



For release: January 16, 2009

Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001
Phone: 303-795-4284
Fax: 303-738-7894
www.co.arapahoe.co.us

Contact:

SIGNY MIKITA

Division Manager

Housing & Community Development Services

Direct: 303-738-8063

smikita@co.arapahoe.co.us

NICHOLE PARMELLY

Communication Services Specialist

Direct: 303-636-1945

Mobile: 303-710-7893

nparmelly@co.arapahoe.co.us

Arapahoe County participates in Metro Denver homeless count

LITTLETON, CO --- In order to understand and assist Colorado's homeless, Arapahoe County, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI), will conduct a metro Denver homeless count on January 27, 2009.

Dubbed as the 'Point-In-Time Study', the purpose is to count the number of homeless individuals on one day of the year and to educate the public about the presence of homelessness in their own communities. Volunteers and homeless advocates will survey the homeless on the streets and in shelters across the metro area.

"The count has shown that many of Arapahoe County's homeless are women and families and this helps the County fine tune where to send funding, such as the House of Hope, a homeless women's shelter and the Gateway Battered Women's Services Shelter," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Pat Noonan. "We're also focused on supporting homeless prevention measures such as food banks and Catholic Charities for rental assistance."

This count will help state and local governments continue to understand the causes of homelessness, assist with statewide planning efforts and the allocation of resources. The Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative has coordinated homeless counts in metro Denver since 1998. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires a January count in order for Colorado to receive nearly \$15 million for shelter, care, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing in Colorado.

In an effort to make the count as accurate as possible, organizers will station volunteers during the one day count at various places where homelessness would probably be encountered, including soup kitchens and service providers. In addition to providing a head count of the homeless, organizers will ask where the homeless individual or family stayed the previous night and, if possible, their age, gender, race, and ethnicity.

Members of the media are invited to join in this effort. Family Tree's House of Hope in Englewood will be available for interviews; please contact Keith Singer at 303-762-9525 for more information.

* * *