



“Where are you sleeping tonight?”



We would love for people to have a safe answer to that question.

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What is our purpose? Mission & Vision

Homeless Coalition Mission Statement

- ▶ The Mission of the Wilco Homeless Coalition is to coordinate efforts to identify homelessness and housing instability in Williamson County and to assist in the development of community strategies with other regional partners to address homelessness effectively and efficiently.

Homeless Coalition Vision


- ▶ That there will be a safe place and resources made available to our neighbors who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to seek shelter, through the collaborative efforts of the Wilco community.



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Power of Connections

- ▶ Moved to Sun City, Georgetown in 2012, and started asking; “Where are the homeless? They were invisible to me, unlike in Austin.”
- ▶ Met Bob Weimer, of Sun City, who started Helping Hands of Georgetown
- ▶ Made brown bag lunches to deliver to Helping Hands Mobile Food Pantry at Georgetown Library parking lot.
- ▶ Article in newspaper about PIT Count led me to meeting Christel Erickson-Collins
- ▶ Coupled with Christina Bondesen for the PIT Count in Georgetown; learned about First Presbyterian Church program “Helping Our Neighbor”. That’s how I discovered who and where the unsheltered are.




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PROCLAMATION

County Commissioner Terry Cook presented a Proclamation to the court on November 7, 2023.

Its purpose is to educate the public about the many reasons people are hungry and homeless, including the shortage of affordable housing in Williamson County.

Recognizes National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week of Nov. 11-18



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, for over 25 years the National Coalition for the Homeless and National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness have sponsored National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this proclamation is to educate the public about the many reasons people are hungry and homeless, including the shortage of affordable housing in Williamson County for very low income residents, and to encourage support for homeless assistance service providers, as well as community service opportunities for students and school service organizations; and

WHEREAS, there are many organizations committed to sheltering and providing supportive services as well as meals and food supplies to people experiencing homelessness, including The Round Rock Serving Center, The Caring Place, Neighbors Serving Neighbors, Shepherd’s Heart, the Hutto Resource Center, Brighter Days Food Pantry, Operation Liberty Hill, Opportunities for Williamson and Barnes Counties, and so many more faith-based and non-profit organizations across the county; and

WHEREAS, this Commissioners Court recognizes that hunger and homelessness continue to be a serious problem for many individuals and families in Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, as an example, the following members from The Caring Place in Georgetown indicate the great need across Williamson County:

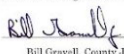
- 8,206 individuals served so far in 2023, which is 27% more than ALL of 2022
- 25,339 trips to the food pantry in 2023, up 123% since this time last year
- \$187,870 in total financial assistance (rent, mortgage, utilities, transportation, medical) in 2023 to 1,053 unique families; and

WHEREAS, the intent of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is consistent with the activities of our local organizations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court hereby proclaims November 11 – 18, 2023 as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Commissioners Court encourages all citizens to recognize that many people do not have housing and need support for residents and private/public nonprofit service entities alike.

Passed by Commissioners Court and Signed on this date: Nov 7, 2023



Bill Gravell, County Judge

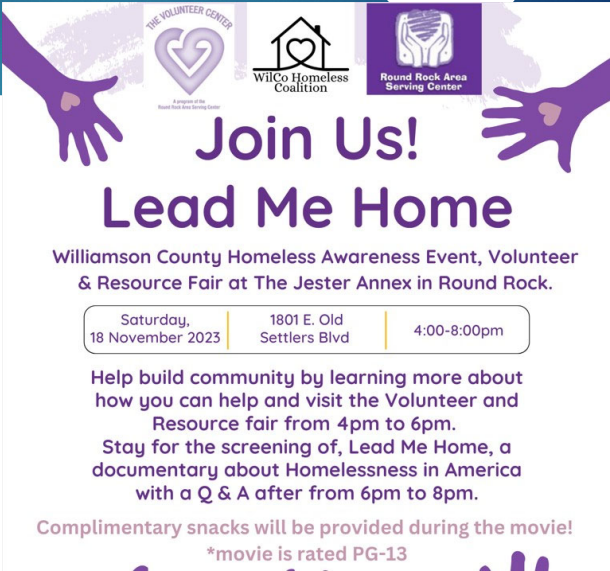
On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court Members

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Learn more...

As part of the National Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week, attend the **November 18 Fair**.

FILM EVENT: 6:00PM
"Lead Me Home"



Join Us!
Lead Me Home

Williamson County Homeless Awareness Event, Volunteer & Resource Fair at The Jester Annex in Round Rock.

Saturday, 18 November 2023 | 1801 E. Old Settlers Blvd | 4:00-8:00pm

Help build community by learning more about how you can help and visit the Volunteer and Resource fair from 4pm to 6pm.

Stay for the screening of, Lead Me Home, a documentary about Homelessness in America with a Q & A after from 6pm to 8pm.

Complimentary snacks will be provided during the movie!
*movie is rated PG-13

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Who is involved? Our local collaborators ...

