

NEWS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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Volunteers Needed for Project Homeless Connect Event on Feb. 7, 2008

Eugene, Ore. – Volunteers are needed to assist with a one-day event that helps local homeless citizens. Project Homeless Connect for Lane County (PHC) will be held on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Lane Events Center and Fairgrounds. The event invites people who are living on the street, in temporary shelters, or at risk of becoming homeless, to come and seek services and basic necessities, from free medical exams to haircuts.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks including set up, greeting guests, helping guests navigate through the service areas, assisting professional service providers, and distributing giveaways, like socks and blankets.

Last year the one-day event provided service to more than 1,000 guests in its first year.

“We’re anticipating more guests this year so the need for volunteers will be greater,” said Megan O’Connor, PHC’s volunteer coordinator. “No special training is required to become a volunteer. We just need people who are willing to take the time to help those in need.”

Last year more than 300 volunteers pitched in to help. About 500 volunteers are needed for this year’s event. While it’s not mandatory, a volunteer training session will be held the day prior to the event on Feb. 6, at 5:30 p.m., at the Lane Events Center. In addition to volunteers, professional service providers representing more than 100 agencies will be on site to provide services like basic medical and dental checkups, eye exams, counseling, bike repair, pet care and more. Guests will also receive information on housing, health insurance, employment, public schools and services for families with children.

Anyone interested in volunteering for Project Homeless Connect for Lane County may register at www.homelessconnect.org. For additional information about volunteering as an individual or group, contact Megan O’Connor at United Way of Lane County at (541) 741-6000, ext. 159 or volunteer@unitedwaylane.org.

Project Homeless Connect is part of a nationwide movement to connect homeless citizens with services and basic needs, while engaging local communities in finding solutions for homelessness. Major supporters of this year’s event include United Way of Lane County, the Lane County Board of Commissioners, the City of Eugene, the City of Springfield and Arlie & Company.

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