

# UNEXPECTED FACES UNEXPECTED PLACES



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the 2009 Homeless PIT Count?**

The 2009 Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count is a comprehensive street and service-based enumeration process designed to identify how many people are homeless in Hillsborough County at a given point-in-time.

### **When will the Homeless PIT Count take place?**

The 2009 Homeless Count will be conducted on Thursday, February 26, 2009. Planning and organizing activities will take place throughout the months of December 2008 thru February 2009.

### **Where will the Homeless PIT Count be conducted?**

The 2009 Homeless PIT will be conducted on the streets, locations where homeless individuals can be found, and at service provider locations in every city, school district and unincorporated area in Hillsborough County.

### **Who will be counted in the Homeless PIT Count?**

Persons that will be counted will be those individuals and members of families that are considered homeless on the day of the count based on the definition of homelessness provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD provides the following definition of homelessness: A person is considered homeless only when he/she resides in one of the places described below: a) in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings; and b) in an emergency shelter; c) in transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelter.

### **Why are we doing a Homeless PIT Count?**

We have undertaken this project to obtain an unduplicated count of homeless individuals and families in Hillsborough County at a given point in time in order to help us better understand the nature and extent of the current trends in homelessness in our communities. The completion of the 2009 Homeless PIT Count will provide us with a battery of information that will serve as the basis for: a) responding to the unmet needs and gaps in services for homeless individuals and families in Hillsborough County; and b) help in developing local community and County-wide strategies to meet the goal of ending homelessness.

### **Who is organizing the 2009 Homeless PIT Count?**

The Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County is organizing the 2009 Homeless Project. The Homeless Coalition has successfully conducted homeless PIT projects. The Homeless Coalition will also utilize volunteers and the local social service community to carry out the count.

### **Who can volunteer for the 2009 Homeless PIT Count?**

The Homeless Coalition is working with the Community to raise an army of volunteers adequate to ensure the count is thoroughly conducted throughout the County. Community Key Informants and other volunteers are needed from every community, including representatives of local government, social service agencies, outreach programs, law enforcement, school districts, faith-based institutions, business and neighborhood associations, community service organizations, currently and formerly homeless individuals and others, who will help identify service providers and street locations where homeless people can be found in their communities and who will help recruit and serve as volunteers to help conduct the count in their communities.

### **How can I get involved in the 2009 Homeless PIT Project?**

You can contact the Homeless Coalition (see contact page) for further information. Sign-up forms for participating as a Community Key Informant and serving as a Volunteer can be emailed or faxed to you.