

# No Place Like Home

the newsletter of the Ventura County Homeless & Housing Coalition

## VCHHC

2008-2009

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## Coming Tuesday, January 27th:

### the 2009 Homeless Person Count

The count will be done in all cities and unincorporated areas of the County of Ventura. Volunteers are needed in all areas to make up the count teams. To volunteer, go to [www.VolunteerVenturaCounty.org](http://www.VolunteerVenturaCounty.org) and sign up.

### On the web @ [vchhc.org](http://vchhc.org):

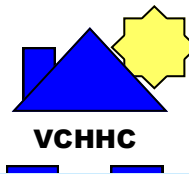
We've started making changes and additions to the VCHHC website. Now available for reading or download:

- The Ten Year Strategy to End Homelessness
- **2008** Continuum of Care (Exhibit 1) PDF
- Local Emergency Shelter Strategy (LESS)
- Suggestions for how you can get involved to donate your time & money to make homelessness a thing of the past.

### Amgen Foundation Provides Community Education for 10-Year Strategy

Thanks to a generous grant from the Amgen Foundation to the VCHHC, community education regarding the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness will move forward. In addition to updating the VCHHC website and launching this quarterly newsletter, the most important education piece is the creation and training of a speakers bureau. Speakers will be available to present topics explaining all or part of the 10-Year Strategy to organizations, faith communities,

civic groups and others who might be interested in knowing more about efforts in Ventura County to end homelessness. If you are part of a group that would like to know more about the 10-year Strategy, contact Community Educator Lynn Bulock by email at [lynn@vchhc.org](mailto:lynn@vchhc.org). Additional speakers are also needed to make the program work. To volunteer as a speaker and schedule training, contact Lynn as well. Speakers will be provided with a PowerPoint presentation and handouts appropriate to the topic and group. Volunteer today to make a difference!



**Thursday, November 13:** Community Awareness Event by the Task Force to End Homelessness in Santa Paula. Veteran's Park in Santa Paula, 6-7 p.m.

**Thanksgiving Day:** (November 27) Ventura: One Day, One Meal, One City. 11a.m. to 2 p.m. Meal at Knights of Columbus, other events at Figueroa & Mission Park. Free to all. To volunteer, email [Jesse@vmc.org](mailto:Jesse@vmc.org) or call (805) 642-0550, ext. 376

**Sunday, December 21:** National Homeless Persons' Memorial Service. 3 p.m. in Plaza Park, Downtown Ventura. Sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Churches of Ventura & Santa Paula.

### **Success Stories From the VCHHC City Task Force :**

#### **The One-Stop in Ventura**

Every Tuesday Kate Mills and providers from almost a dozen different agencies and services run The One Stop in Ventura. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. clients are registered and make their way around the room to learn about services ranging from health care to food stamps, legal advice and veterans' services. Mills says the One Stop served 134 visitors in October. Each person who enters the Public Health Auditorium is offered one of the 100 sack lunches made each week by Our Lady of the Assumption Church. As a special touch, each lunch contains a hand-written note from one of the church school's K-8th grade pupils. Since its beginning in January, Mills says there have been 1500 visits to the One Stop. Visitors to the One Stop often need two things that Mills can't give them: housing and a job. But almost everyone gets other kinds of help they need, and as one volunteer noted, "It's a good start."

The One Stop is located in the Public Health Auditorium, 3147 Loma Vista in Ventura, and is open every Tuesday from 10-1.

**Ideas to Share:** Several volunteer supervisors from the 2007 Homeless Persons Count had suggestions for ways to thank people for their time and willingness to be counted. While the form used isn't very long, it can be difficult for strangers to ask for cooperation in filling out the count information. Volunteers reported that the most appreciated items they handed out were new socks and gift cards or certificates to local coffee houses or fast food outlets. They suggested asking merchants in your city for donations of items to be used to say "thank you" to those counted.

**If you would like to contribute to this quarterly newsletter:** Contact Lynn Bulock, Community Educator for VCHHC by emailing her at [lynn@vchhc.org](mailto:lynn@vchhc.org) or by calling 805-485-6288x250. We welcome all information regarding efforts to aid the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless in Ventura County. The deadline for the March, 2009 edition is February 15, 2009.