



For Release on
August 4, 2016, at 9 AM

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Malibu Task Force on Homelessness and Ocean Park Community Center Partnership Secures \$100,000 Grant To Fund Outreach Efforts

Contribution will help fund 3-Year Contract with Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC)

Malibu, CA (Embargoed until August 4, 2016, at 9 AM PDT) – The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation recently awarded a multi-year \$100,000 grant to the Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC) to support a growing partnership with the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness (MTFH). The grant funds outreach efforts geared toward connecting the homeless population in Malibu to comprehensive, integrated services, and permanent housing solutions. The grant will be used to help fund a three-year contract with OPCC – the agency responsible for carrying out the day-to-day outreach work.

Consisting entirely of Malibu residents, MTFH has been working since February to raise funds to facilitate OPCC's outreach services in Malibu. Combined with significant gifts and pledges from other community members, and a recently-approved \$38,000 grant from the City of Malibu, the grant from the Hilton Foundation brings MTFH almost halfway to its new goal of \$555,000 -- the amount needed to fund OPCC's work in Malibu for three years.

"We deeply appreciate the Hilton Foundation's extraordinary support of our efforts to reduce homelessness in Malibu, and to help our neediest residents find permanent housing and critically-needed services," said Jay Scott, co-chair of MTFH. "Many of us who provide volunteer assistance to homeless individuals in Malibu realize that OPCC's professional approach, vast experience, and comprehensive services will bring deeper and more lasting help to our homeless neighbors than anything we could possibly provide ourselves."

Now in its 53rd year, OPCC provides highly effective, fully integrated services to the most traumatized, vulnerable and needy members of our community—homeless individuals, victims of domestic violence, at-risk youth, indigent Veterans, and people dealing with severe physical or mental illness or substance abuse.

OPCC expects to begin work in Malibu later this summer with a two-person, full-time professional outreach team that will engage homeless individuals on the streets, hillsides, and beaches of Malibu – gradually building trusting relationships with the goal of linking them to services. OPCC Executive Director John Maceri welcomes support from foundations and community groups who are committed to meeting the needs of the city’s most vulnerable residents.

“We are very excited to begin the next phase of our collaboration with the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness and the City of Malibu to serve our homeless neighbors,” said Maceri. “It takes a community working to assist people experiencing homelessness to make the transition into housing and toward self-sufficiency. The efforts and commitment of all the partners, including the tremendous generosity and support of the Hilton Foundation and City of Malibu, along with several individuals and congregations, have provided the necessary resources to begin this important work.”

For more information about the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness, email scottjc42@verizon.net.

About the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help the world’s disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The Foundation currently conducts strategic initiatives in six priority areas: providing safe water, ending chronic homelessness, preventing substance use, helping children affected by HIV and AIDS, supporting transition-age youth in foster care, and extending Conrad Hilton’s support for the work of Catholic Sisters. In addition, following selection by an independent international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$2 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to a nonprofit organization doing extraordinary work to reduce human suffering. In 2015, the Humanitarian Prize was awarded to Landesa, a Seattle-based land rights organization. From its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.4 billion in grants, distributing \$107 million in the U.S. and around the world in 2015. The Foundation’s current assets are approximately \$2.5 billion. For more information, please visit www.hiltonfoundation.org.