

LVMCOG Homeless Outreach Summary April 18th – July 31st

Gabriel Graham, Outreach Coordinator – August 12, 2020

Approximate number of individuals engaged at least once: 60

City Requests: 18

- Agoura Hills: 8
- Calabasas: 4
- Hidden Hills: 1
- Malibu: 4
- Westlake Village: 1

Agoura Hills:

1. I responded to a request from the City of Agoura Hill at the beginning of April regarding an individual experiencing homelessness at Twin Oaks shopping center. I was able to locate D immediately. I engaged D and we discussed the possibility of him entering an emergency shelter. D has been in the area for approximately 1 year and is originally from Sri Lanka. After our initial engagement, it would be approximately 2 weeks before I was able to locate D again. Our next conversation included the topic of entering an Emergency shelter. D agreed the shelter at the Woodland Hills Recreation Center would be an acceptable location. After finding an available bed at the shelter D stated that he would prefer to go after weekend.

As I was preparing to leave the parking lot, there was a disturbance between D and an employee of Vons. The Sheriff was called, and D was detained. Ultimately the Sheriff Deputy gave D the option of either going to jail or to be released into my custody and be transported to the Woodland Hills Shelter. D decided to go to the shelter. On our way to the facility I explained to D that this is a great opportunity, and he should take advantage of any services that are available.

Over the course of the following 3 months that D remained at the shelter, I visited him several times. Each time I inquired if he had utilized the services offered at the shelter. D stated each time that he did not have a plan moving forward. Unfortunately, on July 23 I went to visit with D and was informed that he was exited from the facility for aggressive behavior.

2. C, female in her 20s was loitering at Ladyface Laundry on Kanan Rd. C stated that she is from the area and had only been on the street for approximately 1 month. C was currently receiving services from LA Family Housing and was already on the Project RoomKey wait list. She faces multiple health issues. At the time, she was supposed to go stay at a friend's house however, the following day, she stated that her arrangements had fallen through. I encouraged C to make frequent contact with her Case Manager and followed up with her at least twice a week. C resolutely contacted and met with her Case Manager and on Friday, June 19th, less than 30 days after our first contact, C was placed in Project RoomKey. C was very grateful to have support from outreach.

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Calabasas:

1. I outreach Calabasas almost every day of the week. On two occasions, I received requests regarding individuals that had been spotted on a hillside. I coordinated with city staff and we canvassed the area around the water tower. We were not able to locate any sign of an encampment or the individual referred to. On another occasion I coordinated with city staff and a security guard from Secure-All regarding an encampment in the hills across from Calabasas High School. After climbing several hundred feet and making no contact, we ended up referring the request to State Parks. Michael M and I spent a day becoming familiar with the area and he pointed out frequent hot spots. I focus on establishing relationships with local businesses and building rapport with security at local shopping centers.

Malibu:

1. I engaged J who is in his 50s on May 5th. We discussed the possibility of moving into a Transitional Housing facility in Reseda. J showed interest so I explained to him that he would be responsible for rent and would have to share a room with someone he does not know. J was agreeable to the situation and is eager to get back to work. J has many years of cooking experience and some landscaping history. We had already applied for his COVID-19 stimulus payment which gave him \$1200.00 to start with.

The following day, we went to meet with the director of the Transitional Housing facility. The meeting went well, and the following week J secured a bed. Prior to his move in, we visited Hope of the Valley Navigation Center so that J could clean up before moving into his new place. J was very grateful to have someone help him transition from the street into a stable living environment.

I have visited J several times and have also spoken to him on the phone. Things are going well for him and according to the Director, J has been a huge asset to the house, and the other residents.

2. I engaged S who is in his 40s, lives in his pickup truck and had only been in town for several weeks. S lost his job back east at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. He decided to come to California because of the warm weather. Upon arriving, he was quickly discouraged due to the large population of homeless as well as the poor conditions he found in L.A. Eager to leave the area and head to Alaska he discovered Malibu. He decided to stick around and look for work.

S and I discussed Transitional Housing. Showing interest, we made an appointment to meet with Al in Granada Hills where he has an additional house. The meeting went well and even though a bed was not available at that time, Al connected S to a contractor who is working on a project in Malibu.

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On our way back to Malibu, S interviewed by phone. The Contractor set up a second interview to be had with the foreman the following day. S called after his second interview to inform me that he not only got the job, but his boss fronted him \$500.00 to purchase tools. S started work the following Monday.

Other Outreach Activities

- Assisted 17 individuals applying for their \$1,200 Government Stimulus Checks.
- Assisted approximately 25 individuals to get COVID-19 testing.
- Assembled and distributed 50 hygiene kits.