

The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team

November 2023 Report

Outcomes

In November 2023, the total number of contacts made by the outreach team was 329, with 67 unduplicated contacts. 8 individuals were contacted in permanent or temporary housing. Of the 59 unduplicated contacts currently on the streets, 7 were new contacts, with 2 of them becoming repeat contacts. There are currently 32 contacts considered in various stages of engagement, and 36 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

JoSt is a retired senior, with a host of physical ailments and psychological trauma, who came across the Malibu Outreach team early this year. JoSt became homeless when he fled his apartment in fear for his life due to physical, sexual, and mental abuse. With no one and nowhere to turn to, JoSt fled to Malibu to escape the nightmarish predicament he found himself in. JoSt was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder following these unfortunate events. After fleeing from his apartment in northern California, JoSt found himself in Malibu where he could find peace and isolation from the rest of the world where he would fight and struggle to survive and maintain his health.

The Malibu Outreach team received a call from the Public Safety Liaison of Malibu and Sherriff Department about an elderly man who was camping out near the northern end of Malibu by Zuma Beach. They informed the team that there was a search and rescue for this elderly man who was stuck in a flood under a bridge who had been exposed the cold and rain for several hours and unable to move. Had they not found JoSt, he would have surely lost his life from hypothermia and exposure to the elements. JoSt was taken to a local hospital where they could treat him for the damages that he had sustained.

The Malibu Outreach team engaged and made contact with JoSt after he was discharged from the hospital. The team developed a relationship with JoSt and eventually earned his confidence. The team would assist JoSt with items such as mail, transportation, prescriptions, and much more. At first, JoSt was uninterested in permanent housing in Los Angeles County and naturally California. This was due to his medical insecurity and issues with his insurance. He had difficulties transferring his insurance from another state to the state of California. The team referred JoSt to the Venice Family Clinic, where he could walk-in and have an insurance specialist assist him with this issue. After several weeks of follow-up, JoSt had simply not made the effort to go and take care of this issue even after offering him transportation and direct accompanying support. JoSt was even unclear about staying in California as he would regularly make comments about leaving the state and moving to Texas. With his health on the rapid decline, lack of progress, and no plans to move forward in life, the team offered him an opportunity to apply for housing at a new building that opened up in the west-side region.

After carefully considering all of his options, JoSt made the decision to stay in California and accept this housing opportunity. JoSt desperately needed stability and security as he continued to struggle with his health. He ultimately decided to follow through with this opportunity and the team was there to support and make sure that he would successfully complete the housing process. The team assisted JoSt in acquiring documents, submitting forms, and providing transportation to every appointment scheduled. Due to extreme physical unease, JoSt admitted himself to the emergency

department room at a local hospital and was then placed in a nursing home temporarily while he awaits his permanent housing.

The team was successful in assisting JoSt during this challenging time in his life. The team was successful in encouraging and supporting JoSt to reconsider housing and the idea of living life off of the streets and regain confidence after suffering through elderly abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder. The team will continue to support JoSt through every step of the way until he is housed, healthy, and safe.

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:

With the increasing cold weather, the Outreach team is focusing on getting supplies to our unhoused neighbors to help keep them warm through the winter months. The team is also assisting clients with accessing winter shelter beds as well as providing transportation to shelter if needed.