

The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team

September 2023 Report

Outcomes

In September 2023, the total number of contacts made by the outreach team was 273, with 66 unduplicated contacts. 12 individuals were contacted in permanent or temporary housing. Of the 54 unduplicated contacts currently on the streets, 6 were new contacts, with 1 of them becoming repeat contacts. There are currently 39 contacts considered in various stages of engagement, and 15 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

JoKu was a young, intelligent, resilient, and optimistic young man who was a victim of circumstance but somehow managed to overcome and survive the unfortunate series of events that caused him to lose his home all the while he was still just a high school student. JoKu was still in high school when his home was burnt down in the tragic Malibu fires that obliterated the homes of many Malibu residents a few years back. JoKu and his mother fought and struggled to make ends meet. The goal was to graduate high school and fulfill the dreams of pursuing a brighter future through higher education. His mother worked tirelessly to give JoKu that opportunity. She made sure that JoKu had everything he needed to graduate high school and apply for university. All the while the two of them were struggling in silence, sheltered away in an undisclosed location, keeping that dream alive.

It wasn't only until recently that they emerged from the shadows of poverty and homelessness that they decided to risk the safety and security of essentially being invisible and have the courage to expose themselves to the world and ask for help. In this vulnerability they came across the Malibu Methodist church, the Malibu Outreach team, and all the other members of a loving and supporting community that was present in Malibu ready to help.

The team first made contact with the family in early summer. They had reached out via email asking for resources. The team referred them to the lunch service in Malibu where they would have access to free lunch and make contact with the team. When the team engaged with JoKu he mentioned that he had successfully graduated high school and that he got accepted to attend a University in California. He also mentioned that he would begin his new journey as a college student at the end of summer and would be residing on campus. Upon delivery of this news, the team referred the client to the housing navigator where they could create a plan to ensure that he fulfills his dream of attending university and seek a better life off of the streets. After consultation, JoKu would qualify for the Ross Fund which is available to assist people in transition from homeless to housed.

The Ross Program would help provide school supplies, rental assistance, and other financial assistance to help lighten the financial burden during his first semester at the UC. During that summer, JoKu and his mother managed to make ends meet with the help of the supportive community in Malibu. JoKu is currently attending university, and pursuing his dreams. The team was successful in supporting JoKu through this rough patch in his life. The team encouraged and motivated JoKu to continue striving for a happy and healthy life off of the streets.

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:

As the Fall and Winter months approach and the temperatures drop especially at night. The Outreach team is working to gather supplies to help keep our unhoused clients warm at night. Giving them appropriate supplies will help keep them warm without the need for starting potentially dangerous camp fires.