



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2023 Every One Counts Campaign

January 4, 2023: The Every One Counts Campaign is an annual campaign put on by the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness to conduct the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count. The PIT Count is a national count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe havens on a single night. Continuums of Care also must conduct a count of unsheltered homeless persons every other year. Responses are used to inform program development and funding allocations for housing and supportive services.

The Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness is the Continuum of Care for Springfield/Greene, Christian and Webster Counties that is responsible for that area's Every One Counts Campaign annually. In 2023, the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness will be conducting both a sheltered and unsheltered count for the night of January 25th, 2023. Unsheltered surveys will be conducted the night of January 25th and the following day, January 26th. This brief survey asks basic questions about unsheltered homeless persons, is anonymous, and is used to bring funding for housing to our community. Questions include demographic information, length of time experiencing homelessness, veteran status, and where they stayed the night of January 25th.

"This initiative is critical because it saves lives, since we expanded over the last couple of years, we have not had to turn anyone away who has sought crisis sheltering. Through outreach, it's an opportunity to engage people with the system of care who may have been previously disengaged."

- Michelle Garand, the Vice President of Affordable Housing and Homeless Prevention

The Connecting Grounds and Burrell Behavioral Health outreach teams will be doing surveys around town and volunteers will be surveying at Crisis Cold Weather Shelters, Veterans Coming Home, Libraries, O'Reilly Center for Hope, and The Connecting Grounds Outreach Center on both Wednesday, January 25th and Thursday, January 26th.

Volunteers for unsheltered surveying are needed on the night of January 25th and during the day on January 26th. Volunteers are responsible for conducting the unsheltered surveys and can serve multiple shifts. Those who have volunteered for the Every One Counts Campaign in the past are encouraged to volunteer again, as well as individuals who have not volunteered before. Volunteers can be placed at Crisis Cold Weather Shelters, Libraries, Veterans Coming Home Center, The Connecting Grounds Outreach Center, or the O'Reilly Center for Hope.

If you can help, please fill out the Volunteer Interest Form at <https://forms.gle/bV1gg7FpTkkhYhvf8> You can also email OAEH@cpozarks.org for more information.

For anyone who would be eligible to take the unsheltered survey for the Every One Counts Campaign, they can take the survey at the following locations below.

January 25th:

- Crisis Cold Weather Shelters, which can be accessed by going to Grace United Methodist Church at 600 S. Jefferson Ave at 5:30pm for a meal and shelter sign-up.
- The Connecting Grounds Outreach Center at 3000 W. Chestnut Expressway starting at 6:30pm and throughout the night they will be open.

January 26th:

- O'Reilly Center for Hope at 1518 E. Dale St. from 9:00am – 12:00pm and 1:00pm – 4:00pm.
- The Connecting Grounds Outreach Center at 3000 W. Chestnut Expressway until 6:30pm. They will be open a full 24 hours starting at 6:30pm on January 25th, running to 6:30pm on January 26th.
- Schweitzer-Brentwood Library at 2214 S. Brentwood Blvd. from 8:30am – 9:30am and 12:00pm – 4:00pm
- Park Central Library at 128 Park Central Square from 3:00pm – 5:00pm
- Midtown Library at 397 E. Central St. from 2:30pm – 5:00pm.
- Library Station at 2535 N. Kansas Expressway from 10:00am – 11:00am and 1:00pm – 2:00pm.
- Veterans Coming Home Center at 806 N. Jefferson Ave. from 10:00am – 1:00pm.
- Grace United Methodist at 600 S. Jefferson Ave. from 5:30pm – 6:30pm.

Community Partnership's Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness works closely with agencies and organizations to coordinate the Every One Counts Campaign logistics, surveying, and outreach that is involved in administering the Point-In-Time Count. We thank Great Circle for their generous donation of \$1,000 in helping to put on the Every One Counts Campaign for 2023.

Interested parties can learn more about the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness by visiting <https://cpozarks.org/programs/ozarks-alliance-to-end-homelessness/>

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ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS

The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on the Partnership's collaborative efforts and programs, visit www.cpozarks.org.