

Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH AREA | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 2017



County Seeks Volunteers for Annual 'Everyone Counts' Event to Help Battle Local Homelessness

Volunteers are needed throughout Beaufort County for the annual Everyone Counts Point-In-Time count Saturday, January 28, to identify and assist homeless individuals.

The Beaufort County Human Services Alliance and the Beaufort County Community Services Organization, along with community volunteers, conduct the annual Everyone Counts event throughout Beaufort County to identify and tally the number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals across the County during a single 24-hour period.

"It's hard to convince people that there is homelessness in Beaufort County because of its uniquely concealed presence. The information collected during this period provides our community partners and agencies with real data that is necessary to pull back the veil that covers the unfortunate truth," said Fred Leyda, Beaufort County Human Services Director. "Understanding the numbers leads us to a more pragmatic approach to strategizing ways to assess, analyze and eventually address homelessness."

The data is submitted to the Lowcountry Homeless Coalition and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It is used as a metric for measuring Federal, regional, and local progress in preventing and ending homelessness. This count is also used when requesting federal dollars for Beaufort County to provide assistance to homeless individuals.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Everyone Counts Point-in-Time (PIT) count. Anyone interested in volunteering at this event should [submit the online sign up form](#).

Sea Island Presbyterian Church will be conducting surveys tomorrow from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at 81 Lady's Island Dr, Beaufort, SC 29907. Coffee and snacks will be served to volunteers and participants throughout the evening.

"This community-wide survey gives a voice to the needs of our neighbors experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity," said Barbara Thomas, Volunteer Coordinator. "It also helps secure funding for vital community programs that work year-round to prevent and end homelessness in the Lowcountry."

Anyone interested in volunteering at Sea Island Presbyterian Church should email acivilconversation@gmail.com.

Affordable Housing Resolution

County Council passed a resolution to develop an affordable housing plan with a focus on availability, stability and security of housing options for Beaufort County residents. Click here to [view the resolution](#).