

# COUNTY OF ANOKA

Office of Community Development

GOVERNMENT CENTER, Suite 700  
2100 3rd Avenue • Anoka, Minnesota 55303-5024  
(763) 323-5700

September 21, 2012

*for 10/23*

Kurt Ulrich  
City Administrator, City of Ramsey  
7550 Sunwood Dr NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303

Dear Kurt Ulrich,

***One night in January this year, 1,463 persons in Anoka County were homeless. Of those, 501 were children in families, and 689 were single adults. Persons 25-54 years old accounted for 45% of the homeless population.***

Persons who are homeless lack a safe, stable, permanent place to live. Without stable housing, persons often struggle in other areas of basic living, such as mental health, holding a steady job, or looking for a job. Homelessness is a growing trend in Anoka County.

Heading Home Anoka is a local group of community, non-profit, and government agencies working together to end homelessness. Community partnerships, increasing homelessness awareness, and the desire to provide warm, safe housing are important goals for ending homelessness in Anoka County. It is essential that all community members are aware of homelessness and the impact community participation can have on ensuring that everyone has a safe, permanent home.

At the end of October, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners will be proclaiming November as Homelessness Awareness Month. **Our goal is to have each city in Anoka County join the effort to promote public awareness of homelessness and have their city also proclaim November as Homelessness Awareness Month.**

Enclosed is information regarding homelessness in Anoka County, how the community can become involved, and a flyer for the "Creating a Path to Ending Homelessness" project happening in November. Heading Home Anoka is sponsoring a collection of new and gently used shoes and boots for all ages. Shoes are often the number one item that those experiencing homelessness need, and often shoe donations are in short supply. For more information, go to [www.AnokaCounty.us/homeless](http://www.AnokaCounty.us/homeless).

Also enclosed is a sample proclamation your city can use in partnering with this important community mission. If your city would like to show its support for November as Homeless Awareness Month, please urge the passing of the proclamation. Please also send an approved copy of the proclamation to me.



If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at 763-323-5707 or by email at [kristina.hayes@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:kristina.hayes@co.anoka.mn.us).

Thank you for your commitment to Creating a Path to Ending Homelessness!

Sincerely,



Kristina Hayes  
Heading Home Coordinator  
Anoka County Community Development  
763-323-5707



EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY

FAX: 763-323-5682 Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer TDD/TTY: 763-323-5289

## Homeless Persons and Households by Sheltered Status in Anoka County

On January 25, 2012, Anoka County Continuum of Care (CoC) conducted a one-day sheltered<sup>1</sup> and unsheltered<sup>2</sup> count of homeless persons in Anoka County. Together, the counts estimated the total number of people who are homeless in Anoka County to be about 1,463 persons. *Exhibit 1. – Anoka County Homeless Persons and Households by Sheltered Status, 2012 PIT Count* illustrates the breakdown of homeless persons and households by sheltered status. For the following data, the Federal and State homeless definitions are used, and therefore doubled up is included.

<i>Exhibit 1. – Anoka County Homeless Persons and Households by Sheltered Status, 2012 PIT Count</i>		
Household Type	Number of Homeless	Percentage of the Total
<b>Total People</b>		
Sheltered	1,410	96.38%
Unsheltered	53	3.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Adults</b>		
Sheltered	639	92.7%
Unsheltered	50	7.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Persons in Families<sup>3</sup></b>		
Sheltered	764	99.6%
Unsheltered	3	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Unaccompanied Youth</b>		
Sheltered	7	100.0%
Unsheltered	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total Households</b>		
Sheltered	827	94.4%
Unsheltered	49	5.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

As shown in *Exhibit 1. – Anoka County Homeless Persons and Households by Sheltered Status, 2012 PIT Count*, sheltered homeless persons account for approximately 96% of the total homeless population, while unsheltered persons were approximately 4%. Included in the “Adults” category are single adults, adult couples with no children, and groups of adults. Unaccompanied youth is defined as youth under

<sup>1</sup> Included for purposes of this report, although it is not officially recognized by HUD homeless definitions but is recognized by the State of Minnesota in its definition of homeless, is doubled up. Doubled up or couch hopping is considered an episode of homelessness if a household is doubled up with another household (and duration is less than one year) or couch hops as a temporary way to avoid living on the streets or an emergency shelter.

