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Lane County Human Services Releases 2015 Annual Homeless Point in Time Count

EUGENE, ORE -- On Wednesday, January 28th, Lane County Human Services, the anti-poverty program for the county, along with community partners, conducted a one-night count of people who are homeless in our community. Count locations included the streets and under bridges, in parks and other places not meant for human habitation, food pantries, day access centers, schools, churches, emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs.

1,473 people were counted in Lane County during the 2015 Homeless Point in Time, 19% less than the 2013 Count.

"Increasing housing resources is the key to reducing homelessness in our community. The addition of 227 permanent housing beds to our inventory has made a huge difference," said Pearl Wolfe, Lane County Human Services Supervisor. "These permanent housing programs help households get back on their feet by removing barriers that threaten their stability. "

Highlights of the Count:

124 staff and volunteers from 28 organizations counted unsheltered homeless people this year, with an additional 10 agencies counted sheltered people. During this year's Count organizers made a concerted effort to reach out to the rural areas, target homeless veterans, and expand to 10 new locations (i.e. rest stops, Opportunity Village, Occupy Medical, Hope Center, Municipal Court).

Of the **1,473** people counted:

- **656** individuals were staying in Emergency Shelter
- **101** individuals were living in Transitional Housing (up to 24 months) designated for people who are homeless
- **716** men, women, and children were without shelter

Total 1,473 individuals

Characteristics:

- **223** family members in homeless households with children; **151 sheltered; 72** unsheltered
- **210** homeless veterans: **110 sheltered; 100** unsheltered:
- **697** chronically homeless people: **318 sheltered; 379** unsheltered
- **398** people have a mental illness

- **206 people have chronic alcohol/substance abuse issues**

It is important to note, that this snapshot in time only paints part of the picture of homelessness locally,” said Wolfe. “Annual figures show that 11,668 individuals who sought services from local programs were homeless at some point during the year.”

In addition:

- **948** unduplicated individuals were served at the Egan Warming Center during 10 nights of the winter season at 9 faith-based sites and the Lane County Wheeler Pavilion during the 2014-2015 winter seasons (St. Vincent DePaul).
- **2,151 homeless students attended public school in Lane County during the 2013-14 school year (Oregon Dept. of Education). This number includes those doubled up with relatives or friends.**

Lane County Human Services is a division of Lane County Health & Human Services. 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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