

The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team

June 2024 Report

Outcomes

In June 2024, the total number of contacts made by the outreach team was 288, with 70 unduplicated contacts 13 individuals were contacted in permanent or temporary housing. Of the 57 unduplicated contacts currently on the streets, 3 were new contacts, with 3 of them becoming repeat contacts. There are currently 37 contacts considered in various stages of engagement, and 20 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

A Tale of Hope: The Transformation of GrHe

In the heart of Malibu, where the ocean meets the sky and luxury homes dot the landscape, there exists a lesser-known reality—a community of individuals struggling with homelessness and profound health challenges. Among them was GrHe, a 78-year-old white male who had fallen through the cracks of society, grappling with dementia, untreated skin cancer, and severe neglect.

GrHe's journey with the Malibu Outreach team spanned over four tumultuous years, marked by fleeting appearances in the area and erratic wanderings as far as Berkeley and Arizona. His health deteriorated visibly, compounded by a stubborn refusal to seek medical care for a rapidly progressing skin cancer on his forehead, worsening dementia, and a severe lice infestation that he had neglected to address.

The first encounters with GrHe were disheartening—often found near the Malibu Library, disoriented and disheveled, wearing unwashed clothes and an open bathrobe. His demeanor and appearance painted a grim picture of his plight, worsened by a large, infected wound on his neck from incessant scratching due to the lice.

The Malibu Outreach team, undeterred by the complexity and gravity of GrHe's situation, sprang into action. Referrals were swiftly made to Adult Protective Services (APS) and the Department of Mental Health Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement (DMH HOME) team. Recognizing the urgency, DMH HOME conducted thorough assessments and successfully obtained a medical hold, a critical step in intervening to save GrHe's life.

Transported to a local hospital in LA County, GrHe finally received the urgent medical attention he had long denied himself. His physical ailments were addressed, and with stabilized health, he was transitioned to a skilled nursing facility in Canoga Park—a place where he could receive the comprehensive care and support he desperately needed.

The road was long and arduous, fraught with bureaucratic challenges and moments of despair, but the dedication of the Malibu Outreach team never wavered. Through advocacy, persistence, and a deep-rooted commitment to GrHe's well-being, they navigated the complexities of healthcare and social services systems to secure a safe haven for him.

Today, GrHe resides in the skilled nursing facility, a testament to the power of community support and effective collaboration between outreach programs and healthcare providers. His transformation from a vulnerable, neglected individual on the streets to a cared-for resident with access to medical treatment and supportive services stands as a beacon of hope.

The success story of GrHe is not just a narrative of rescue and rehabilitation but a poignant reminder of the transformative impact that dedicated outreach efforts can have on the lives of those most in need. It underscores the importance of holistic care, compassionate intervention, and unwavering perseverance in restoring dignity and hope to individuals facing the darkest of circumstances.

As the Malibu Outreach team continues their mission to support the homeless population in their community, GrHe's story serves as a powerful motivation—a reminder of why their work is indispensable, and why every life they touch is a testament to the power of compassion and human connection.

Next Steps:

During the summer months we often see an influx of new faces in the Malibu area. The Outreach team plans on focusing on engaging new individuals, to determine what has led them to our area and whether or not they are planning to stay.