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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARCH seeking donations to help the homeless

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (Feb. 25, 2019) --The Appalachian Regional Coalition on Homelessness is accepting donations of non-perishable food items along with kitchen supplies and tableware for those moving into permanent homes.

Doug Murray, the Homeless Programs Outreach Director at ARCH, has asked the population to help them in their efforts. "As we house folks, they have nothing to cook or eat with," said Murray. "It's always a critical need because we're always giving it out."

According to Murray, the number of homeless people in the region is not decreasing and that the number of shelters and housing available to these people is not increasing at a fast-enough rate to counteract. "There are only so many shelters, only so much affordable housing," he said. "You're dealing with an increasing population of people who are living on the street, and we have limited resources to deal with it."

There are two ways the public can help, by donating food or by donating kitchen and tableware for people who move into permanent homes. "We have a little food pantry we use on a daily basis to give food to people who are homeless," Murray said. "We are constantly looking for donations of food, but it must have a pop-top can, something people can put in their backpack. They may be living in the woods in a camp."

"There are homeless in every county," Murray said. "We go to various places in the in the eight counties that we serve." Those counties are Sullivan, Washington, Unicoi, Carter, Johnson, Hancock, Hawkins and Greene.

ARCH has support from the Veterans Administration, Salvation Army, and other organizations.

For more information, contact ARCH at their office at 321 Walnut Street in Johnson City, by phone at (423) 928-2724, or on their website at www.appalachianhomeless.org/contact/. Their office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

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The Appalachian Regional Coalition on Homelessness is a non-profit organization designed to help address and provide long-term solutions to the issue of homelessness in the northeastern region of Tennessee.

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