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Contact: Meredith Tanzer or Monica DuPea

Telephone number: 775.830.0920 or 775.240.2195

E-mail address: meredith@ourcenterreno.org

Web site: <https://www.facebook.com/HomelessYouthCount>

Point In Time Homeless Youth Count

Homeless teens and young adults to be counted in Reno on Jan 26th for 24 hours.

Reno, NV – Build Our Center and Nevada Youth Empowerment Project want to know how many homeless youths there are on Reno’s streets. The non-profit agencies are coordinating the 24-hour “2017 Homeless Youth Point in Time Count” beginning at 12:01am **Jan. 26th** at the West Street Plaza, or “The Circle”, which is located at 1st and West Streets next to The Jungle. It is the sixth year for the count of young people, ages 18 to 24. Last year, we counted 99 young people, 75 in 2015, 44 in 2014 and 61 in 2013. Our goal is survey 130 young people this year.

“Young people have different needs” said Monica DuPea, executive director of Nevada Youth Empowerment Project. “We are dedicated to highlighting the problem and working towards a better future for them.”

In addition to counting young people, ages 18 to 24, hot meals, services, winter coats and supplies will be provided. Each young person that gets counted will receive a bag filled with hygiene products, toiletries and necessities. Tents, blankets, backpacks and sleeping bags also will be available. Hot meals will be served by community volunteers at the *First United Methodist Church*.

We also partner with other organizations to provide resources, services and necessities such as The Food Bank of Northern Nevada, and Northern Nevada Hopes. Financial Sponsors include: CFWN High School Giving Circle, Reno Rotary, Sierra Association of Foster Families, Youth City Council, Spectrum and Stacie & Chuck Mathewson as well as contributions from NYEP and BOC.

“No kid chooses to live in the streets,” DuPea said. “They don't need your spare change, they need a chance.” We are up 80% in the number of young people we have counted on the streets. We need to get serious about this underserved population before they become part of the long term problem. “

The Department of Housing and Urban Development mandates a survey of homeless people every year. It is especially difficult to reach these transition-age homeless youth, the ones she calls “invisible.” The collected data will be used to develop and fund housing and supportive programs for those in need.

“We need to help create the alternative for these young people. We are one of the few counties that operates a Youth Count...we know we are reaching a group of people that tends to get overlooked. Where is the housing? Where are the outcomes for providers serving youth. Let’s do more. Let’s look at programs that work and implement those.” said Meredith Tanzer, Build Our Center. “4 in 10 Homeless Kids report being LGBT and that translates into 48% of adults who are homeless that identify that way.”

Nevada Youth Empowerment Project is a Reno-based nonprofit whose mission is to provide residential and out-patient programming and education to prepare willing older youth for independent self-sufficient living.

For more information, contact DuPea at monica.nyep@gmail.com, 775-240-2195.

Build Our Center is a non-profit organization working to build, connect, and strengthen community and its support for LGBTQA issues in Northern Nevada, with the goal of building a community enter.

For more information, contact Meredith Tanzer at Meredith@ourcenterreno.org , 775.830.0920.

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Volunteer Signups : <http://signup.com/go/puXLQ8>

Amazon Wish List: <http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/25S57TC7H4QXQ>

Donations can be dropped off at Our Center – 1745 S. Wells Ave.