

NEWS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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Project Homeless Connect for Lane County Announces Kick Off Reception and Introduces Honorary Co-chairs

Eugene, Ore. – A new event that connects local homeless citizens with critical services and assistance has received some strong backing from local leaders.

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) for Lane County has named four honorary co-chairs for its 2008 event. PHC is part of a nationwide movement to connect homeless citizens with services, while engaging local communities in finding solutions for homelessness.

The kick off reception is from 5 to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 4 at Adam's Place Restaurant, 30 E. Broadway in downtown Eugene. This kick off event is a reception to say thanks to the donors who helped meet the needs of 1,007 local homeless community members last year.

Honorary chairs include Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, Springfield Mayor Sid Leiken, Lane County Board of Commissioner Chair Faye Stewart, and United Way of Lane County Board Chair Tracy Lampman. Honorary chairs will serve in a supportive capacity to enhance local PHC efforts.

Last year the first Project Homeless Connect of Lane County event provided 1,007 homeless citizens with access to nearly 100 local service agencies and assistance from more than 300 community volunteers. Onsite medical care, counseling, hot meals, eye exams, veterinarian care, bike repair and haircuts, as well as giveaways like clothing, blankets, hygiene supplies and bike trailers were provided to event guests. Homeless citizens also learned how to access critical services and basic needs beyond the one-day event.

"This effort brings to light the issues faced by our homeless citizens and goes a step further to meet their basic needs through a network of community support," said Commissioner Faye Stewart. "Homelessness can happen to anyone at anytime. I am honored to be part of a project that's recognizing community members in need and seeking solutions to the issues surrounding homelessness."

Eugene and Springfield's mayors agree.

"We all have serious work to do to end homelessness," said Mayor Kitty Piercy. "In the meantime, I am proud to be part of event as amazingly responsive to human need and dignity as Project Homeless Connect."

"The City of Springfield is proud to be part of Project Homeless Connect," said Mayor Sid Leiken. "It's such a worthwhile cause and a reminder of the importance of our vital partnerships here in Lane County."

Planning is underway for the second annual event set for February 7, 2008 at the Lane Events Center at the Fairgrounds.

For more information, visit www.homelessconnect.org or contact Sophia McDonald, PHC coordinator, at (541) 682-3770; Pearl Wolfe, PHC co-chair, at (541) 556-4428; or Richie Weinman, PHC co-chair, at (541) 912-1767.

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