

**Media:**

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**“Homeless Census,” the Point-in-Time Count to be Conducted  
Across Arlington, Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Wednesday, January 30<sup>h</sup>, from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., A-SPAN (Arlington Street People’s Assistance Network) will be leading teams of staff and volunteers in the 2013 Point-in-Time Count, an annual census of homeless persons in Arlington County. This local count is part of a nation-wide count that occurs during the last ten days in January in order to collect accurate data, understand trends, justify requests for federal funding, and measure community progress towards preventing and ending homelessness.

“In this ‘great recession,’ the number of homeless people in Arlington has actually been trending downward for the last three years. Arlington nonprofits and the county have done a great job of connecting people with housing; and we hope this year’s count will be even lower now that the 100 Homes Campaign has already housed 47 homeless adults” shared Kathleen Sibert, A-SPAN’s Executive Director. The 2012 PIT Count yielded a total of 451 persons counted as homeless in Arlington. This is a 14% decrease from 2009. During that same time period, homelessness across the Greater DC area fell 1.3% from 11,982 persons counted in 2009 to 11,830 counted in 2012.

“Survey questions go beyond headcounts and ask about instances of domestic abuse, veteran status, and disabilities in order to learn more about the specific homeless population in Arlington and what resources are needed,” said Sibert.

Teams will visit areas frequented by homeless individuals including metro stations, parks, malls, and meal serving sites throughout the day and evening. Indoor meeting places for the count will be held during the day at SEEC (Shirlington Employment & Education Center), Central United Methodist Church (CUMC), Arlington Temple United Methodist Church, St. George’s Episcopal Church, A-SPAN’s Opportunity Place, and at the Arlington County Emergency Winter Shelter (EWS). Meals will be served at the indoor locations in order to encourage participation. A-SPAN’s Opportunity Place location will open early to accommodate this count. Staff members will also be distributing hygiene kits and socks donated by Marymount Women’s Basketball team.

A-SPAN provides life-sustaining services for Arlington’s homeless, which include daily street outreach, drop-in services such as showers, laundry, and food, and a bagged meal program serving up to 80 individuals 365 days a year. A-SPAN operates the Arlington County Emergency Winter Shelter from November 1- March 31. A-SPAN offers a wide variety of housing opportunities with case management services through the Permanent Supportive Housing Program and the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program.

Please call or email Jan-Michael Sacharko, Director of Development & Communications, with questions.

For more details on A-SPAN visit: <http://www.a-span.org>

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