



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK 2014

LANSING, Michigan – Governor Rick Snyder has designated November 15-23, 2014 as Homeless Awareness Week (HAW) for the state of Michigan.

The observance is a statewide initiative to educate the public about the widely misunderstood issue of homelessness and to recognize the diligent work performed by local service providers to bring relief to those in need. Homelessness affects every community – all age groups, ethnic groups, racial groups, and families with children as well as individuals.

In 2013, Michigan's annual homeless count was 92,341 people. Nearly half of those individuals (42%) experienced homelessness for the first time. More than 115,000 individuals and families who were homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless received services from a wide range of agencies during that same period. This success can be attributed to new, expanded, and improved programming, as well as enhanced coordination at the local level where stakeholders are working toward long-term solutions.

The Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH) is the lead agency behind this statewide observance. MCAH, a statewide, non-profit agency is dedicated to creating a sustainable, statewide voice and the infrastructure and systemic change needed to empower communities to end homelessness. For more information about MCAH, this observance, or the issue of homelessness can visit MCAH's website at www.mihomeless.org.

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