

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject: The San Joaquin Continuum of Care Seeks Volunteers to Participate in 2022 Point-in-Time Count**

A County-Wide Effort to Account for the Number of Unsheltered People Experiencing Homelessness

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The San Joaquin Continuum of Care (SJ CoC) is seeking at least 500 volunteers to help conduct the 2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, a bi-annual effort to account for the total number of unsheltered individuals that call San Joaquin County (SJC) home. In addition to being a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandate, the PIT Count provides vital unsheltered count data to help inform local strategies, planning and policies to address housing and homeless issues. Most importantly, obtaining an accurate count determines how much funding our community is eligible to receive from local, state and federal resources.

“The Point-in-Time Count is a great way for community members to be a part of creating solutions to address homelessness,” shares Adam Cheshire, Program Administrator for Homeless Initiatives in San Joaquin County. “By counting the number of unsheltered households in our community, we can determine the scope of the problem and the resources needed to get folks permanently off the streets in San Joaquin County.”

“The only way to obtain true and accurate PIT Count data is by having enough volunteers to canvass the county to reach out and account for every one of our unsheltered neighbors.” said Kristen Birtwhistle, CEO of the United Way of San Joaquin County, Co-Chair of the SJ CoC Board of Directors, and the PIT Count Planning Committee. Adding, “every city in SJC is rising up to help organize, promote and serve on a given day to help us advance the important work. Not only is PIT about counting homeless individuals, but it’s about showing the humanity of why we must reduce the numbers living on the streets and move people into housing.”

To volunteer for the PIT Count, people must meet the following criteria: be 18 years or older; complete a 30-minute orientation prior to the day of the count; and commit to a three- to four-hour volunteer shift during one of the PIT Count events.

#### 2022 PIT Count Event Dates and Command Centers:

- January 25 — Manteca City Hall, 6 am – 5 pm
- January 26 — Gravity Church, Lodi, 7 am – 1 pm
- January 27 — Tracy City Hall & Tracy Community Connections Center, 6 am – 5 pm
- January 31 — Stockton Civic Auditorium & Alliance Church, Stockton, 6 am – 5 pm

Volunteers can sign up and learn more by visiting <https://bit.ly/PITcount2022>. Registrations will close on 1/14/2022.

There are several volunteer opportunities beyond canvassing, individuals can help by raising awareness and recruiting other volunteers to participate in the #2022SJPITCrew via social media or by simply texting PIT to 40403 (message and data rates may apply); assist with set-up, registration, incentives distribution, clean-up and other operations at the command centers, and [donate funds](#) to support the purchase of outreach engagement items such as socks, travel size hygiene products and pre-packaged snacks. For more information, volunteers can call Kristen Birtwhistle at 209-642-0725.

#### **About the San Joaquin Continuum of Care**

The SJ CoC provides leadership and effective stewardship of resources, as well as facilitates community planning, design and implementation of programs critical to ending homelessness in San Joaquin County. The SJ CoC is a volunteer-led and driven collaborative of government, non-profit homeless housing and service providers, and other community agencies as well as general community members committed to increasing public awareness, promoting programs and services, and informing strategies that address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin.

For more information about the San Joaquin Continuum of Care, visit <http://www.sanjoaquincoc.org/>.

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