



**Help Hope Home**  
*Helping the Homeless in Southern Nevada*

## NEWS RELEASE

### COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

Clark County– Las Vegas– North Las Vegas– Henderson– Boulder City– Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition– U. S. Department of Veteran Affairs–Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services– Clark County School District– Las Vegas Metropolitan Police– North Las Vegas Police Department

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For Immediate Release

Monday, Jan. 29, 2007

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### **Media Invited to Cover First Wide Scale Regional Homeless Census**

During Overnight Hours on Tuesday and Wednesday

Organizers of the 2007 Winter Homeless Census are encouraging local media to cover the event this Tuesday and Wednesday, when local authorities will conduct the first person-by-person head count of the homeless throughout Southern Nevada.

Shannon West, regional homeless service coordinator for the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC), said the census will be conducted during the early morning hours of Jan. 30 and Jan. 31 with help from hundreds of screened and trained volunteers and homeless people.

“We’re still seeking volunteers willing to help us conduct our most thorough effort to date to count the homeless,” West said. “This count is a crucial step in getting an accurate count of the people who are out there so we can get the federal money we need to provide basic human service for the homeless.”

As of Friday, Jan. 26, West said more than 230 people have signed up to volunteer for the count. She said another 150 homeless people have agreed to participate. Any homeless person who participates in the census will be paid \$10 per hour for their efforts, West added.

More high-tech help is coming from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, which she said has offered to provide two police helicopters to help find and count homeless people, at least in outlying areas of Southern Nevada on Jan. 30.

Census organizers are seeking volunteers who have transportation and preferably a cell phone to participate in the counts. People living in outlying Clark County will be needed to help with counting the homeless in rural areas on the morning of **Tuesday, Jan. 30, between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m.** The homeless population in the urban core of Las Vegas will be counted during the early morning hours on **Wednesday, Jan. 31, between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.** Orientation sessions are being held to assign each volunteer to an area. However, West said last-minute volunteers are also welcome to arrive at Catholic Charities, 1501 Las Vegas Blvd. North, by 5 a.m. on Monday and 2 a.m. on Tuesday.

**Anyone wishing to volunteer to participate in the homeless census can call or email Michele Fuller-Hallauer, continuum of care coordinator at (702) 455-5188, [mhf@co.clark.nv.us](mailto:mhf@co.clark.nv.us), or visit [www.HelpHopeHome.org](http://www.HelpHopeHome.org).**

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### Homeless Census Media Information

- Who:** Hundreds of volunteers, local homeless people and supporters of the regional Help Hope Home initiative.
- What:** The first-ever regional Homeless Census, which is being administered by Applied Survey Research, a California-based company specializing in such projects.
- When:** Jan. 30 from 5 a.m. - 9 a.m.  
Jan. 31 from 2 a.m. - 6 a.m.
- Where:** Media are invited to meet organizers and volunteers as they gather before starting the census each night at Catholic Charities, 1501 Las Vegas Blvd. North .
- Homeless population estimates:** The local homeless population has been estimated at 14,500. That figure is based on a sampling of the homeless population rather than a person-by-person visual count. This number includes an increasing number of homeless veterans, families and children. In fact, the Clark County School District reports that more than 3,700 homeless children are enrolled in local schools.
- About Help Hope Home:** Help Hope Home is a regional effort to help the homeless in Southern Nevada. Local governments, service providers and others work together to seek volunteers, donations and in-kind services to help the homeless. Donations are directed to the Homeless Trust Fund, a not-for-profit account administered by the United Way of Southern Nevada. To volunteer, donate or learn more, call 455-5626 or visit [www.HelpHopeHome.org](http://www.HelpHopeHome.org).

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