

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 19, 2016

We send greetings and thanks to all those participating in this year's Point-in-Time count of homeless men, women, and children across our country.

From her earliest days, America has been a beacon of hope for all people—no matter who they are or what their circumstances may be. Yet too often, individuals from all walks of life struggle to find the opportunity and stability our country has so proudly promised, even when it comes to some of our most basic needs.

Since launching Opening Doors in 2010, homelessness rates have sharply fallen, and our communities have made tremendous strides in reducing homelessness overall, including among America's families and the chronically homeless. Cities and towns across our Nation are expanding their involvement by partnering with the White House through initiatives such as Joining Forces and the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. Our coordinated efforts have proven that if we work hard and work together, it is possible to end homelessness for families, youth, and people with disabilities—and for our veterans, who have given so much to keep our country safe and free.

The idea of “home” has been central to our country's character from its earliest days, and dedicated, passionate people like you, who take up the noble work of serving our most vulnerable, are helping make it a reality for all. Your commitment to putting comfort, opportunity, and security within the reach of those who need it most represents the best of America and will help us build a future free from the heartbreak of poverty.

As you continue striving to ensure everyone has a safe and stable place to call home, we wish you the best and thank you for your work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Obama', written in a cursive style.

*Michelle Obama*