<sup>2</sup> Unsheltered is defined as a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

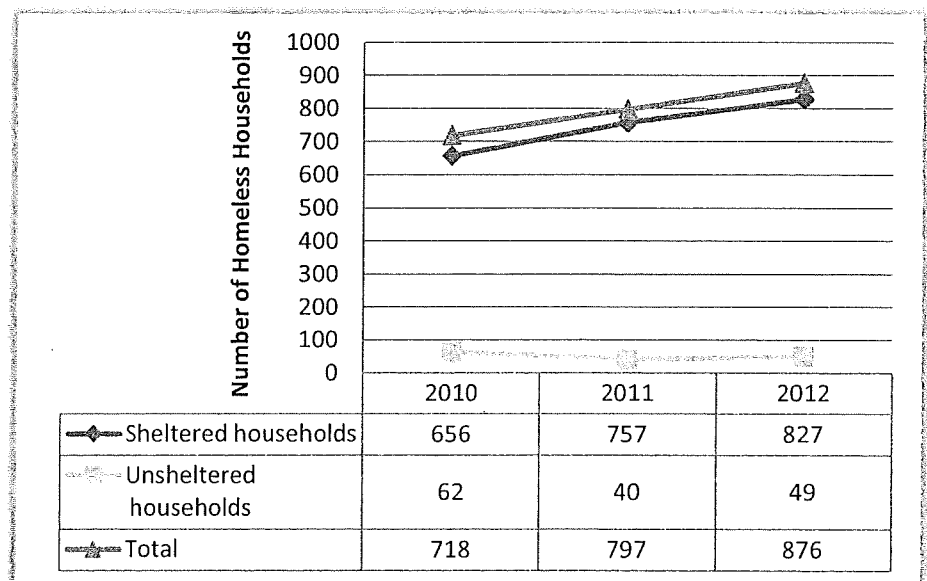
<sup>3</sup> Persons in households with at least one adult AND at least one child 17 or younger (all ages).

age 17 and living on their own. All unaccompanied youth counted during the PIT were sheltered. Overall, the sheltered homeless population far exceeds that of the unsheltered population.

<b>Exhibit 2. – Changes in the PIT Count of Homeless Persons in Anoka County, 2010 to 2012</b>				
	<b>2010 Count</b>	<b>2011 Count</b>	<b>2012 Count</b>	<b>Percent Change 2011-2012</b>
Household Status				
Sheltered	656	757	827	+9.25%
Unsheltered	62	40	49	+22.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>+9.9%</b>
Individual Type				
Singles/adults	535	547	696	+27.2%
Persons in Families	766	914	767	-16.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1301</b>	<b>1461</b>	<b>1463</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>
Household Type				
Singles/adults <sup>4</sup>	380	415	637	+53.5%
Families <sup>5</sup>	367	408	239	-41.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>+6.4%</b>

As illustrated in Exhibit 2. – Changes in the PIT Count of Homeless Persons in Anoka County, 2010 to 2012, the number of Anoka County sheltered homeless household population has increased each year from 2010 to 2012, with an increase of 9.25% in the last year. From 2010 to 2011, there was a decrease in unsheltered homeless households; however, that number increased from 2011 to 2012 by 22.5%. Overall, the total number of homeless households has risen each year with an approximate increase of 10% from 2011 to 2012. This may be due to the new survey and/or counting method and increased ability to identify homeless individuals and households.

Figure 1. Trends in Homeless Households in Anoka County, 2010 to 2012



<sup>4</sup> Single adults, adult couples, and groups of adults with no children

<sup>5</sup> Households with at least one adult AND at least one child 17 or younger

# Shoes Needed!

Donate new or gently used shoes  
and winter boots!



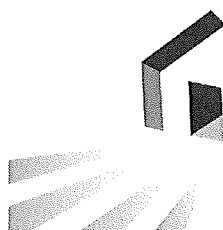
*One night in January this year, **1,463** persons in  
Anoka County were **homeless**.  
Of those, **501** were **children** in families, and  
**689** were **single adults**.*

During the month of November, Heading Home Anoka is sponsoring a collection of new and gently used shoes and boots for all ages. Shoes are often the number one item that those experiencing homelessness need, and often shoe donations are in short supply. Donated shoes will be distributed to homeless persons in Anoka County.

## “Creating a Path to End Homelessness”

Drop off locations:  
Anoka County Government Center  
Blaine Human Services Center  
All Anoka County Libraries

Visit  
[www.AnokaCounty.us/homeless](http://www.AnokaCounty.us/homeless)  
for more information on how  
you can help!



**Heading Home**  
ANOKA

A regional initiative to end homelessness