

For Immediate Release May 10, 2016

Lane County Human Services Releases 2016 Annual Homeless Point in Time Count

EUGENE, ORE -- On Wednesday, January 27th, Lane County Human Services, the anti-poverty program for the county, along with community partners, conducted a one-night count of people who are literally homeless in our community. Count locations included the streets and under bridges, in parks and other places not meant for human habitation, as well as food pantries, day access centers, schools, churches, emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs.

1,451 people were counted in Lane County during the 2016 Homeless Point in Time, a **1.5%** decrease from the 2015 Count. "We have learned that moving people from homelessness to permanent supportive housing makes a huge difference," said Pearl Wolfe, Lane County Human Services Supervisor. "The upside for this year is that **644 formerly homeless people** could be found living in permanent housing designated for homeless people on the night of the count. Housing First efforts to build housing and offer support for those who are chronically homeless is a priority in the Poverty and Homelessness Board's 5-Year Strategic plan."

Highlights of the Count:

124 staff and volunteers from 32 organizations counted unsheltered homeless people this year, with an additional 10 agencies counting sheltered people. During this year's Count organizers reached out to the rural areas, homeless veterans, rest stops, safe spots, Opportunity Village, Catholic Workers Breakfast at Jefferson Bridge and other locations).

Of the **1,451** people counted:

- **405** individuals were staying in Emergency Shelter
 - **112** individuals were living in Transitional Housing (up to 24 months) designated for people who are homeless
 - **934** men, women, and children were without shelter
- Total 1,451 individuals**

Characteristics:

- **224** family members in homeless households with children; **129 sheltered; 95** unsheltered
- **162** homeless veterans: **52 sheltered; 110** unsheltered:
- **574** chronically homeless people: **86 sheltered; 488** unsheltered
- **434** people have a mental illness
- **232** people have chronic alcohol/substance abuse issues
- **13** unaccompanied homeless youth (under18)

The magnitude of homelessness requires more than a one day count," said Wolfe. "Annual figures show that 12,167 individuals who sought services from local human services programs were homeless at some point during the year." In addition,

- **949** unduplicated individuals were served at St. Vincent De Paul's Egan Warming Center during **12** nights of the winter season at **14** faith-based sites and Lane Community College during the 2015-2016 winter season.
- **2,156** homeless students attended public school in Lane County during the 2014-2015 school year (Oregon Dept. of Education). Includes those doubled up with relatives or friends.
- **258** homeless youth were served at the Looking Glass New Roads Access Center, (ages 16-21) CY 2015.
- **165** runaway and homeless youth stayed at Station 7 (under age 18) during CY 2015.
- **2,298** people stayed at the Eugene Mission during CY 2015

One-night counts are required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Oregon Housing and Community Services (State of Oregon) which provides funding for housing and services related to homelessness. The Point in Time Summary is used year round by planning boards, and policy makers on local, state and federal levels to inform their work on this issue.

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