EveryOne Counts! 2015:
Alameda County's Homeless Persons Point-in-Time Count

When: Thursday, January 29, 2015. 1:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Who: Everyone Home, leading Alameda County's efforts to reduce and end homelessness by 2020)

              Over 350 Volunteer Interviewers

Where: 39 service programs throughout the county

Media inquiries to: Elaine de Coligny at (510) 786-7892 (mobile) or email at edecoligny@everyonehome.org. On January 29, 2015, Alameda County will once again count the number of people experiencing homelessness throughout the community. EveryOne Counts! 2015, the Alameda Countywide Point-In Time Count, is conducted once every two years to produce "point-in-time" estimates and population data of the County's most vulnerable residents. The enumeration, required by federal funders and used extensively locally, provides an updated and more accurate understanding of homeless demographics and trends.

Starting at 1:00 a.m. and continuing until 9:00 p.m., over 350 volunteers will interview people being assisted at 39 locations including hot meal programs, food pantries, drop-in centers and street outreach services across the County. The goal of the community-wide effort is to interview over 2,500 residents and provide reliable data on our progress reducing and ending homelessness in Alameda County. Volunteers talk to veterans, parents, youth, and seniors all of whom need a safe, permanent place to call home.

"These conversations with members of our community who rely upon safety net services provided by our county, cities and community based organizations are crucial," notes Alameda County Supervisor, Keith Carson. "Our approach of interviewing each person we count puts a human face to numbers, especially for people who don't work in the field, and gives us vital perspective on how to improve our services from the people who use them. I am especially pleased that over one quarter of the volunteers for the Count are Alameda County government employees, giving of their personal time to help out."

"This massive undertaking gives those of us working to end homelessness vital information about who is homeless, how their needs are changing, and a sense of the impact our efforts are making," adds Elaine de Coligny, Executive Director of EveryOne Home (the organization leading the effort in Alameda County to end homelessness by 2020). "Our work has focused on getting the most vulnerable chronically homeless off the streets and into permanent housing as well as rapidly re-housing those who lost housing in the prolonged recession. The data from EveryOne Counts! 2015 will tell us if we are moving the needle on this long-standing problem" de Coligny points out.

EveryOne Counts! 2015 data will be available in the summer of 2015. The 2013 Point-In-Time Count estimated 4,264 persons were homeless on a night in January, 2,337 of them without shelter. To review the 2013 Homeless Count data findings and for more information, go to www.everyonehome.org.