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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kings/Tulare Homeless Alliance will launch a Registry Week to prioritize people experiencing homelessness for housing opportunities

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KINGS AND TULARE COUNTIES –Volunteers from Kings and Tulare Counties will canvass the streets of Visalia, Hanford, Tulare, Porterville, and Dinuba in an effort to identify our homeless neighbors by name with a Registry Week July 27 -31, 2015.

In Kings and Tulare Counties, there are approximately 1,000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night. Current housing resources are allocated on a first-come-first served basis. Registry Week is a collaborative, focused initiative to assess the area's homeless population. It is based on the idea that communities should work together to identify their most vulnerable or at-risk homeless residents and prioritize them for permanent housing. During Registry Week, volunteer outreach teams will conduct Vulnerability Assessments with people experiencing homelessness. Use of the assessment tool will allow the bi-county region to allocate scarce resources in targeted manner.

The goal of the Kings/Tulare Registry Week is to create a by-name registry of people living on the streets and in shelters, enabling homeless service providers to prioritize those who have been out there the longest and who are the most vulnerable for housing. Many homeless individuals face serious medical conditions and some experience more than one serious issue. Assessments will be entered into the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for risk analysis and the establishment of a housing priority list. The information that is gathered during this week will help reduce chronic homelessness in Kings and Tulare County.

Research has shown that housing homeless individual's first, then providing supportive services is the most effective way to stop the cycle of homelessness. Supportive services include case management, counseling and skills training, mental health support services, and support for those with alcohol and substance abuse issues.

For more information on the Kings/Tulare Homeless Alliance, visit www.kingstularecoc.org.

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