



MEMO

COMMISSION AGENDA:

11.18.14 #34

TO: Members, Pinellas County Commission

FROM: Karen Williams Seel, Chair *KWS*
Pinellas County Commission

CC: Mark Woodard, County Administrator
Jim Bennett, County Attorney

RE: Volunteer Opportunities

DATE: November 18, 2014

The attached are upcoming volunteer activities for discussion.



Volunteers and sponsors now being accepted for annual Holiday Lights in the Gardens

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation is now accepting volunteers and sponsors for this year's Holiday Lights in the Gardens. The annual community holiday celebration opens on **Friday, Nov. 28**, and is open nightly from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. through Wednesday, Dec. 31.

The event is the largest fundraiser for the gardens and depends on volunteers, sponsors and donations to reduce the cost of offering this holiday tradition in Pinellas County. More than 450 volunteers and generous sponsor donations made last year's Holiday Lights a success.

Volunteers are needed every night to greet guests and sell products from the foundation's gift cart. Volunteering is a great way to feel the joy of the holiday season by being part of the revelry that brings out the best of the gardens. Volunteers may work just one night or as many as they would like. No experience is necessary and training will be provided.

The foundation is also looking for volunteer entertainers. Each year volunteers provide a wide variety of exceptional entertainment that includes musicians, dancers, jugglers, choirs, magicians and vocalists.

Sponsors for light displays and notable areas of the gardens are also needed. Among the many benefits, sponsors enjoy recognition from more than 70,000 visitors strolling through the gardens. Sponsors are acknowledged through signage, nightly playbills and press coverage. Depending on the area and length of time, sponsorship costs start at \$250, with title sponsors starting at \$10,000.

All proceeds from the Holiday Lights go directly back into the community garden, helping grow a world-class botanical garden in Pinellas County.

For information on how to become a foundation member, volunteer or a 2014 sponsor, call the foundation office at (727) 582-2117 or send an e-mail to flbgfoundation@gmail.com.

The Florida Botanical Gardens is located at 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo, with an alternate entrance at 12211 Walsingham Road. The gardens are open from 7 a.m. until dusk every day. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.flbg.org or call (727) 582-2100.

Connect with Pinellas County government services and programs with LiveChat, on www.pinellascounty.org or www.pinellascounty.org/mobile, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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JOIN THE SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN

MONDAY—SATURDAY

November 14—December 24

LOCATIONS ACROSS UPPER PINELLAS COUNTY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED | 10:00 A.M.—8:00 P.M.

Visit the **VOLUNTEER** section of
www.SalvationArmyClearwater.org to select a location!

Questions?

Contact Jerry Stickney | 727-725-9777 x 104 | Jerry_Stickney@uss.salvationarmy.org



ALL FUNDS RAISED HELP LOCAL PEOPLE IN NEED!

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2015 Point in Time Count and Survey

The Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board Annual Countywide 2015 Point In Time (PIT) Count and Survey Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a way to help your community?

Surveying Pinellas County is a large job. We need some dedicated volunteers to help count and survey homeless families and individuals, and there are many ways to get involved with the **2015 Homeless Count and Survey**. The count and survey takes place on **Thursday, January 29th, 2015** and is an all-day event.

How does the Homeless Count and Survey help?

The Homeless Count and Survey helps identify how many people are homeless or about to become homeless in Pinellas County. This data is important to assist homeless families and individuals obtain stable housing. This information is critical to bring in federal dollars with the goal to help end homelessness. The data also helps bring needed resources to help the homeless or those individuals, children and families on the verge of homelessness.

What kind of information is collected during the Count and Survey?

Data collected includes: age, race, ethnicity, family and veteran status, health problems, why and where they became homeless, how many times and how long they have been homeless, and much more.

Who will be Counted and Surveyed?

The **2015 Homeless Count and Survey** will survey people who are homeless according to the federal and/or state definitions of homeless persons:

- *People living on the streets, in cars, in the woods and other places not meant for human habitation;*
- *People living in emergency and transitional shelters;*
- *People living 'doubled-up' with family and friends because they lack the resources to obtain their own housing; and,*
- *People living in motels/hotels because they lack the resources to obtain their own permanent housing.*



2015 Point in Time Count and Survey

How can I help?

There are numerous volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups.

*** Please note all volunteers will be required to attend a mandatory Pre-Count Training.**

Adopt an Area: Groups and faith communities that work with homeless people, neighborhood associations that want to help their homeless neighbors and any other group looking for ways to help can "Adopt an Area" to conduct the count and survey.

Be a Team Leader: (Outdoors) Volunteers are needed to lead for the counting/surveying teams. These volunteers will:

- act as spokesperson for the team;
- meet with the team prior to beginning the count and survey to go over the final instructions;
- review data collection form procedures and answer any questions/concerns from the team; and
- be responsible for tallying all homeless **individuals observed**, but **not surveyed**, while working their assigned areas.

Be a "Counter/Surveyor": (Outdoors) Volunteers are needed to canvass the County in 2- 3 hour shifts on January 29th, 2015. Volunteers work in 3-4 person teams, canvass a designated area and survey the homeless people they encounter. Each team will have at least one person who has experience doing the count and survey. These areas may include:

- day labor locations;
- wooded areas;
- gas stations and convenience stores; and,
- alleys and other places homeless people are known to gather.

Volunteers may also assist in conducting the count at locations where homeless people receive services.

Be a Collection Center Volunteer: (Indoors) Volunteers are needed to be stationed at one of the centers in the county, and will be responsible for:

- checking the field teams in and out;
- dispensing supplies;
- maintaining phone contact with teams to answer any questions; and,
- addressing any other issues that may arise during the Count and Survey.



2015 Point in Time Count and Survey

Data Quality Assurance Volunteer: (Outdoors or Indoors) Volunteers will be needed to work with the "Counting Teams" to review the surveys for completeness and accuracy. These volunteers will also be utilized at the Collection Centers, in the event we don't have enough volunteers to accompany each team.

Be a Support Volunteer: (Outdoors or Indoors) Many volunteers will be needed prior to the count in order to help with projects like pre-packing field team supplies and incentives for the homeless clients; and, coordinating pick-up and distribution of supplies at the Collection Centers.

Become a Sponsor: Sponsors are needed to offset the costs of the T-Shirts, incentives and printing costs.

When will the Pre-Count Trainings be held?

This data collected during the Count and Survey is used to sustain and increase funding for much need services for the homeless populations. It is also used by funders and planners to identify gaps in services. In order to ensure the best quality of the data we collect, **all volunteers will have to attend a mandatory training.** Numerous trainings will be scheduled beginning in January. The training will be scheduled on a variety of days and times. For "Adopt an Area" groups or other large groups, we can arrange for additional trainings at your location.

How old do you have to be to volunteer for the Count?

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. An opportunity for youth under the age of 18 to participate is to help organize a collection of socks and rain ponchos at their schools, youth groups, Boys and Girls Scout Troops, with their sports/dance teams, in their neighborhood or any other group in which they participate.

For more information and to receive an application for the **2015 Homeless Count and Survey**, please contact Susan Finlaw-Dusseault:

Phone: 727.528.5832 or email susanf@pinellashomeless.org.