

The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team

October 2024 Report

Outcomes

In October 2024, the total number of contacts made by the outreach team was 205, with 65 unduplicated contacts. 16 individuals were contacted in permanent or temporary housing. Of the 49 unduplicated contacts currently on the streets, 5 were new contacts, with 1 of them becoming repeat contacts. There are currently 28 contacts considered in various stages of engagement, and 21 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

Success Story: DoDa's Journey to a New Home

In the picturesque surroundings of Malibu, California, a remarkable story of resilience and transformation unfolds. At the heart of this narrative is DoDa, a man whose life has been intertwined with the rugged beauty of the area since the early 1970s. For decades, DoDa lived a humble, off-the-grid lifestyle, content in his outdoor encampment, embracing the simplicity of nature. Despite numerous offers of assistance over the years, he declined help, fully committed to his way of life—until 2023.

The relentless rains that season forced DoDa to seek refuge at the Malibu Library, where the Malibu Outreach team was providing food and services for the local homeless community. It was here that they first encountered him. With an amicable demeanor, DoDa shared his story, expressing gratitude for the outreach efforts but remaining steadfast in his belief that he was happy living outdoors—save for one complaint: the rain. The flooding had disrupted his encampment, leaving him seeking information about motel vouchers.

Recognizing the potential for change, the Outreach team utilized "Motivational Interviewing" techniques to gently guide DoDa in reflecting on his future. Through thoughtful questions—"Where do you see yourself in the next five years?" and "How long can you continue this lifestyle?"—they encouraged him to consider the impact of age and health on his living situation. Slowly but surely, the seeds of contemplation were sown.

After several heartfelt conversations and outreach attempts, DoDa finally reached a turning point. He acknowledged that the harsh realities of his life were becoming increasingly difficult to manage. With a newfound openness, he expressed interest in exploring housing opportunities.

In a stroke of serendipity, just as DoDa decided to accept help, a unique housing opportunity arose in Marina Del Rey. The Malibu Outreach team sprang into action, helping DoDa navigate the paperwork and applications needed to secure his new home. The collaboration with local agencies, including the Venice Family Clinic and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, underscored the community's commitment to DoDa's journey.

After a smooth application process, DoDa received the long-awaited news: he was approved for his own apartment. As he prepared for this new chapter, the People Concern ensured a seamless transition by placing him in a local motel, allowing him time to adjust before moving into his permanent home.

October arrived, and the day of the big move had come. The Outreach team was there every step of the way—transporting DoDa to his new apartment, assisting with lease signing, and even helping to furnish his new space. They were dedicated to not just getting him into housing but ensuring he felt at home.

Today, DoDa is thriving in his beautiful new apartment in Marina Del Rey. After decades of living on the streets and resisting services, he has found safety, health, and a supportive community. His journey is a testament to the power of compassion, community collaboration, and the belief that it's never too late for a fresh start.

Thanks to the unwavering efforts of the Malibu Outreach team and the support of the city and its agencies, DoDa is no longer just a homeless individual in Malibu; he is now a vibrant part of the Marina Del Rey community, embracing the future with hope and newfound security.

Next Steps:

The Outreach team is focusing its next steps on locating interim housing placements for several clients in Malibu who are in need of shelter. A key priority is ensuring that our elderly clients receive appropriate assistance, with a particular emphasis on securing safe, accessible accommodations that meet their unique needs. The team will continue to collaborate with local resources, agencies, and shelters to facilitate timely placements and provide tailored support for those who require additional care or services.