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## **COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS READIES TO CONDUCT ANNUAL COUNT OF HOUSTONS' STREET COMMUNITY**

Houston, Texas (January 16, 2014) Staff and volunteers from [The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston and Harris County](#) will conduct its annual Homeless Count as the administrator for [Continuum of Care](#) on Thursday, January 23 from 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. The Homeless Count is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the local Continuum of Care (CoC) funding process, which brought more than \$25 million in FY2012 to homeless assistance programs in Houston, Harris and Fort Bend Counties. This funding provides permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and supportive services to our communities to assist homeless persons. More than 500 trained volunteers will depart from 10 staging points across the greater Houston area to count individuals, veterans, families and young people that live on the streets. A homeless service provider or former homeless person will anchor each team.

“In 2013, there were great strides made in housing homeless veterans and other individuals through collaborative efforts of Houston’s homeless service providers,” said Marilyn L. Brown, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition. “The 2013 Homeless Count provided our agencies with hard data about the characteristics of the area’s homeless community. In turn this helped our service providers develop assistance programs for people who are homeless. The 2014 Count will hopefully validate our common goal of working together as a system, rather than independent agencies operating on their own. We have a common goal to prevent and end homelessness, and we anticipate this Count

will collect more specific demographic information that will help us strengthen our existing programs.”

The **Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County** is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization that provides support to Houston area homeless service providers that work directly with the homeless. The Coalition provides its agency clients with research about Houston’s homeless population; advocates on behalf of homeless individuals; and supports service providers with a myriad of programs including the annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count; the management of a database of homeless people, Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS); Homeless Court and other support programs. The Coalition works collaboratively with homeless service providers to shape the community response to homelessness in Houston and Harris County. For more information about the Coalition’s efforts, visit [www.homelesshouston.org](http://www.homelesshouston.org).

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