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For Immediate Release

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Five Homeless Malibu Residents Have Moved into Permanent Housing

Partnership between the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness (MTFH) and The People Concern produces results

(Malibu, CA) – The Malibu Task Force on Homelessness (MTFH) and The People Concern (formerly OPCC and Lamp Community) recently announced that their partnership has resulted in five homeless Malibu residents successfully moving into permanent housing.

As of April 30, a total of 13 homeless men and women from Malibu have secured housing due to the efforts of The People Concern’s “Malibu Homeless Outreach Team.” (In addition to those now in permanent housing, seven individuals have accepted interim housing, and one is receiving inpatient substance abuse treatment.)

“We are thrilled with these results, which the Outreach Team has achieved in only seven months,” said MTFH Chair Jay Scott. Scott predicted that the success of this partnership will continue to grow, because six clients have secured housing vouchers; eight others have been approved for such vouchers; and a total of 43 clients have completed housing plans.

In all, 43 local homeless residents have already “enrolled” as clients of The People Concern, meaning they have consented to services, been assigned to a case manager, and are actively working toward securing housing.

According to the Malibu Homeless Outreach Team, the majority of individuals encountered by the team on a regular basis are now considered “engaged.” Many are receiving intensive, street-based services from physicians, nurses, psychiatrists, mental health professionals, and substance abuse experts.

“All of the donors to this effort have made these impressive results possible,” said Scott. “MTFH is deeply grateful to the City of Malibu, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and all of the residents,

businesses, associations, congregations, and others who have stepped up to make a lasting difference in the lives of so many homeless men and women in Malibu.”

The Malibu Homeless Outreach Team has focused on working with the most vulnerable, chronically homeless men and women. The Outreach Team is working very closely with these individuals, connecting them to The People Concern’s wrap-around services, including housing.

Scott emphasized that the Outreach Team will continue building rapport and offering services to those who are more difficult to engage. Because consistent, focused efforts have shown to be most effective in overcoming such barriers, “The support of the community is essential, as it allows the Malibu Homeless Outreach Team to continue engaging our homeless neighbors – even those who may need more time and contact with the team before accepting services,” said Scott.

Recognizing that a new initiative – providing sustained, integrated, professional services – was needed to effectively address the long-term, complex needs of Malibu’s homeless residents, MTFH was started by a group of community volunteers in February, 2016. Since then, MTFH engaged The People Concern, one of Los Angeles County’s largest social service agencies.

Because of the partnership between MTFH and The People Concern, two full-time, professional outreach workers (the “Malibu Homeless Outreach Team”) have been engaging with homeless men and women in Malibu since September 2016, building relationships and linking individuals to comprehensive, integrated services. The goal is to find permanent housing, particularly for the most vulnerable, and provide the services needed to help clients remain housed.

Core services provided by The People Concern include 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, the agency is able to tailor services to the needs of each person.

“The People Concern is so grateful to all the generous supporters in Malibu who have continued to give their time, talent, and treasure to house their most vulnerable neighbors,” said John Maceri, Executive Director of The People Concern. “A community helping others is a community helping itself, and Malibu continues to be a leader in improving the quality of life for everyone through their compassion and dedication to addressing homelessness locally.”

The Malibu Task Force on Homelessness recently added a new member to its leadership team: Paula Mae Schwartz, who is Chief Operating Officer of Chockstone Pictures. Other members of the Task Force include Chair Jay Scott, Matt deNicola, Rev. Paul Elder, Burt Ross, Joan Ross, Dr. Connie Shafran, and junior member Cooper deNicola.

Anyone interested in helping to keep the Outreach Team working in Malibu is encouraged to make a tax-deductible donation to The People Concern’s dedicated fund, to be used solely for the Malibu Homeless Outreach Team, and for housing and services provided to Malibu’s homeless population.

Checks made out to “The People Concern” (with “MTFH” in the memo section) can be mailed directly to the following address:

The People Concern
1453 16th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404
Attn.: MTFH

Online donations are also welcome, and can be made by going to www.MalibuTaskForce.org/giving.

For further information about the partnership between the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness and The People Concern, readers are encouraged to visit www.MalibuTaskForce.org.

How to Reach the Malibu Homeless Outreach Team:

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.*

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