*(Mission logo)*

**Mission Name**

**Address Line 1**

**City, ST XXXXX**

Contact: Firstname Lastname

Phone: (XXX) XXX-XXXX

Email: XXX@url.org

**Press Release**

**Local News for Immediate Release**

**DATE**

**2018 Study on U.S. Homelessness Reveals Shocking Statistics**

*“For the second year in a row, homelessness is on the rise in the U.S. We’re calling on our community to help change that statistic and to care for local people who are struggling.” – Title Firstname Lastname*

**CITY, State.**––The 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, released in December 2018, revealed some shocking statistics on the state of homelessness in the U.S. In Service Area, Mission Name Title Firstname Lastname confirmed that a number of these findings the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reported are being seen among the homeless populations the Mission serves.

“The report showed that nationwide, 553,000 people are homeless,” Lastname said. “In Service Area alone, the number is about XX,XXX on any given night, and we’ve definitely seen a rise in the number of struggling youth in our community.”

According to HUD’s 2018 findings, 51% of unaccompanied youth (age 25 or younger) experiencing homelessness are living in locations considered “unsheltered” – abandoned buildings, tents or on the street. Instability at home, aging out of the foster system or difficulty finding stable work and affordable housing in today’s economy are common factors contributing to homelessness among youth. Mission Name, Lastname explained, exists to provide emergency services to guests like them, and to all who arrive at their doors having nowhere else to turn.

In 2018, the Mission provided XX,XXX meals, XX,XXX nights of shelter and thousands of hours of counseling, life-skills development and job training through their Recovery Program Name recovery program. These services and many more are made possible by the financial gifts the Mission receives from individuals, churches, businesses, foundations and others who give to support the Mission’s work.

“For the second year in a row, homelessness is on the rise in the U.S.,” Lastname said. “We’re calling on our community to help change that statistic and to care for local people who are struggling. Their needs are critical, and we must address them now and in the months ahead.”

To learn more about the Mission’s programs and services, urgent needs and volunteer opportunities – or to make a financial donation online – visit **MissionURL.org**. To read the full 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, visit HUD’s website at **hudexchange.info**.

*Mission statement or text such as: Mission Name is a faith-first ministry committed to meeting the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of men, women and children who are hungry, homeless or addicted in Service Area.*

*###*