

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

**Contacts: Sophia McDonald, PHC Coordinator (541) 682-3770; (541) 505-6130**  
**Pearl Wolfe, PHC Co-chair (541) 682-4629**  
**Richie Weinman, PHC Co-chair (541) 912-1767**

### **Project Homeless Connect for Lane County Seeks Donations**

**Eugene, Ore.** – An event that helps meet the needs of homeless citizens living in our community is seeking a variety of donations. Blankets, coats, socks, gloves, scarves, backpacks, ponchos, tarps, bicycles, personal hygiene products and more are needed for the 2008 Project Homeless Connect for Lane County event set for February 7 at the Lane Events Center at the Fairgrounds.

Anyone wishing to donate new or used items for the event may do so at any Eugene or Springfield St. Vincent de Paul store location. Boxes or bags of donated items must be clearly labeled "Project Homeless Connect."

The one-day event invites citizens living in emergency shelters, or on the street, to come and receive basic necessities and services to help them move out of homelessness. Last February, 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. Services included medical care, counseling, hot meals, dental checkups, eye exams, bike repair, haircuts, veterinarian care, as well as giveaways of basic provisions. Attendees also received information on housing, health insurance, employment, public schools and services available for families with children.

Lane County's January 2007, one-night shelter and street count identified 2,296 people who are homeless or living in temporary shelters. Project Homeless Connect is part of a nationwide movement to connect homeless citizens with services, while engaging local communities in finding solutions for homelessness.

For more information on volunteering, providing professional services or making a financial contribution, visit [www.homelessconnect.org](http://www.homelessconnect.org) or contact Sophia McDonald, Project Homeless Connect Coordinator, at (541) 682-3770 or (541) 505-6130.

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