship between police and community.

National Night Out is a very important aspect of the Neighborhood Watch program in that it bonds the neighborhoods together for a night of unity against crime.

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SRO)**

The Rock Hill School Resource Officers Program started in 1993. School Resource Officers operate in two (2) High Schools (Northwestern High School and South Pointe High School), four (4) Middle Schools (Saluda Trail Middle School, Sullivan Middle School, Rawlinson Road Middle School and Dutchman Creek Middle School), The Flexible Learning Center and the Applied Technology Center.
The School Resource Officers Program was designed to place a police officer in every middle school and high school within the City of Rock Hill. The officer acts in a threefold capacity:

1. As a Police Officer, to provide protection to the staff and students who attend these schools and to enforce the laws of the state on and around these facilities.

2. As a Teacher, teaching on topics that are school and law related and teaching on the harmful effects of drugs and gang involvement.

3. As a Counselor, to be available to parents who are having problems with their children; to teachers involved with helping students; and to students by helping them make good decisions and get through tough situations.

Rock Hill School District Three consists of twenty-seven schools (27) schools -- 1 preschool, 17 elementaries, 5 middle, 3 high, and 1 career/technology center. Additional focused learning campuses include: The Phoenix Academy, Renaissance, Rebound, ParentSmart, Adult Education, Crossroads, and the Aquatics Center. Rock Hill Police has eight (8) School Resource Officers in the following Schools with nearly 18,000 students enrolled.

- Daniel Shealy @ South Pointe High School with 1,465 students.
- Matthew Palmer @ Northwestern High School with 1,865 students.
- Jonathan Moreno @ Saluda Trail Middle School with 860 students.
- Mark Schurig @ Sullivan Middle School with 832 students.
- Tony Slawson @ Rawlinson Road Middle School with 573 students.
- Domonique Coleman @ Dutchman Creel Middle School with 967 students.
- Michael Kane @ Applied Technology Center (ATC) with 2,010 students.
- Thomas R Jones @ Flexible Learning Center: This center houses the following alternative schools: The Rebound Alternative Program, The Phoenix Academy, The Renaissance Academy and Crossroads

Rock Hill Police School Resource Officers also help service 15 Elementary Schools plus the Central Childhood Development Center.

Four (4) Elementary Schools, One (1) Middle School and one (1) High School are in the County and are not serviced by RHPD.
In addition to law enforcement activities, the School Resource Officers also provided the students, parents and faculty with a large variety of programs in 2019. These programs include:

- Tobacco, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Classes
- Mock DUI Scene
- Bullying Program
- Coffee with a Cop
- South Pointe High School Angler’s Club
- Top Flight (8th grade)
- Club Day for Positive Role Models (6th grade)
- Mentoring After School Basketball (6th grade)
- “If you See Something, Say Something”
- Raven Academy (formerly Operation Rebound), an alternative school setting for fifth through eighth grade troubled students facing expulsion.

YOUTH SERVICES OFFICER /SAFETY EDUCATION OFFICER

(Christopher Nelson)

Officer Nelson has a major role in coordinating the Rock Hill Police Charity Ball, Rock Hill Police Safety Patrol and the Worthy Boys and Girls Camp. Success of these programs are noted later in this report.

The Safety Education Officer is responsible for the Safety Patrol Program with the School District’s elementary schools, overseeing the school crossing guard program, and the planning and implementation of the annual Safety Patrol trip. Other duties include:

- Coordination and operation of the Worthy Boys and Girls Camp (including fund raising activities), community speaking, and recruiting volunteers for these and other department programs.

- Assisting in other youth and community service activity as required and reports to the Community Services Supervisor.
COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICERS (CSO) (Jonathon Whiteside and William Andrews)

Community Service Officers are a specialized component of the Community services within the Professional Standards Division that are assigned to specific areas within the City of Rock Hill to act as a liaison between the Department and local residents and business owners. Two (2) of four (4) Community Service Officer positions were filled in 2015. One (1) officer is assigned to the Downtown Business District and the second officer is assigned to City Council Wards 1 and 5.

