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January 31, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF GUAM’S POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT RELEASED

On Friday, January 25, Guam took part in the Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count, an unduplicated count on a single day of homeless individuals and families in sheltered and unsheltered locations.

The PIT Count is an annual project of the Guam Homeless Coalition and is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This year, the Guam Department of Education served as the lead agency in coordinating the PIT Count in partnership with the various members of the Guam Homeless Coalition (GHC) which includes both government and non-government agencies. In total, over 250 volunteers counted and surveyed individuals in emergency shelters and unsheltered locations such as beaches, parks and other public places.

The PIT Count offers a “snapshot” of homelessness on Guam by providing the *minimum* number of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness in our community. These are individuals or families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- Sheltered - “living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements”
- Unsheltered - “with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings”

Preliminary data from the 2019 PIT Count indicates an increase in the number of identified persons.

Point-In-Time Count Statistics			
Total Identified	2017	2018	2019 Preliminary Data
Persons	852	854	873
Households	259	265	300
Unsheltered Persons	765	727	765
Sheltered Persons	87	127	108

Analysis of the survey results will improve our understanding of the needs and circumstances of people affected by homelessness in our community. We will gain key data on aspects such as gender, age, and veteran status as well as gather information needed to assess their housing, health care and social needs. This will then be used by the GHC to inform their strategic plan to address homelessness on Guam and referenced in developing programs and facilities to assist the homeless population.

“We are overwhelmed by the support from volunteers, our GHC member organizations, the children and families in our public schools who contributed to the DOE food drive, as well as the many sponsors who donated items for distribution to the identified homeless persons and to support our volunteers. Though the count is behind us, our job is not finished. Over the coming weeks we will review the surveys, analyze the data and compile the results. Once the final report is complete, it will be time review our strategic plan and to take action on what we’ve learned. On behalf of our community, I would like to thank everyone for their time, effort and commitment to Guam’s 2019 Point-in-Time Count. I would especially like to thank those that participated in the survey and shared their experiences. It is with this level of collaboration and dedication that we will see an end to homelessness in Guam.”

– Angelina Cruz, GHC Chairperson / 2019 PIT Count Coordinator

For additional information, contact Angelina Cruz at amscruz@gdoe.net or by phone at 300-1588 or Amor Say at amsay@ghura.org or by phone at 475-1406.

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