- ▶ This grassroots coalition is organized by volunteers in Wilco who have a passion to serve the unhoused and to prevent homelessness; we use our skillsets and experiences to coalesce service providers. Here are a few:
- ▶ Round Rock and Taylor Housing Authorities
- ▶ Williamson County Health Care District
- ▶ Interagency East and Taylor Community Assistance & Navigation
- ▶ Round Rock Volunteer Services Center
- ▶ Leander: Brighter Days Food Pantry
- ▶ Neighbors Serving Neighbors in Bartlett / Granger areas
- ▶ Georgetown: Helping Hands, First Presbyterian, San Gabriel UU



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How do We Connect with Others?

- ▶ Community Outreach – direct meetings with local government and local agencies
- ▶ Monthly Meetings of multiple agencies and providers
- ▶ Partner with **Texas Homeless Network**
- ▶ Utilize “Unite Us” database
- ▶ Come together to perform the “PIT Count”



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PIT Count

Volunteers Needed!



Join us for the annual
Williamson County Point-In-Time Count
January 2024!



The Point-In-Time (PIT) aims to provide a snapshot of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our county, over the course of one night.



Why do we need Volunteers?

Volunteers are needed to survey unhoused neighbors. The data is used to help our community in the fight to end homelessness.



How can I get involved?

Email: homelesswilco@gmail.com

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What is the Annual "PIT Count"?

- ▶ Point-In-Time Count occurs in January, nationwide
- ▶ Provides a snapshot of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our county over the course of one night throughout Williamson County
- ▶ Volunteers go in teams to various communities to survey the unsheltered population
- ▶ Utilize software app on phone to collect answers to questions
- ▶ Data is culminated into a report and used to support requests for funding sources or additional resources to be provided by Williamson County
- ▶ Data is aggregated statewide by the Texas Homeless Network



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Who gets approached & counted?

During a PIT COUNT, we approach and count the unsheltered ...

- ▶ sitting on the street or sidewalk
- ▶ living at outdoor encampments
- ▶ living in other places not meant for habitation (ex: in a car)

We also count ...

- ▶ Those staying in an emergency shelter
- ▶ Those temporarily residing at a domestic violence shelter
- ▶ Those living in transitional housing
- ▶ Those staying in a hotel/motel paid for by an agency voucher



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PIT COUNT TEAM

Point In Time Count Teams receive training and, while encountering unhoused individuals, they deliver donations of clothing and hygiene products to them.



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What are the results from the 2023 PIT Count?

Here are some of the results for Williamson County from the January 2023 Count.

It was noted that:

Adults w/ Mental Health = 25

Adults w/ substance usage issues = 25

Adult survivors of Domestic Abuse = 20

Total number of persons	96
Number of children (under age 18)	7
Number of youth (age 18 to 24)	3
Number of adults (age 25 to 34)	25
Number of adults (age 35 to 44)	20
Number of adults (age 45 to 54)	18
Number of adults (age 55 to 64)	21
Number of adults (age 65 or older)	2
Observed age 25 or older	0
Unknown Age	0
Chronically Homeless	30
Veterans	7

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What is the Button Brigade?

- ▶ wear buttons that ask the question: “Where are you sleeping tonight?”
- ▶ Opens the door to conversations with the public about what we are concerned about and what we are doing
- ▶ A form of raising awareness
- ▶ Provides an opportunity to possibly identify someone who may need assistance
- ▶ Want one? Email: homelesswilco@gmail.com



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Looking into the Future...

- ▶ Develop a comprehensive resource list for providers
- ▶ Assist in the development of a handout for providers to distribute to the unhoused, according to their locality
- ▶ Identify Warming & Cooling Shelters throughout the County
- ▶ Assist in the collaborative use of a mobile shower unit
- ▶ Explore how we can be advocates, individually and as a group
- ▶ Broaden the Community Outreach through a team approach
- ▶ Expand Education & Awareness efforts



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Mobile Shower Unit coming soon!



Recently, a mobile shower unit was procured by the Taylor Community Access & Navigation agency.

The unit has 2 individual showers and a washer and dryer on board.

Plans are being developed for how the unit can travel throughout the county and collaborate with non-profits to sponsor it.

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The Need is Growing ... data sampling...

We will continue to collect data from agencies from the entire county.

Organization	Clients Assisted	Food Assistance	Homeless Assisted
Brighter Days	240 families/wk	4,123 people/40%incr	\$12,000 housing & utilities
Caring Place	8,206 to date 2023	25,339 / 123% incr	249 individuals
Hill Country (Leander)	2,800/mo; 28% incr	1,058,591lbs 2023	20 families; \$6700 fam.
Neigh. Serv. Neigh.	Bartlett & area	500 families	
Operation Lib. Hill	3,758/mo	\$36,903 to date	516 / \$48K financial asst.
Round Rock Area Ctr	87,401 in 2022	1,047 vouchers Oct.	\$1M+ 2022 rent/utility
Shepherds Heart(Tay)	586 families 2023		\$130K 10months
St. Wms. St. Vincent..	\$6,533 to 590	500 people in Sept	

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How do I get involved?

- ▶ Email: homelesswilco@gmail.com
- ▶ Find us on Facebook: **Wilco Homeless Coalition**

For more information and latest events:

[Wilco Homeless Coalition Info](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088528146056>



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*Thank you for all you do to
administer care and concern
for our unsheltered neighbors.*

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