

**For Immediate Release**

**Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count in Duncan Supported by Local Businesses**

**March 1, 2017 Duncan, BC** – On Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 the United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island in collaboration with the Tze Tza Watul Community Advisory Board and other community partners, conducted a Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count and Housing Needs survey to get an idea of the homeless population and of those at risk of homelessness in Duncan, BC.

A number of non-profit organizations, the Duncan RCMP, and shelters worked together to count the minimum number of homeless people within a 24-hour period; 192 surveys were completed. The surveys consisted of 22 questions.

Countless volunteers and local businesses kindly supported the Duncan PiT Homeless Count and Housing Needs Survey. Many thanks goes out to Thrifty Foods, True Grain Bread, Outlooks For Men, Mann's Prescription Pharmacy, End of the Roll – Duncan Carpet and Flooring, Valley Carpet – One Floor and Home, Pharmasave Duncan, Wing's Thrift Store, I Need That Thrift Store, Cowichan Family Life Thrift Store, Sassy Lion Thrift Store, and the Salvation Army Thrift Store for all your generous donations.

Representatives from the RCMP, local municipalities, service providers such as Warmland Emergency Shelter, Cowichan Valley Basket Society, United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island, Cowichan Housing Association, Salvation Army, Social Planning Cowichan, House of Friendship and other agencies as well as numerous dedicated volunteers from the community conducted Duncan's Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count. The Duncan PiT Count was supported through funding provided by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) program.

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