

The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team

May 2024 Report

Outcomes

In May 2024, the total number of contacts made by the outreach team was 334, with 67 unduplicated contacts. 9 individuals were contacted in permanent or temporary housing. Of the 57 unduplicated contacts currently on the streets, 7 were new contacts, with 5 of them becoming repeat contacts. There are currently 38 contacts considered in various stages of engagement, and 19 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

In the quiet foothills of Malibu, nestled away from the bustling streets and glamorous façade, there lay a makeshift encampment by a serene creek. Here, among the whispers of the wind and the rustling of leaves, lived JaFo, a weathered veteran whose life had become intertwined with the harsh realities of homelessness.

JaFo had endured the horrors of Vietnam, leaving him with deep scars unseen by the eye. Despite lacking physical wounds, the memories and trauma haunted him daily. He turned to alcohol in an attempt to numb the pain, but it persisted, relentless as ever. Yet, amidst the darkness, JaFo held onto a fragile hope, a determination to endure despite the weight of despair.

It was on one fateful day that JaFo's journey took an unexpected turn. The outreach team from The People Concern stumbled upon his encampment, their hearts heavy with the weight of what they had witnessed. With compassion in their eyes, they extended a lifeline to JaFo, offering him a chance at a new beginning.

But JaFo was not just another homeless veteran. He was a survivor of a stroke that had rendered him paralyzed and unable to speak due to aphasia. Confined to a wheelchair, his world had shrunk to the dimensions of his own body, his voice silenced by the cruel hand of fate.

When the outreach team found JaFo, his appearance told a story of neglect and despair. Dressed in worn civilian clothing, his hair matted and unkempt, JaFo seemed to blend into the shadows of his surroundings. The stench and stains of urine and feces clung to him, a stark reminder of the harsh realities of life on the streets and his inability to care for himself.

Reluctantly, JaFo accepted the motel voucher offered by the outreach team. As he was wheeled into the warmth of the room, he felt a wave of gratitude wash over him. For the first time in months, he slept soundly on a bed, shielded from the harsh elements that had once been his only refuge.

After a couple of weeks, JaFo found solace in the safety and security of his newfound shelter. Slowly but surely, he began to open up to the idea of permanent housing, realizing that perhaps there was still a chance for him to reclaim his dignity and independence.

But the road to stability was fraught with challenges. JaFo faced long wait times at the Veteran's Affairs emergency department, his patience tested as he waited for a bed to become available. Three separate attempts ended in frustration, until finally, he was placed on a medical hold, legally bound to remain in the hospital until a proper assessment could be completed.

Despite the setbacks, JaFo remained resilient, his determination unwavering in the face of adversity. With the support of The People Concern and the Veteran's Affairs team, he was eventually placed in a skilled nursing facility, where he would await permanent placement.

JaFo's time in the skilled nursing facility brought significant improvements in his health, appearance, and hygiene. Cleaned, groomed, and cared for, he emerged from the facility with a renewed sense of dignity and self-worth.

JaFo couldn't help but feel a sense of gratitude for the journey that had brought him here. Though he remained in the skilled nursing facility, awaiting permanent housing, the progress he had made filled him with hope. With the help of compassionate individuals and dedicated organizations, he had found shelter, safety, and a renewed sense of dignity. And as he continued to navigate the challenges ahead, JaFo knew that he was no longer defined by the streets he once called home, but by the strength and resilience that lay within his heart.

Next Steps:

The Outreach team is focusing our efforts on Senior and Veteran housing opportunities to prioritize getting the most vulnerable of the population housed ASAP.