



United Way
Manitowoc County, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

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Volunteers Needed for the Winter 2024 Homelessness Count

Manitowoc, Wisconsin (January 8, 2024) Volunteers are needed to assist in conducting the Point-in-Time (PIT) Homelessness Count on January 24 and 25, 2024. Two shifts are available: 11:00pm-1:00am and 4:00am-6:00am. During this event community volunteers go out in 2-hour shifts and search for individuals who might be sleeping unsheltered in an effort to connect those individuals to resources.

This PIT event is part of the Housing Coalition of Manitowoc County's efforts in partnership with the Lakeshore Continuum of Care to combat homelessness. "As our community sees more and more individuals and families experience housing insecurities, events like the PIT Count are very important for several reasons," said Ashley Bender, Executive Director, United Way Manitowoc County. "The data we collect helps the Housing Coalition make informed decisions and bring meaningful solutions to our community. This is also an opportunity to let those experiencing homelessness know we care about them and that their well-being is important to us."

The 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 throughout the county looking for anyone unsheltered and providing referrals and resources to supportive services.

The data collected through the PIT Count is compiled in the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) and is provided to the U.S. Congress. Homelessness 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 can sign up at <https://forms.gle/sT3hF5JcXt8qz7qv6>. A volunteer training to prepare for the Count will be held on 1/17/24 at 5:30pm. For more information call United Way Manitowoc County at 920-682-8888 or Lakeshore CAP at 920-803-6991.

Can't volunteer but want to get involved? Consider donating \$10 vouchers or gift cards for volunteer teams to hand out. To learn more about what's needed, 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.unitedwaymanitowoccounty.org or call (920) 682-8888.