



United Way
Manitowoc County, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way Seeking Volunteers for Manitowoc County Homelessness Count

Manitowoc, Wisconsin (January 11, 2023) United Way Manitowoc County is seeking volunteers to assist in conducting the Point-in-Time Homelessness Count on January 25 and 26. Two shifts are available: 11:00pm-1:00am and 4:00-6:00am.

Have you ever wondered how many people in Manitowoc County lack a safe place to sleep at night? Most of the time, we may think that homelessness is a problem affecting only metro areas, but the reality might surprise you. "We are seeing historic numbers on wait lists at all of our shelters, at times 15+ people deep," states Michael Etheridge, Executive Director of The Haven of Manitowoc County. The new Warming Shelter in Manitowoc provides some respite for these individuals by providing overnight shelter January through March.

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is an overnight street and known location count of people experiencing homelessness. PIT Counts, conducted twice annually, create a snapshot of what homelessness looks like in a neighborhood, city or state. Results help establish future homelessness reduction programs, funding, and other supports. Teams of volunteers are assigned to areas, looking for anyone unsheltered and providing referrals to supportive services. Volunteers also provide kits with personal hygiene items and food/beverage gift cards.

The data collected through the PIT Count is reported to the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) that is provided to the U.S. Congress. Homeless information is also reported to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development and is utilized to develop the Housing Inventory Chart for the Balance of State Continuum of Care.

Interested volunteers are asked to sign up at unitedwaymanitowoccounty.org and also attend a volunteer training to prepare for the Count on January 23 from 8:30-9:30am at United Way. If you have any questions about this volunteer opportunity, please check out the PIT Count Volunteer FAQs on our website or give us a call at 920.682.8888.

Businesses and individuals can also get involved by donating vouchers or gift cards. To learn more, call United Way at 920.682.8888.

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United Way Manitowoc County: United Way Manitowoc County envisions a community where all people achieve their human potential. United Way's mission is to improve lives by mobilizing

the caring power of others throughout Manitowoc County. For additional information, visit www.unitedwaymanitowocounty.org or call (920) 682-8888.