

# The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team

## August 2023 Report

### Outcomes

In August 2023, the total number of contacts made by the outreach team was 433, with 81 unduplicated contacts. 12 individuals were contacted in permanent or temporary housing. Of the 69 unduplicated contacts currently on the streets, 13 were new contacts, with 6 of them becoming repeat contacts. There are currently 43 contacts considered in various stages of engagement, and 26 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

#### **Cameraman**

In honor of the late KeJa, the team would like to dedicate the month of August's success story to him. Although a client's passing does not automatically ring the sounds of victory or success, the story of KeJa proved to be one of struggle, hope, and inspiration. The struggle for KeJa's well-being began when the Malibu Outreach team first encountered him in the streets of Malibu. At first glance, one could see that KeJa had issues more than just trying to survive. He was completely disheveled, lacked in hygiene, suffered from poor physical and mental health conditions, and so on. It was apparent that he desperately needed help due to his inability to communicate in an articulate and coherent manner. The team attempted to engage with him numerous times over the course of a few months but to little or no success. KeJa was reluctant to seek or accept any sort of help. Alas, the team continued to outreach the client.

Miraculously, the team had a breakthrough moment with KeJa when, somewhere in the long and often confusing conversations they had, the topic of the game of chess arose. KeJa's demeanor changed when talking about chess. He was more enthusiastic and alert. The team realized this would be a great bridge to connect with the client. After building this rapport with KeJa, the team slowly began to introduce him to different ideas including seeking medical attention, housing, supplemental income, and so on. The team also connected KeJa with the Venice Family Clinic (VFC) who after assessing his health discovered that not only was he mentally ill but also in extreme danger of having a heart attack. The VFC prescribed him anti-psychotic medication and medication for his heart condition to which KeJa accepted.

The following weeks were looking good for KeJa, he seemed to be more aware and lucid. He seemed to be more coherent in speech. However, for unknown personal reasons, KeJa was still very adamant about not accepting or seeking out further medical care. His condition began to worsen over the weeks, and it seemed as though KeJa simply just gave up on trying to get well. He would urinate and defecate on himself without care and would spend most of his day sleeping. The team called for a psychiatric hold due to him being gravely disabled. The team acknowledged that there was no other choice in attempts to get him help as he was willingly deteriorating day by day on the streets. The medical team picked him up and took him to the hospital where he could finally get the medical attention he needed, get cleaned up, and have a bed to lay on rather than the cold concrete on which he used to lay.

Unfortunately, KeJa passed away in the hospital due to cardiac arrest a couple of weeks later.

The team was successful in making sure that KeJa did not pass away on the streets which would have made it a bigger tragedy and devastation than it already is. KeJa passed with dignity and respect in the only place where his chances of surviving such a condition were higher than anywhere else. The team supported KeJa through his last few weeks as much as they possibly could. His story will leave a powerful and profound impact on everyone who knew him.

## **Community Interaction**

The team continues to work with the Malibu community, 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:**

Beginning September 2023 LAHSA (The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) has starting implementing a new procedure to match PEH (people experiencing homelessness) to available housing resources. In previous years LAHSA utilized the CES triage tool (V-I SPDAT) to determine the need and placement/referrals for PEH. Going forward a new system has been developed UHA (Universal Housing Application). The UHA will allow more of our clients to qualify for housing resources. The Outreach team will be working to complete these applications for all of our clients to ensure they're all in que for possible housing opportunities.