

The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team

December 2024 Report

Outcomes

In December 2024, the total number of contacts made by the outreach team was 211, with 63 unduplicated contacts. 9 individuals were contacted in permanent or temporary housing. Of the 54 unduplicated contacts currently on the streets, 13 were new contacts, with 6 of them becoming repeat contacts. There are currently 31 contacts considered in various stages of engagement, and 23 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

Overcoming Homelessness and Addiction

In a remarkable display of compassion, persistence, and collaboration, The People Concern's Malibu Outreach Team successfully helped OnWi, an elderly homeless man struggling with crack addiction, find the stability he desperately needed. His journey from the streets of Malibu to a safe, supportive housing environment is a testament to the transformative power of teamwork and the impact of unwavering support for those in need.

The team first met OnWi outside the Malibu library in front of Legacy Park, where he had been residing in the park. He approached the outreach team seeking help to get off the streets, and the team was accompanied by one of their collaborative agencies, the Venice Family Clinic (VFC) Street Medicine Outreach Team. OnWi was seen by the VFC team, who conducted a physical and psychiatric assessment, giving the team a clearer understanding of his health status. The outreach team made an appointment for the following day to discuss housing options and additional services, eager to take the first steps toward helping OnWi turn his life around.

However, as is often the case with individuals struggling with addiction, OnWi did not show up for the appointment. This pattern of disappearing and reappearing in Malibu continued for several months, with OnWi frequently seeking help but then self-sabotaging his progress. This is not uncommon for those battling addiction, as they often find themselves caught in a cyclical pattern of hope and despair, unsure of how to break free from their self-destructive behaviors.

Despite these setbacks, the team remained persistent, continuing to encourage and motivate OnWi with patience and compassion. Months later, the breakthrough finally came when OnWi seemed ready to seek rehabilitation and begin letting go of his destructive lifestyle. OnWi met with the outreach team once again at Legacy Park, where he was accompanied by the VFC team. After assessing his deteriorating health, including the discovery of a body lice infestation, the VFC team explained the gravity of his condition and the potential life-threatening consequences of continued substance abuse. This wake-up call was the turning point OnWi needed. He finally made the decision to take the first real steps toward recovery.

With renewed determination, the team arranged for OnWi to enter a rehabilitation facility and provided him with a motel voucher so he could rest and prepare for the intake. But when the team arrived to pick him up the following morning, OnWi was nowhere to be found. He had disappeared once again, just as he was on the verge of receiving the help he needed.

Weeks later, OnWi reappeared in Malibu, but this time, the situation was dire. The area was engulfed in a growing brushfire that was spreading quickly through western Malibu, destroying everything in its path, including homes and buildings. OnWi, who had difficulty walking, was stranded in the library and Legacy Park area, desperate to evacuate but unable to move quickly enough to escape the advancing fire.

Recognizing that time was of the essence, the outreach team sprang into action. With the fires raging around Malibu, they knew they had a small window of opportunity to get OnWi off the streets and into a safe space. The team quickly referred OnWi to a local Interim Housing Program (IHP) and Emergency Centralized Response Center (ECRC) that had just become available due to the fires. The IHP responded promptly, accepting the referral and offering an immediate intake.

The Malibu Outreach Team provided direct transportation for OnWi to the IHP and assisted him during the intake process. Finally, after months of struggle, uncertainty, and setbacks, OnWi was able to leave the streets and enter a safe, stable environment that would give him the chance to focus on recovery and rebuild his life.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of The People Concern's Malibu Outreach Team and their collaboration with the Venice Family Clinic and other local agencies, OnWi now has the opportunity to access the services and support he needs for a better future. The compassion, patience, and determination shown by the outreach team throughout this journey were the key ingredients that allowed OnWi to make the pivotal choice to get the help he needed.

Today, OnWi is not only housed but also on the path to recovery, with the opportunity to live a healthier, happier, and safer life. This success story exemplifies the power of persistence and the importance of meeting individuals where they are, providing them with the resources and support to make lasting change in their lives.

Next Steps:

In the wake of the devastating fires affecting Malibu and surrounding communities, our outreach team remains committed to assisting the unhoused individuals impacted by this disaster. Our immediate priorities include:

1. Continued Evacuations & Safety Assistance

- Identify and assist unhoused individuals in high-risk areas.
- Coordinate with emergency services to ensure safe transport to shelters or designated evacuation centers.
- Conduct wellness checks on individuals who may still be in affected areas.

2. Shelter & Motel Placements

- Work with local shelters, motels, and temporary housing programs to secure safe accommodations.
- Advocate for extended stays and additional resources for those displaced by the fires.
- Assist clients in navigating emergency housing programs and long-term solutions.

3. Food & Supply Distribution

- Provide hot meals, non-perishable food items, and clean drinking water.
- Distribute essential supplies, including blankets, clothing, hygiene kits, and first aid items.
- Coordinate with partner organizations and community donations to replenish resources.

4. Medical & Mental Health Support

- Connect individuals with medical care for fire-related injuries or respiratory issues.
- Provide mental health support, crisis counseling, and referrals for trauma-related services.

5. Long-Term Recovery & Case Management

- Assist in replacing lost IDs, documents, and accessing benefits.
- Support individuals in applying for disaster relief assistance.
- Work with local agencies to secure stable housing solutions post-crisis.

Our team is dedicated to ensuring that no one is left behind in this crisis. We will continue to adapt our efforts as the situation evolves and provide unwavering support to those in need.