Officer Jonathon Whiteside is the police liaison for the City and downtown businesses. Officer William Andrews is assigned to Wards 1 and 5, but is presently in active military duty. His duties are to establish and build positive community relationships and solve problems in the area of crime prevention and public safety within specific wards created by City Council. The Officers attend neighborhood and business meetings within assigned wards in order to discuss crime related issues and assist the community with improvement ideas.

CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events)

Tent (10) Rock Hill Police officers are trained as instructors in the CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) program to teach area civilians on disaster response psychology, active shooter events, and civilian tactics to increase survivability, and what to do when the police arrive on scene. Three (3) of those trained officers are members of the Community Services Unit. Twenty-four (24) CRASE courses were taught to approximately seven hundred (700) people throughout Rock Hill in 2019.

- Trained CRASE Instructors: McCrorey, Stinson, Whiteside, Chavis, Ellis, Slawson, Crowder, Johnson, Welch, Andrews

The officer assigned to the Downtown Business District created and organized a team to cook and serve meals to the needy on a quarterly basis with the Plentiful Harvest Kitchen. Three (3) teams of approximately ten (10) Department members prepared and served meals on February 17, June 16, and October 20, 2019 with an estimated contact of sixty (60) people per event. Covenant Presbyterian church is the host for Plentiful Harvest kitchen.
A number of establishments in the downtown area are restaurants that serve alcohol. Due to the increase in DUI-related traffic fatalities in York County, the Preventing Alcohol Collisions and Teen drinking initiative (PACT) was created in November 2015. Seven (7) Downtown businesses continue to provide education and services in support of PACT during 2019.

**WORTHY BOYS AND GIRLS CAMP**

The Worthy Boys and Girls Camp began in 1949 when forty-eight (48) acres of land was donated to the Rock Hill Police Pistol Club. It is located at 2352 Worthy Boys Road, Rock Hill, SC 29730. Throughout its history, the camp has provided a week-long (overnight) opportunity for area youth to experience the outdoors, learn new skills, develop new interpersonal skills, and build self-esteem. The camp is operated by the Rock Hill Police Department. Rock Hill Police personnel participated as camp counselors. The operation of the camp is depended entirely on donations received from
area businesses, civic groups, community organizations and individual donations. The children who attend the camp are charged no fees and for some it is the only summer activities they can enjoy.

The camp includes a chapel, dining hall, activity hall, bath house, sleeping cabins, pavilion, computer lab, fire pit, softball field, volleyball, basketball court and an obstacle course. Two thousand eighteen marked the 69th year of the camp. Approximately one hundred sixty (160) boys and girls attended the camp in 2019, many for the first time. During each camp session, two (2) Junior Counselors, ages 15-18 assisted the adult counselor in keeping track of campers during activities, helped in the food serving lines, and assisted with all programs and activities. This gave them great experience and responsibility and also possibly a chance to be a counselor in the future.

The following are camp improvements made in 2019 before the beginning of camp session:

- Purchased a new large metal shed to house camp equipment
- Purchased 22 new Trek mountain bikes
- Completed renovations to the Director’s cabin due to flooding from the septic system

The camp has fully staffed on-site camp counselors and camp director present 24 hours a day. Officer Chris Nelson coordinates the Worthy Boys and Girls Camp. All Community Services Unit personnel work to ensure a successful camp by volunteering as youth counselors, driving the activity bus, cleaning and maintenance of the camp, coordinating activities and handling the application process. The campers enjoyed a wide variety of activities:

- Kayaking
- Archery
- Horseback riding with York County Sheriff's Office
- Crafts/Painting
- Group activities with the York County Library
- Firearms Safety (Eddie Eagle)
- Firearms Safety – Range time
- Swimming at the YMCA
- Bowling at Strikers
- Basketball and Kickball games
- Fishing at the lake
- Water slide
- Revised the bike safety program by purchasing 22 new Trek mountain bikes. Camper receives a free bike helmet.
Several local restaurants and businesses donated food and their time each week. Some even hosted fundraisers at their business. The following businesses made a significant contribution:

