

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Every One Counts Campaign slated for January 22-24

Community Partners, volunteers aim to count and connect with those experiencing homelessness in the Ozarks.

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., (1/14/2025) – Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO), community partners, and dozens of volunteers will canvas streets, abandoned buildings, shelters, and vehicles across Greene, Christian, and Webster Counties as a part of the **Every One Counts Campaign** January 22 through the 24 to provide a snapshot homelessness in our community. This campaign, mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development nation-wide, helps guide program development and funding for housing and supportive services.

Not only does it involve counting the number of people experiencing homelessness but also conducting surveys at various locations. Anyone experiencing homelessness is encouraged to take the survey. Everyone who completes a survey will receive a drawstring bag, which includes water bottles, snacks, socks, hot hands, and more, donated by a host of community partners, including Convoy of Hope, Victory Mission, Burrell Behavioral Health, AIDs Project of the Ozarks, and the Springfield-Greene County Health Department.

“Not only does this initiative provide vital information for our community to learn more about unsheltered homelessness, but it’s also a great opportunity to hear the stories of those families and individuals and connect them to the services they need. It teaches us so much about our neighbors and helps us to bring in funding to develop programs to meet the needs of our community,” said **CPO Affordable Housing & Homeless Prevention Continuum of Care Director, Emily Fessler**.

About 50 volunteers have signed up and will go through specialized volunteer training. The survey locations are as follows:

January 22

- 7-9 p.m. at the Crisis Cold Weather Shelters & intensive street outreach

January 23

- O’Reilly Center for Hope: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1 - 4 p.m.
- The Connecting Grounds Outreach Center: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- CU Transit Center: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Schweitzer-Brentwood Library: 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. & 12 - 4 p.m.
- Park Central Library: 3 - 5 p.m.
- Library Center: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Library Station: 10 – 11 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.
- Veterans Coming Home Center: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- NAMI: 9:30 – 11 a.m. & 1 – 4 p.m.
- Intensive Street Outreach

January 24

- Least of These Food Pantry: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

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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.*