Greetings ECHO supporters!

We hope the new year is off to a good start for you. ECHO staff are moving full-speed ahead with our work to end homelessness, and we want YOU to be involved. Please read below for all the latest news and updates, but first. .

have you signed up for the Point in Time (PIT) Count?
The PIT is the annual count and survey that we coordinate to help us determine how many people are experiencing homelessness in Austin/Travis County. ECHO sees the PIT Count as more than a federal requirement, but as an opportunity for Austin to reach out to homeless neighbors and show we care. PIT Count volunteers work in teams - we invite you to join one of the many teams already registered. If you're free on January 26th, please sign up to help - - we need 170 more volunteers!

ECHO News

- We're thrilled to welcome new folks to the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care’s Membership Council. The new and diverse voices our leaders bring will add to the momentum and development of local strategies to end homelessness in our community.
- The Rapid Rehousing Collaborative (ECHO, Caritas of Austin, SAFE and LifeWorks) has housed the 30th youth experiencing homeless through the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP), which began October 1, 2018. Information about the Project can be found here.

Transitions
Jordan Schmid is moving from the Outreach and Navigation team at ECHO to join the Community Housing Team as our newest Community Housing Liaison.

Eri Gregory will join the ECHO team as a Coordinated Entry Specialist. Welcome Eri!

Kaleigh Phelan will transition out of her role as Coordinated Entry Specialist and become the new Coordinated Entry System Trainer.

Soon we will say goodbye to our Housing VISTA Coordinator, Carolyn Smith, who has been a valuable teammate at ECHO. Before her departure, she is making a big impact by coordinating donations for the PIT Count. Thank you Carolyn!

Opportunity for Input

The City of Austin wants your input on programs that serve low to moderate-income Austin residents. Please come to one of the public meetings.

National News

Homelessness Declines Among Key Populations, Despite Stubborn Numbers Overall
(National Alliance to End Homelessness)

Solving Homelessness Together event was a 86th Texas Legislative Session

Mayor Adler and New City Council Members Sworn In
success!
Thanks to those of you who attended our December 19th event at the Austin Board of Realtors. We heard from partner organizations and recognized outstanding service providers. **Judge Sarah Eckhardt and Representative-Elect Vikki Goodwin** also addressed the group – we are grateful for their support! We ended with a presentation on the Power of Social Media in Advocacy.

The session began **January 8th**, and that means there are new opportunities to advocate for services and funding aimed to improve homeless initiatives in Austin and across the state. It also means vital programs are at risk of losing funding or reduced funding due to state budget cuts. This is why we need your voice as concerned advocates. We're working alongside the [Texas Homeless Network](#) to refine policy priorities and ensure that legislators know about them. Among top priorities is ensuring that no cuts are made to the [Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs](#), and to the [Healthy Care Collaborative](#) funding at the [Health and Human Services Commission](#). We want them to know how important affordable housing is, and that the [Housing Trust Fund](#)

On January 7th, **Mayor Adler started a second term**, and two new Council members, **Natasha Harper-Madison and Paige Ellis** were sworn in. We are so grateful to work closely with Mayor Adler, a true champion for ending homelessness. The picture above shows the Mayor at the [Red Sweater event](#), where the [Cielo Property Group](#) graciously donated 2,000 jackets for people in Austin experiencing homelessness. ECHO will continue to work with all members of the Council to ensure that ending homelessness remains a priority.
must be expanded to meet needs. Sign up for THN alerts here.

Donate Now

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