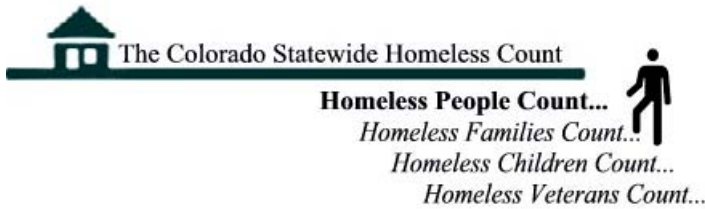


Contact: Steve Harrell  
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WHEAT RIDGE, CO, January 17, 2007 – In order to understand and assist Colorado’s homeless, Family Tree, in conjunction with the Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH), will conduct a statewide homeless count on January 29 and 30, 2007. This count is the second of two statewide homeless counts.

This past summer, volunteers and agencies from across the state participated in the first statewide homeless count in 17 years. That survey indicated that at least 11,890 homeless individuals live in Colorado during the summer, many of which are families with children.

The homeless count will be a one-day, point-in-time survey of families and individuals from throughout Colorado to determine what homelessness looks like across the state. The purpose of the count is to help state and local governments understand the causes of homelessness; to assist with statewide planning efforts and allocation of resources; and to create public awareness that homelessness is a statewide concern. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires a January count in order for Colorado to receive certain federal homeless prevention funds.

According to Ruth Ann Russell, Family Tree CEO, “Results from the statewide homeless count are essential to helping us better understand what homelessness looks like, not only in Jefferson County but also throughout the state.”

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 probably would be encountered, including soup kitchens, campgrounds and other service provider locations.

In addition to providing a head count of homeless persons, organizers will ask where the homeless individual or family stayed the previous night and, if possible, their age, gender and ethnicity.

Churches, doctors’ offices, educational or government institutions, and virtually any entity that comes in contact with those who are homeless should call Linda Barringer at Family Tree at (303) 422-2133, or Andy Thompson at Jeffco Action Center at (303) 237-7704, to provide statistical information about the homeless individuals with whom they come in contact. Any person needing homeless assistance may also call Family Tree or Jeffco Action Center at the numbers given above.

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