



*Date: December 07, 2022*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ASCENCIA REMEMBERS CLIENTS, HONORS THOSE THAT DIED FROM EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

On Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. Glendale's leading homeless services agency, Ascencia will host a memorial service to remember our brothers and sisters who died this year. National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day is an annual observance that takes place on the first day of winter, the longest night of the year, to raise awareness of the alarming number of deaths, of people who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness every year. We recognize them with dignity and respect by honoring our fellow human beings as their lives mattered. The tragic truth is that every day in Los Angeles County, five people die while living on the streets. In 2021, Los Angeles lost nearly 2,000 men, women, and children to homelessness.

Hosted by Forest Lawn Memorial Park, this event provides an opportunity to the public to attend a service on the beautiful open grounds near Forest Lawn's Memorial Park Museum Plaza. Presided over by Reverend and Senior Minister Kris Tate of First United Church of Glendale and President of Ascencia's Board of Directors, Bryan Longpre. Dr. Laura Duncan, Executive Director of Ascencia will also share about this special day and Ascencia Case Managers will present a candlelight vigil and eulogize sixteen Ascencia clients that sadly passed away in 2022. They include: Isaac Ayala, Manu Tanuvasa, Denise Lerma, Florence Grady Johnson, Michael Turner, Jesse Garza, Jose Vargas, Jasmine Ford, Melissa Lamsus, Annette Jackson, Marcus Paglialonga, Michael Berry, Harmik Soghomonian, Vincent Rojas, Kenneth Lasch, and Michael Arrigo.

Ascencia is respectfully asking the community to consider bringing blankets, hand-warmers, gloves, beanies and scarves to be collected for Ascencia's street outreach teams to pass out while conducting street outreach and engagement.

State and local dignitaries are expected to attend to pay their respects, and acknowledge the important work of Ascencia.

Sponsored by Pacific BMW & David L. Ho Jr., First United Methodist Church of Glendale, this annual memorial service is part of an ongoing effort by Ascencia to bring to the forefront the misconceptions of homelessness. For more

# ASCENCIA<sup>®</sup>

Lifting People Out of Homelessness

information about Ascencia or any of our upcoming events, please email [cguerrero@ascenciaca.org](mailto:cguerrero@ascenciaca.org).