



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Patrick S. Blacklock
County Administrator

Beth Gabor
Public Information Officer

625 Court Street, Room 202 • Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8150 • FAX (530) 668-4029
www.yolocounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2010

Contact: Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer
(530) 666-8042 [w] • (530) 219-8464 [c]

County & City Officials Support Efforts to End Homelessness for Yolo County Residents

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Helen M. Thomson joins with West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon, Davis Mayor Ruth Uy Asmundson, Woodland Mayor Skip Davies and Winters Mayor Michael Martin in inviting all community members to celebrate the implementation of a plan to end homelessness in Yolo County on Thursday, May 13 at 11:00 a.m. at the Yolo County Administrative Building, 625 Court Street, Woodland.

Local officials and staff have worked with resident from across the county to develop a ten-year plan entitled, *One Piece at a Time: Ending and Preventing Homelessness in Yolo County*. The plan targets local programs and resources to address the root causes of homelessness within our community.

“We thank the cities and the county for their leadership in this effort,” said Michele Kellogg, Chairperson of the Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC) and Director of the Yolo Community Care Continuum. “It is very exciting to see that Yolo County has embarked on a plan to end homelessness in our community.”

The plan focuses on three key “pieces” needed to solve the puzzle of homelessness. The first piece is prevention through early and comprehensive assistance to persons at risk of homelessness. Secondly, the plan encourages the development of housing affordable to the most vulnerable families. And finally, the plan identifies integrated support services that are necessary to help people access housing and achieve self-sufficiency.

The Plan is the result of nearly two years of meetings, focus groups and workshops that composed a community discussion about the causes of homelessness in our region and what must happen to overcome them. Participating city and county officials, members of the faith-based community, service providers, business leaders, concerned residents and consumers of homeless services came to an agreement that in Yolo County, the most effective way to end homelessness is to prevent it before it can begin.

“It costs taxpayers far less to assist people to maintain their housing than it does to deal with the negative results of homelessness,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Helen M. Thomson. “It also costs far less in anguish and suffering for individuals and families who find themselves without adequate shelter. However, affordable housing and vital supportive services such as credit counseling, medical and dental care, treatment of mental illness and educational support for children are also needed to ensure that people do not fall back into the destructive cycle of homelessness.”

For more information on the plan to end and prevent homelessness, visit www.yolocounty.org (go to: Community > 10-Year-Plan to End Homelessness) or contact Janice Critchlow, Yolo County Homeless Coordinator at (916) 924-0534.

###