



ECHO

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition

For Immediate Release
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Annual Austin/Travis County Homeless Count & Survey Needs Volunteers!

More Than 300 Total Volunteers Needed to Reach Goal

Austin, TX: The 2011 Austin/Travis County Homeless Count and Survey is in need of more than 300 volunteers to conduct a point-in-time estimate and survey of Austin's unsheltered individuals. This year's Count and Survey is scheduled for Sunday, January 23rd, 2011 at 1 pm, with a rain date scheduled for Jan 30th, 2011. The Count and Survey is organized by the Ending Community Homelessness Organization (ECHO), a coalition of local organizations, including Front Steps and Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC), that works to end homelessness in Austin.

The information gathered by volunteers during the 2011 Homeless Count and Survey is critical to ongoing efforts to end homelessness. It provides a measure for Austin to receive funds to help those living in public places move off the street into permanent housing, and local service providers need these invaluable statistics to design effective responses and measure their progress. By giving just one afternoon of time, volunteers can interact with each other and the community while helping to collect vital information that is used by local organizations to help homeless people leave the streets for a better life.

ECHO, the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, will train teams of volunteers to count the number of people living unsheltered in Travis County, as well as to conduct a brief survey of a portion of the people who are counted as homeless. Volunteers will be organized into groups, managed by trained leaders, and will spread out to canvass Austin's streets, parks, bridges, and other public spaces. This volunteer opportunity is a great way for hundreds of Austin and Travis County residents to work together to contribute to the fight against homelessness.

If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering, please visit www.traviscountyhomelesscount.org. If you have any questions, please email austinhomescount@gmail.com or call (512) 782-8733.

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ABOUT ECHO:

The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) is a coalition of organizations dedicated to planning, prioritizing, and developing strategies to end homelessness in Austin, TX. ECHO's mission is to provide dynamic, proactive leadership that engages policy makers and the community to end homelessness, and its vision is for a community fiercely focused on ending homelessness. The overall role of the ECHO is to identify specific strategies and to oversee ongoing planning efforts and implementation of the plan to end community homelessness.