

Press Release

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**ANNUAL HOMELESS COUNT HELD ON JANUARY 29 AT EASTERN IDAHO TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

Idaho Falls, Idaho, Jan. 17, 2011 - On Saturday, January 29, 2011 from 10AM to 2PM community volunteers will hold the annual Homeless Stand down at the EITC Building 6, Healthcare Education Building. This point-in-time count is for anyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness. This includes individuals and families that are precariously housed, struggling to remain in a housing situation or who are already doubled-up with other families or individuals.

Local volunteers use this opportunity to reach out to the homeless and offer immunizations, EITC/ISU students provide health and dental services, and community well as housing information such as utility help, food resources, and rent assistance for those at risk of homelessness. MarDee Harper, Executive Director of CLUB, Inc. says "this is a wonderful opportunity for us to reach out to the homeless in our community and connect others to services that can prevent them from becoming homeless".

There are additional supplies and services reserved for homeless individuals that can document their status as veterans. The Veterans Administration estimates that more than 131,000 veterans and their families are without homes. This homeless count is an opportunity to reach that population and connect them with services available.

This count is used by the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to make funding decisions for homeless services as well as to provide Congress with information on services and gaps in services. This information is also used to determine the scope of the homeless problem in our community.

Community members can donate gloves, coats, blankets, sleeping bags or easily transported food items at Sam's Club in Idaho Falls. The donated items will be distributed at the January 29<sup>th</sup> event.

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