

## **The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team**

July 2023 Report

### **Outcomes**

In July 2023, the total number of contacts made by the outreach team was 306, with 72 unduplicated contacts. 5 individuals were contacted in permanent or temporary housing. Of the 67 unduplicated contacts, 9 were new contacts, with 2 of them becoming repeat contacts. There are currently 48 contacts considered in various stages of engagement, and 24 are refusing services at this point. The outreach team continues to contact these individuals with the goal of getting them engaged in the housing process.

### **Success Story**

Contrary to popular belief, people who experience homelessness can come from any socio-economic background. Most people do not picture someone with a high paying career, their own home and a family as someone who will experience homelessness. Ct FF had those indicators of a successful life here in LA and seemingly did all the right things to ensure financial stability for him and his family. Ct FF was getting ready to retire, paying for his daughter's educations and almost paid off his house. He worked as a VP at a medium sized privately owned company. He stated that he was essentially the right-hand for the owner until someone else took over the reins. At which time, he felt he was slowly being pushed out due to his age and being replaced by someone favored by this new boss. He said he was always stressed knowing that the plans he had for his family were falling apart. He would likely not have enough money to comfortably retire with his wife and help his daughters. He said he did not know how to express this to his family so he would often get into arguments about spending and the future. Then one day he was fired from his position after being blamed for a mistake that was not his fault which led to further mental health deterioration and family issues. The continued strife at home eventually led to estrangement from his daughters and his wife asking for a divorce. He lost his house and most of his savings, then took his dog and car and left home.

FF drove across the country aimlessly, stopping wherever he thought he could find some work and possibly a new life. His undiagnosed mental health deterioration was starting to reveal itself more as months and years passed. He spent what money he had saved for himself within a few years and found himself living out of his car instead of motels. He gave up looking for work and instead found himself in a groove of spending his social security money on necessities such as food and the occasional motel stay to get cleaned up. He was unable to find an apartment to rent due to the fact that his benefit amount was not enough to cover rent and other expenses. He said his depression, stress and general outlook on life were getting worse as time passed without anything to hope for.

He eventually stopped in Malibu and met the outreach team from The People Concern. Like many who live in Malibu, they stay due to the natural beauty and safety. Like many who experience homelessness here, he found what simple joy he could out of life through the beauty of the Malibu coast which soothed his weary soul. After losing so much, he was initially hesitant to even admit to experiencing homelessness. But he was curious about our work, which led to an exchange of numbers and an eventual meeting where he told the story of what led him here.

This continued engagement with FF eventually led to admitting that he needs help with housing and stress management. He was introduced to psychiatrist Dr. Ryan from Venice Family Clinic who provided him with some resources to explore his undiagnosed mental health disorders. He was eventually diagnosed with major depression which became a revelation for him and the reasons for his behavior with his family which may have led to the estrangement. He has received some treatment and support for his mental health since then.

Housing became a bit of a challenge for the team but after about a year of work, we eventually found a perfect housing opportunity for FF in a TPC project based senior building with mental health support. FF was permanently housed in July of this year. He expresses gratitude for everyone at TPC and the city of Malibu for helping him through this troubled time. He says that he hopes this major step forward will give him an opportunity to possibly reconnect with his family. We can't be completely certain about what the future holds for any of us. But we are certain that a housed individual will be able to better address their issues than an individual living on the streets. And we are confident that FF will be able to move forward in a positive direction and toward a more fulfilling life.

### **Community Interaction**

The team continues to work with the Malibu community including: city council, CART, local churches, Venice Family Clinic (VFC) and the Sheriff's Department. Through these relationships we have received help with locating and assisting the unhoused.

The team continues to work closely with several LA County agencies such as the VA, Venice Family Clinic, LAHSA, DMH and St. Josephs to provide a wide array of services and housing opportunities for our clients.

### **Next Steps:**

The outreach team is focusing on assisting each of our active clients with obtaining all the necessary documents that each of them need in order to prepare them for possible upcoming housing opportunities.