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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***18<sup>th</sup> Annual Point-in-Time Count of the Homeless Happens This Week***

GAINESVILLE, FL (Jan. 27, 2020) — Advocates and volunteers will conduct the 18th annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count of people without housing from January 29 to 31, 2020. Volunteers are still needed as the survey will take place on January 29 in Alachua County and January 30 and 31 in Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy and Putnam counties.

The effort involves nearly 100 volunteers and agency staff who canvas streets, parking lots, meal sites and wooded areas to gather local data on homelessness and service needs in the counties that the North Central Florida Alliance for the Homeless and Hungry (Alliance) serves. Survey results are used to identify unmet service needs and inform local policy and planning efforts.

“The annual Point-in-Time counts are very important to our community, as it gives us a snapshot view of this often-forgotten population,” said Mona Gil de Gibaja, President & CEO of United Way of North Central Florida (UWNCFL). “Not only is this information used to determine grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and other state and federal entities, but it will also be used for the upcoming 2020 Census.”

Since 2018, UWNCFL has been the Lead Agency for the Alliance, the local homeless Continuum of Care for five counties.

For many years, homeless services providers and volunteers have worked together to provide housing and support services to hundreds of individuals and families.

UWNCFL is coordinating volunteers for the event and anyone interested in volunteering should sign up with the following form: <https://forms.gle/Ft2g5cP9RSqoSx8z6>.

The results from the PIT count will be released in late Spring 2020.

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***North Central Florida Alliance for the Homeless and Hungry partners with the community to prevent and end homelessness and hunger, and to increase self-sufficiency for individuals and families by providing leadership, advocacy, support, standards and funding. We serve Alachua, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy and Putnam counties. In July 2018, United Way of North Central Florida became the Lead Agency for the Alliance.***

***United Way of North Central Florida fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community and has been a staple in North Central Florida since 1957. We serve a six-county area that includes Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy and Union counties. Since our inception, we have raised nearly \$100 million for the region. Our top priority is to create real social change that leads to better lives and healthier communities for North Central Florida.***

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