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PRESS RELEASE

Joanie Covert, CoC Coordinator
Saginaw County Consortium of Homeless Assistance Providers
(989) 776-0570
jcovert@unitedwaysaginaw.org
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Saginaw County agencies to count the local homeless population

SAGINAW, Mich., On Wednesday, January 25, homeless shelters and service providers in Saginaw County will participate in a county-wide “Point In Time” count of homeless persons. Agencies involved in the effort are members of the Saginaw County Consortium of Homeless Assistance Providers (SCCHAP) and other partner agencies.

The 2017 Point In Time Count will be executed by two teams. The first team will participate in a day count between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The second team will count between 7 and 10 p.m.

SCCHAP is charged with assessing the need for services and shelters to assist the homeless. The information which will be collected by the agencies is required for both federal and state grant applications which fund emergency shelters and support services. The information is used by HUD to report to Congress and to determine regional allocations of homeless funding. Annually, SCCHAP’s efforts result in **bringing more than \$2 million dollars into Saginaw County** to end homelessness.

The agencies will count both homeless persons in shelters and homeless persons who are living in places not fit for habitation such as outdoors or in abandoned buildings. Outreach workers will be stationed at soup kitchens and other locations where homeless persons are known to find shelter. They have requested the assistance of Saginaw law enforcement providers to report locations where homeless persons have been seen as well as provide support for outreach volunteers. The count will be limited to the times listed above on January 25 in order to ensure a unique count.

SCCHAP member and community partner agencies participating in the census effort include: Lions of District 11 D-1, SVRC, Emmaus House, Innerlink, Mustard Seed House, Restoration Community Outreach, Saginaw City Rescue Mission, Saginaw County Community Mental Health, Youth Protection Council, Underground Railroad, United Way, empower, Great Lakes Bay Health Center, South Colony Apartments and the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center. For more information about SCCHAP contact United Way of Saginaw County at (989) 755-0505 or go to www.scchap.org.