



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday, January 25, 2023

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South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) Hosts its Annual Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

SAN ANTONIO (January 25, 2023) – The South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH), the local Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Agency, conducted the Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count for San Antonio/Bexar County on Tuesday, January 24, 2023. The PIT Count is an annual event that provides a snapshot of residents experiencing homelessness to help measure the community’s overall progress in ending homelessness. Information on previous PIT Counts can be found on the SARAH website at sarahomeless.org/reports-and-data.

Nearly 300 volunteers assembled into 72 teams dispersed throughout Bexar County to canvas their assigned geographical zones and survey individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

“[The PIT Count] is an opportunity to check on our unhoused neighbors. Some homelessness is visible, yet other times it is hidden in plain sight,” said Katie Vela, SARAH’s Executive Director. “One of the most important things we can remember is that people sleeping unsheltered are part of our community. They are human beings, each with a unique story, and are deserving of compassion, dignity, and our best effort.”

Large-scale community collaboration is essential to conduct an effective PIT Count. City of San Antonio Mayor, Ron Nirenberg, spoke on this collective effort. “The data we are collecting tonight will be critical, as it helps us to understand the numbers and demographics of who is experiencing homelessness in our community. The information...helps to shape our city, county, and federal priorities. It helps to ensure we are allocating funds in the proper manner and in the right programs. The factors that push people into homelessness are complex, and that includes housing...lack of access to healthcare, supportive services, and/or lacking access to the necessary treatment. San Antonio just passed, with the vote of the public, our first-ever Affordable Housing Bond. \$150 million is going to affordable housing, and a big chunk of that is in permanent supportive housing so that folks have the services that they need and a roof over their heads at the same time.” Katie and Mayor Nirenberg’s entire opening statements can be [viewed here](#).

Over the next several weeks, SARAH staff will prepare the data collected yesterday to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) before publishing the annual PIT Count Report for a special data release event in May. We will share an official date and



additional details as time progresses.

We want to give special recognition to the many organizations and agencies that made the 2023 PIT Count possible:

- Our event sponsor, USAA, for providing the necessary resources for a successful and safe event, as well as an accurate count
- Valero Energy for providing fuel cards to our volunteers to help cover the travel costs of surveying their zones
- H-E-B, for providing food and beverages at PIT Headquarters and snacks for the care packages given to our survey participants
- The San Antonio Food Bank for coordinating their volunteer team to assemble 1200 care packages and donating hand sanitizer and bottled water
- Christian Assistance Ministry, Corazón San Antonio, Grace Lutheran Church, and First Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use their facilities for our event
- The San Antonio Police Department and Bexar County Sheriff's Office for assigning an officer to each zone, keeping our volunteers safe, and helping to navigate the area
- The City of San Antonio for providing our surveying software, Outreach Grid, leading many of our teams with its Department of Human Services' street outreach team, and deploying two vans to offer shelter transportation
- Haven for Hope for also operating a shuttle and extending its intake hours for the night
- The PIT Count staff, volunteers, team leads, and our homeless service provider partners, who had staff serving as team leads and conducted counts of people in their shelters

For further comments, interview requests, or to learn more about the annual Point-in-Time Count, contact Billy Mahone, Senior Director of Strategic Planning & Partnerships for SARAH, at billymahone@sarahomeless.org. To stay abreast of the latest news across the Continuum of Care, [subscribe to SARAH's newsletter here](#).

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About SARAH: *The South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) exists to ensure everyone has a place to call home in San Antonio and Bexar County. As the region's Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency, SARAH secures and distributes funding for direct service providers in the housing and homeless community and provides guidance to improve policies and programs. We accomplish our mission by strengthening our coordinated system of care, promoting sustainable strategies, focusing on measurable impact, and advocating for people experiencing homelessness. For more information, visit sarahomeless.org.*