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**2014 STATE OF HOMELESSNESS REPORT REVEALS THE COMPLEXITY
OF OUR LOCAL HOMELESS ISSUE**

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO (JUNE 13, 2014) During the last week in January 2014, Pikes Peak United Way, in collaboration with the Governing Board of the Continuum of Care and the City of Colorado Springs, surveyed people in emergency shelters, transitional housing projects plus those considered unsheltered as part of The Point In Time Study - an annual measurement of homelessness in Colorado Springs and in cities throughout the nation.

Additional research collected from school districts as well as from local providers expanded the data available, contributing to the 2014 State of Homelessness Report made available today.

In this report, the homeless are defined as individuals who do not have a permanent residence: people who live in emergency shelters, transitional housing and campers or who dwell in places not meant for human habitation.

Regarding the report, outcomes were both predictable and enlightening; all findings confirm the complexity of the issue.

Of the 1,219 total individuals counted as homeless, an increase of 4% over the previous year:

- 70% of the unsheltered reported their last permanent address as El Paso County, dispelling the myth that the majority of our homeless are transient.
- Approximately one-third of the people were in households with children
- 10% were youth and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24

- 21% of the individuals were children under the age of 18
- 12% were veterans
- 64% of those counted were male and 36% female
- 74% self-identified as White, 16% Black/African American and 10% other racial categories
- 269 people were unsheltered or 39 more than last year. We had fewer emergency shelter beds this year due to closures and no open beds for men.
- And lastly, 62% of the unsheltered would be considered chronically homeless. This is about 13% higher than last year.

The question remains, is there enough housing? The answer is no.

According to the 2014 City of Colorado Springs Affordable Housing Needs Assessment, there are only 16 affordable and available housing units for every 100 people who make less than \$17,250/year. In addition, the Colorado Springs Housing Authority cites a total of 6,469 households waiting for affordable housing as of March of this year.

Having an adequate number of beds for people experiencing homelessness in our community also remains an issue, as we are currently near full capacity. Of the 1616 total beds across all categories, 95% were filled on the night of January 26, 2014 - most openings due to timing, turnover, or staffing shortages.

In closing, although this report underscores the complexities and needs of the homeless, it is still important to remember that the data reported likewise supports approximately \$2.2 million in funding from HUD's Continuum Of Care program and \$4.2 million from additional federal sources, and that it is used by the Continuum of Care and local service providers to identify priorities and seek additional funding.