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MUSKEGON COUNTY HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE NETWORK

Outreach Committee

Hello Community Partners,

Does your agency/organization provide services to homeless individuals in Muskegon County? If so, your attention is needed!

The Outreach Committee of the Muskegon County Homelessness Continuum of Care Network is conducting our Winter Point in Time (PIT) Survey. The PIT Survey is conducted nationwide by communities to not only get a count of people, both sheltered and unsheltered, experiencing homelessness, but also to try and understand the particular cause of their respective homelessness. The data collected from the PIT surveys provides invaluable information regarding the County’s homeless residents, and is used to support requests to private and public entities for funding for both housing and services, all with the goal of ending homelessness.  It is conducted with a paper outreach and street outreach teams (these teams are sent to specific localities within the County to identify homeless individuals whose residence in the County may not be known). The information that is collected from this survey will be interpreted and made available to Muskegon County agencies/organizations to use as documentation of the needs in our community.

Wednesday January 31st is an opportunity for Muskegon County to demonstrate the need for services to our homeless population. The Outreach Committee of the Muskegon County Homelessness Continuum of Care Network will be hosting a kickoff station at the Muskegon Community Health Project for our team of PIT volunteers starting at 8pm. We have also decided to have volunteers at that location to assist any individuals that would be looking for resources. Please share this information with any people at your agency/organization that may be looking for services. If your agency/organization offers services and would like to take advantage of this outreach opportunity please use the information below to contact us for details.

There are three ways that your agency/organization can help on January 31st and February 1st ,

* **Service Location Count:** This method focuses on your agency/organization conducting interviews (using provided documents) with clients receiving non-shelter services from your agency/organization location.
* **Public Places/Street Count:** TheMuskegon County Homelessness Continuum of Care Network will organize Street Outreach teams comprised of volunteers that will go into public places, and identify individuals who may be homeless. This event is the 31st of January at 8pm at the Muskegon Community Health Project 565 W. Western Avenue.
* **Combination Count:** your agency/organization would provide a confidential space for a Street Outreach team member to conduct these surveys at your location.

We are counting on our community. Without the data to support the need in our community funds for assistance programs will not be made available. Please contact Michael Ramsey at Michael.ramsey@mercyhealth.com to request more information on volunteer opportunities.

Attached you will find a copy of a poster that you can print out and post to help us advertise the opportunity. The Outreach Committee of the Muskegon County Homelessness Continuum of Care Network is very appreciative for your attention to, and assistance with this matter.