- FATZ Café
- Groucho’s Deli
- Ledo’s Pizza
- Performance Food Group donated several items to stock the camp’s initial food supply. The donation consisted of meats, dairies, eggs and other dry foods.
- Ceramic’s and More
- York County Library
- Morton Amusements
- Comfort Zone of the Carolinas
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
- Rotary Club of Rock Hill
- Dixieland Cruisers
- Speedway Children’s Charity
- Coca Cola of Rock Hill

A major way in which the camp raises money is through the annual Police Charity Ball. Two thousand nineteen marked the 23rd Annual Rock Hill Police Charity Ball. The charity ball was held at American Legion #34, Rock Hill SC. The camp’s success depends largely upon contribution from individuals, businesses and organizations within the community and surrounding area. During the event, a silent auction is held and businesses and organizations support by making financial contributions through sponsorship and/or donating items for the silent auction. Approximately $58,475 was raised in support of the camp.

Rock Hill Police Crime Prevention & Community Initiatives

NERF Wars

NERF WARS is a fun event/partnership between the Rock Hill Police Department and the York County Library. Uniform officers have a Nerf War with local youth on the entire top floor of the York County Library. The Fall Lock-In Nerf War was held on Friday, October 11th from 7:00 to 10:00 pm.
**RHPD GOT GAME!**

The Rock Hill Police Department also partnered with the York County Library on Youth Gaming and the Youth Chess Group. The officers had an opportunity to test their gaming and chess skills against local youth. This project was designed to increase teens’ skills with technology equipment through the use of electronic gaming systems. The Rock Hill Police got their game on with community outreach “Got Game” on Monday, March 23rd. Approximately 12 youth participated.

Officers and teens participated in Chess Club where officers play and teach chess to local Rock Hill teens. Chess games were hosted on the following dates in 2019 with an estimated 12-15 youth participating at each event:

- February 12
- March 5th and 26th
- April 10th and 24th
- May 7th and 21st
- June 6th
- November 21st
- December 4th and 11th

The partnership with York County Library not only introduce teens to library services, but it also gives the Rock Hill Police Department a great opportunity to connect with some area youth on a personal and positive level.

Project ChildSafe works with law enforcement partners across the U.S. to help make the communities safer by providing free gunlocks and safety kits. Young people do not have enough life experience to realize how one poor decision to handle a firearm can cause irrevocable damage to their own lives, to families and entire communities. This education program promotes genuine firearm safety through the distribution of safety education messages and free firearm Safety Kits. The kits include a cable-style gun-locking device and a brochure that discusses safe handling and secure storage guidelines to help deter access by unauthorized individuals. **Two hundred twenty-three (223) gunlocks were distributed during 2019.**
Opioid Disposal Solution

Rock Hill Police office new way residents can safely dispose drugs. DisposeRx, Inc. is a drug disposal company that provides a solution to eradicate the misuse of unused medications. It is a safe environmental solution for the disposal of Rx medication. Approximately two hundred ninty-four (294) packets were distributed during the 2019 year.

MEDICATION DISPOSAL KIOSK
The Rock Hill Police Department has made available a medication disposal kiosk in the police lobby. Individuals can safely and conveniently dispose of their unwanted, unused or expired medications at no cost.
Coffee with a Cop

Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by The United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relations between police officers and community members, one cup of coffee at a time.

The Rock Hill Department hosted Coffee with a Cop four times in 2019.

1. March 30 @ Nova’s Bakery, 1008 Cherry Road
2. June 6 @ Amélie’s French Bakery, 157 E. Main Street
3. September 28 @ McDonald’s, 1785 Mt. Gallant Road
4. December 7 @ TJ’s Family Restaurant, 1019 McConnells Hwy

This program offers the citizens of Rock Hill an opportunity to meet local officers to discuss community issues. There is no agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in their neighborhood. Officers from the Rock Hill Police Department and the community came together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee. All community members were invited to attend. Coffee with a Cop breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.

