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Full-time, Professional Outreach to Homeless Residents Is Now Underway in Malibu

New Program links people to comprehensive services, with goal of permanent housing

Malibu, CA (October 7, 2016) – The Malibu Task Force on Homelessness (MTFH) and OPCC, whose name has just been changed to The People Concern, have announced that the newly-formed Malibu Homeless Outreach Team recently began its work with Malibu’s neediest residents.

The Malibu Homeless Outreach Team is a full-time (5 days a week, 8 hours a day), specially-trained and equipped, two-person team, which is going wherever needed in Malibu (streets, hillsides, beaches, bluffs, canyons, tunnels, etc.) to locate, engage, and gradually build relationships with homeless individuals, encouraging them to accept social services and housing.

“We are very pleased to be working with the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness, as well as the City of Malibu, first responders and many dedicated community stakeholders, to begin the next phase of our collective work,” said John Maceri, Executive Director of The People Concern. “It’s inspiring to see the passion and commitment of so many people in Malibu who care about improving the quality of life for all your residents, including your homeless neighbors. We look forward to our continued collaboration, and will be excited to share the team’s progress.”

Malibu’s dedicated outreach workers – Turner Vail and Alex Michel – began providing services to Malibu’s homeless population in late September.

The outreach team’s first objective is to survey homeless individuals in Malibu, in order to better understand who they are and how to help them.

The team will then focus on linking homeless individuals with the comprehensive, integrated system of care provided by The People Concern, including housing (interim and permanent), mental health care (including psychiatry), medical care, domestic violence services, substance addiction treatment, income services, and wellness/life skills programs.

Because The People Concern has such wide-ranging expertise and programs, it is able to tailor services to the needs of each person, however complicated those needs may be. All services provided by The People Concern are designed to improve self-sufficiency, restore dignity, and enable clients to be contributing members of the community, enhancing quality of life for everyone.

Jay Scott, Co-chair of the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness (which is raising the funds needed to engage the services of The People Concern), recently said, "I think the Task Force and The People Concern have done an amazing job getting us to the point of providing assistance to our homeless residents and protecting the Malibu community," adding, "I am very impressed with the new outreach team, and look forward to working with them."

According to MTFH Co-chair Pamela Conley Ulich, "We are grateful for this new Malibu Homeless Outreach Team, which will enable the community to help those in need by providing access to a team of professionals who have the know-how to link our homeless neighbors to housing and comprehensive, integrated, wrap-around services."

Homeless individuals living in Malibu and looking for services, as well as members of the Malibu community interested in providing the Malibu Homeless Outreach Team with some basic information regarding a particular individual in need of assistance, are asked to:

- Call "911" in case of emergency.

- If NOT an emergency, either call the Malibu Outreach Team Connection Line at **310-460-2638** (callers will be prompted to leave requested information), OR email the Malibu Homeless Outreach Team at **MalibuOutreach@opcc.net**. Those interested in receiving a return call from the outreach team (by the end of the next work day) are asked to leave their name, phone number, and best time to call.

On October 5, OPCC's full new name was announced at the agency's "Fall Affair," held in Los Angeles. It is:

**"The People Concern –
Because everyone should be housed, healthy, and safe"**
OPCC and Lamp Community United.

Locally, the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness recently added a new member to its leadership team: retired clinical psychologist Dr. Connie Shafran, a 40-year resident of Malibu. Other members of the Task Force, which was formed in February, include Co-chairs Jay Scott and Pamela Conley Ulich, along with Matt deNicola, Rev. Paul Elder, Dr. Renee Kaswan, Burt Ross, Joan Ross, and junior member Cooper deNicola.

The Task Force continues its efforts to raise \$555,000 – the amount needed to engage The People Concern’s services for three years, including the full-time, two-person Malibu Homeless Outreach Team, and the highly-effective, integrated services (with links to housing) provided by The People Concern.

All Malibu residents and business owners interested in safeguarding Malibu and its most vulnerable people are encouraged to make a tax-deductible donation to The People Concern, specifically for its work with Malibu’s homeless population, so that the outreach work just begun has a better chance of making a lasting difference. For more information, contact Jay Scott at scottjc42@verizon.net, or Pamela Conley Ulich at pamela@malibulocalbroker.com.

About The People Concern

The People Concern is a leading provider of, and advocate for, evidence-based solutions to the multi-faceted challenges inherent in homelessness and domestic violence. A union of two trusted social service organizations, OPCC and LAMP Community, The People Concern is one of the largest agencies of its kind in Los Angeles County. With compassion and profound respect, The People Concern provides a fully integrated system of care, including housing, mental health and medical treatment, and social services, empowering the most vulnerable among us to rebuild their lives.