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## **The People Concern and Malibu Task Force on Homelessness Announce One-Year Results**

### **Significant Progress Was Made by The People Concern's Malibu Outreach Team in Its First Year**

(Malibu, CA) – The People Concern (formerly OPCC & Lamp Community) and its partner, the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness (MTFH), recently announced that The People Concern's Malibu Outreach Team met or exceeded all of its goals in the team's first year serving the community. In addition, "There is momentum and optimism on the housing front heading into year two," the Outreach Team reported.

As of September 30, when the Outreach Team completed its first year in Malibu, a total of 24 homeless men and women had moved off of the streets of Malibu due to the efforts of the Outreach Team (backed by The People Concern's fully-integrated system of care).

Eleven of these individuals successfully moved into permanent housing, while 13 individuals accepted interim housing.

"These excellent results are great news for the community," said Jay Scott, chair of MTFH, which raises the funds needed to support The People Concern's work in Malibu. "With newly-expanded support services now up to full speed, we look forward to The People Concern's finding even more homeless people housing this coming year."

New housing opportunities for Malibu's homeless residents look promising in the coming year, because 10 of the Outreach Team's clients now have housing vouchers in their possession. With help from a new, full-time housing locator, these program participants are actively looking for apartments. Twelve additional program participants have been approved for upcoming vouchers.

In its first year, the dedicated Malibu Outreach Team (Alexander Gittinger and Alexandra Michel, sometimes referred to locally as "the Alexes") made contact with 184 homeless individuals all over Malibu (streets, beaches, shopping areas, public spaces, etc.).

Of these individuals, “68 enrolled in ongoing services, with housing and goal plans now in place,” said the Outreach Team in its year-end report. In all, 76 homeless individuals were considered “engaged” as of September 30 – these men and women are now at various stages of accepting services.

During the Outreach Team’s first year, 30 individuals were also linked to additional intensive, street-based services from The People Concern’s interdisciplinary teams (which include physicians, nurses, psychiatrists, mental health professionals, and substance abuse experts).

“Our mission as an agency has always been to help our most vulnerable neighbors rebuild their lives – providing access to housing and services that have the power to propel them from the streets to safety,” said John Maceri, Executive Director, The People Concern. “Our partnership with the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness (MTFH) has yielded significant results and helped extend crucial supportive services to hundreds of individuals in need. We are extremely grateful for their continued support of our work, and we look forward to seeing more lives transformed through this partnership in the near future.”

Linking homeless individuals with permanent housing is the ultimate goal of The People Concern, which provides all of the wrap-around services needed to help clients achieve and maintain such housing. Because of this ongoing support, over 95% of those housed by The People Concern remain housed.

“It may sound like a truism, but if you find people housing, they are no longer homeless,” said MTFH Chair Jay Scott. “We in Malibu are incredibly fortunate to have an agency as renowned as The People Concern dedicated to helping our homeless neighbors find homes to call their own.”

The Malibu Outreach Team (along with its counterpart in Pacific Palisades) is now being aided by an expanded group of professionals, thanks to private funding secured by The People Concern and Venice Family Clinic.

Because the Outreach Team is now supported by a physician, psychiatrist, full-time housing locator, and full-time clinical case manager, the team is able to devote even more of its time to direct outreach and engagement with Malibu’s homeless population.

Malibu community members who are concerned about a particular homeless individual in need of assistance are encouraged to share relevant information with the Outreach Team by leaving a phone message at 310-460-2638, sending an email to [MalibuOutreach@ThePeopleConcern.org](mailto:MalibuOutreach@ThePeopleConcern.org), or completing the interactive “Homeless Contact Information Form” found under “Malibu Outreach” on the MTFH website: [www.MalibuTaskForce.org](http://www.MalibuTaskForce.org).

The Malibu Task Force on Homelessness has primarily focused its efforts on raising the funds needed to field The People Concern’s professional, full-time, two-person Malibu Outreach Team for three years, and on supporting the Team’s work here. MTFH is grateful for the generosity of the City of Malibu, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and all of the many residents, businesses, associations, and congregations who have given to this cause and made the team’s one-year results possible. All who are concerned about the issue of homelessness in Malibu are encouraged to support MTFH’s efforts to safeguard the community and our neediest neighbors. To make a donation, please visit [www.MalibuTaskForce.org/Giving](http://www.MalibuTaskForce.org/Giving).

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