Adopt-A-Senior

In 2019, the York County Council on Aging (YCCOA) once again sponsored the Adopt-A-Senior Program to assist seniors in need. The department participated in this program and assisted two seniors (male and female). The department was given their profiles and wish lists. Community services also distributed two (2) 12” bikes and one (1) 16” bikes to families during the Christmas holiday through its partnership with Edgemoor Auction Barn.

Rolling in Rock Hill provides a wonderful opportunity for city government, churches, businesses, civic of those organizations, and citizens to work together to make Rock Hill a great place to live. Hundreds of volunteers work in teams to paint the houses who are either physically or financially unable to do it themselves. Homes are nominated by individuals, churches, or community organizations and go through an assessment process.
Rolling in Rock Hill provides a wonderful opportunity for city government, churches, businesses, civic organizations, and citizens to work together to make Rock Hill a great place to live. Hundreds of volunteers work in teams to paint the houses of those who are either physically or financially unable to do it themselves. Unfortunately, the police department did not participate with Rolling in Rock Hill during 2019. Instead, Rock Hill Police volunteered with Habitat for Humanity First Responders/Beloved Community Build.

Habitat for Humanity of York County brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. They partner with families in need of decent and affordable housing to achieve strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. In honor of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s death and the passage of the Fair Housing Act, York County Habitat, along with affiliates across the country, participated in the Beloved Community Build in collaboration with the King Center. Together pursuing justice, equal opportunity and love of fellow human beings, the Beloved Community Build is a reminder that every person deserves a decent life.

On May 14 through May 17, the Rock Hill Police partnered with Habitat for Humanity First Responders/Beloved Community Build. This year’s build was located at 454 Mint Street.

Rock Hill Police Safety Patrol

On June 10th -11th, 2019, the Rock Hill Police Department hosted their annual Safety Patrol trip. The officers traveled to the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord, NC for an overnight stay. One hundred ninety-four (194) Rock Hill School District Three Fifth Graders attended this outing. Forty-two (42) Police officers, Teachers and EMS Chaperones help make this a great trip for our youth. Each year the Police take the Safety Patrol Students on some type of adventure/trip in appreciation for promoting safety in their schools. These students assist in helping other students get in and out of
their cars safely in the school's loading/unloading zone. We encourage them to continue to develop sound habits in the use of street safety. **Project Kid Care**

Safety talks and showing police vehicle were again the most requested services of the Community Services Unit in 2019. We provided these services to many area businesses and schools. Child fingerprinting is still a widely requested service. The unit is always proud to make ready the Community Service Events Trailer for most large events in the area. The trailer is set up for finger printing, TV monitor for showing crime prevention videos, and is equipped with other safety education and crime prevention materials for handout. Both are provided to the public at no cost upon request and availability.

**EDDIE EAGLE GUN SAFE PROGRAM**

The Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program is a gun accident prevention program developed by a task force made up of educators, school administrators, curriculum specialist urban housing safety officials, clinical psychologists, law enforcement officials and National Riffle Association firearm safety experts. Its mission is to teach children four simple easy to remember steps so they know what to do if they ever come across a gun. The goal is to prevent accidents and keep children safe. Rock Hill Police conducted six (6) presentation during 2019 with an estimate two hundred forty (240) youth contact.

**Tours of the Law Center**

The Rock Hill Police Department continues to provide tours of the Law Center to any group in the community that wishes to see the building. All tours are coordinated through Tan Barber, Community Services Clerk. Rock Hill Police Department also coordinates with City Hall, 911 Dispatch and the Fire Department to create a full day experience for the youth. Several Rock Hill Police Officers would assist with late evening tours. Approximately 24 tours were conducted for local schools, churches, daycares and scout groups during 2019. The tours included safety talks, visits with K-9 and McGruff. The adults, as well as the youth have given positive feedback after touring the Police Department. The response of appreciation from each group is shown
through thank you cards, group pictures and telephone calls received. Every effort is made to make each tour interesting and informative.