

**For Immediate Release May 30, 2017**

## **Lane County Human Services Releases 2017 Annual Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count**

**EUGENE, ORE** -- On Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 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.

**1,529** people were counted in Lane County during the 2017 Homeless Point in Time, a **5%** increase from the 2016 Count. "On the night of the count, 741 formerly homeless people were not included in the Count because they are now living in permanent housing designated for homeless people. Our permanent housing inventory needs more capacity as these units turn over infrequently," said Pearl Wolfe, Lane County Human Services Supervisor. "*This is why the 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*" as well as exploring public emergency shelter options.

### **Highlights of the Count:**

146 staff and volunteers from 32 programs counted sheltered and unsheltered homeless people this year, along with 12 food pantry sites and 4 school districts. 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 **1,529** people counted:

- **442** individuals were staying in Emergency Shelter
- **84** individuals were in Transitional Housing (up to 24 months) designated homeless people
- **1,003** men, women, and children were without shelter

**Total 1,529 individuals**

### **Characteristics:**

- **269** family members in homeless households with children; **153 sheltered; 116** unsheltered
- **164** homeless veterans: **44 sheltered; 120** unsheltered:
- **640** chronically homeless people: **143 sheltered; 497** unsheltered
- **435** people have a mental illness
- **254** people have chronic alcohol/substance abuse issues
- **9** unaccompanied homeless youth (under 18)

The magnitude of homelessness requires more than a one day count," said Wolfe. "Annual figures show that 12,998 individuals who sought services from local human services programs were homeless at some point during the year." In addition,

- **1,616** unduplicated individuals were served at St. Vincent De Paul's Egan Warming Center during 24 nights of the winter season at 14 faith-based sites, Lane Community College, and the Lane Event Center's Wheeler Pavilion during the 2016-2017 winter season.
- **2,388** homeless students attended public school in Lane County during the 2015-2016 school year (Oregon Dept. of Education). Includes those doubled up with relatives or friends.
- **253** homeless youth were served at the Looking Glass New Roads Access Center (ages 16-21) CY 2016.
- **199** runaway and homeless youth stayed at Station 7 (under age 18) during CY 2016; 131 runaway and 68 homeless youth
- **2,470** people stayed at the Eugene Mission during CY 2016

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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