

MEDIA RELEASE

COUNT, UNDERSTAND, AND ADVOCATE

2020 Homeless Count in South Whittier

South Whittier, January 23, 2020 – Yesterday, the Community Resource Center (CRC) teamed up with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and local volunteers to conduct the 2020 Homeless Count in South Whittier/East County communities. The CRC served as a site to train volunteers and strategize over the routes for the evening.

Every year, individuals experiencing homelessness are counted in communities throughout the Los Angeles County. With the CRC as a host location for the 2020 Homeless Count, LAHSA can get a better snapshot of the homelessness issue for the southeast region of the County. The CRC provides resources and health care services for the community, which assist homeless neighbors facing the challenge of obtaining basic needs. The CRC's involvement in the homeless count will also help staff better serve the unsheltered population in the area.



Emilio Salas, Acting Executive Director, said, “The Greater Los Angeles Count is not only known for being the largest in the nation, but it demonstrates the collective concern of the homeless issue in Los Angeles County. For three consecutive days, January 21-23, community members volunteer to canvass neighborhoods, sometimes as late as 12:00 a.m., and document each visual count. Every count is a concern for the LACDA.”



Before navigating through assigned neighborhoods, groups of volunteers received direction from Whittier First Day, a local non-profit dedicated to guiding at-risk individuals and persons experiencing homelessness to self-sufficiency. Volunteers searched for specific precincts for individuals experiencing homelessness. The outreach efforts of the volunteers assisted in identifying a more accurate number of unsheltered individuals, which help determine resources needed to

combat the homelessness crisis. “The annual Homeless Count is a critical tool to gauge the progress we are making, bringing people indoors and determine best strategies for the work ahead of us. I want to thank the community members who volunteered their time to be part of this year’s count and help make it as accurate as possible,” said Supervisor Janice Hahn.

The CRC is located at 10750 Laurel Avenue in South Whittier. For information on services provided by the CRC, please call (562) 946-2425, or visit the website at www.swcrc.org. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, LACDA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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