



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless Hosts Annual Point-in-Time Count for First Time in Two Years**

**SAN ANTONIO (March 2, 2022)** – The South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH), the local Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Agency, conducted the Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count for San Antonio/Bexar County on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The PIT Count is an annual event that provides a snapshot of residents experiencing homelessness to help measure the community’s overall progress in ending homelessness. Information on previous PIT Counts can be found on the SARAH website at [sarahomeless.org/reports-and-data](http://sarahomeless.org/reports-and-data).

Over 70 teams of volunteers assembled throughout Bexar County in their assigned geographical zones to document and survey individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

“[The PIT Count] is a chance for our community to connect with our unhoused neighbors to better understand the issue of homelessness,” said Katie Vela, SARAH’s Executive Director. “It’s also an opportunity to meet people where they are, to build trust and connection.”

Large-scale community collaboration is essential to conduct an effective Homeless PIT Count. The City of San Antonio’s Chief Housing Officer, Mark Carmona, spoke on this collective work. “The PIT Count is truly a demonstration of the power of collaboratives. So many people worked together to coordinate this momentous effort, and afterward, many SARAH staff will be working hard to give us the data we need to continue our forward progress. Regardless of what the number is, we know it is just a symptom of a problem it takes all of us to solve.” Katie and Mark’s entire opening statements can be [viewed here](#).

Over the next several weeks, SARAH staff will prepare the data collected yesterday to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) before publishing the annual PIT Count Report for a special data release event on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. We will share additional details as the date approaches.

We want to give special recognition to the many organizations and agencies that made the 2022 PIT Count possible:

- Our event sponsor, USAA, for providing the necessary resources for a successful and safe event, as well as an accurate count



Alliance to House Everyone

- Valero Energy for providing fuel cards to our volunteers to help cover the travel costs of surveying their zones
- Christian Assistance Ministry and Corazón San Antonio for allowing us to use their facilities for PIT Headquarters
- The San Antonio Police Department and Bexar County Sheriff's Office for assigning an officer to each zone, keeping our volunteers safe, and helping to navigate the area
- The City of San Antonio for furnishing a new surveying software, Outreach Grid, and for many Department of Human Services outreach workers leading volunteer teams
- The local Department of Veterans Affairs office for leading many teams and organizing an encampment count this morning
- Haven for Hope for assembling care packages and offering transportation to shelter
- The PIT Count staff, volunteers, team leads, and our homeless service provider partners that had staff serving as team leads and conducted counts of people in their shelters

For further comments, interview requests, or to learn more about the annual Point-in-Time Count, contact Hope Jenkins, Communications Coordinator for SARAH, at [hopejenkins@sarahomeless.org](mailto:hopejenkins@sarahomeless.org). To stay abreast of the latest news across the Continuum of Care, [subscribe to SARAH's newsletter here](#).

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**About SARAH:** *The South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) exists to ensure everyone has a place to call home in San Antonio and Bexar County. As the region's Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency, SARAH secures and distributes funding for direct service providers in the housing and homeless community and provides guidance to improve policies and programs. We accomplish our mission by strengthening our coordinated system of care, promoting sustainable strategies, focusing on measurable impact, and advocating for people experiencing homelessness. For more information, visit [sarahomeless.org](http://sarahomeless.org).*

**South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless**

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