



Help Hope Home

*Helping the Homeless in Southern Nevada*

## NEWS RELEASE

### COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

Clark County- Las Vegas- North Las Vegas- Henderson- Boulder City- Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition- U. S. Department of Veteran Affairs- Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services- Clark County School District- Las Vegas Metropolitan Police- North Las Vegas Police Department

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007

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# Regional Effort to Count Homeless Lacks Volunteers

## Homeless Services in Need of 1,000 Volunteers to Participate in Homeless Census on Jan. 30 and 31

Officials with the county's homeless services say they only have 10 percent of the volunteers they need to conduct the 2007 Winter Homeless Census. With the Jan. 30 date for the census count fast approaching, organizers are asking for help from the public.

"We are in real need of finding people willing to help us conduct our most thorough effort to date to count the homeless," said Shannon West, regional homeless service coordinator for the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC). "I'm sure many people have passed by a homeless person at one time or another and wondered how they can help. This is how. This count is a crucial step in getting an accurate count of the people who are out there so we can get the federal money we need to provide basic human service for the homeless."

This will be the first countywide effort to conduct a person-by-person head count of the homeless. Up to 1,000 volunteers are needed and only 100 have signed up for the effort.

Census organizers are asking for volunteers who have transportation and preferably a cell phone to participate in the counts. People living in outlying Clark County will be needed to help with counting the homeless in rural areas on the morning of **Jan. 30, between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m.** The homeless population in the urban core of Las Vegas will be counted during the early morning hours on **Jan. 31, between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.** An orientation session will be held prior to the count (at a date to be announced) to assign each volunteer to an area.

The homeless population has previously been estimated at 14,500. That figure was based on a sampling of the homeless population rather than a person-by-person visual count.

"It takes resources to get resources," West said. "Right now we need the community's help to get this count done so we can have an accurate count and get the money we need to help the homeless."

**Anyone wishing to volunteer to participate in the homeless census can call or email Michele Fuller-Hallauer, continuum of care coordinator at (702) 455-5188, [mhf@co.clark.nv.us](mailto:mhf@co.clark.nv.us), or visit [www.HelpHopeHome.org](http://www.HelpHopeHome.org).**

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