

News Release

For Immediate Release 04/01/08

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT FOR LANE COUNTY RELEASES FINAL REPORT FOR 2008

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Final results of this year's Project Homeless Connect for Lane County (PHC) have been released. The second annual event, held February 7 at the Lane Events Center at the Fairgrounds, provided services to 1,158 individuals who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The one-day, one-stop event connected homeless citizens with services and basic needs providing a host of on-site offerings such as medical care, dental checkups, vision exams, hot meals, haircuts and bike repairs. Guests also connected with 281 service providers for help with housing, employment, veterans' assistance, senior and disabled services, youth and family services and more.

Thousands of items were given away during the event including clothing, sleeping bags, blankets, socks, coats, gloves, hats, scarves and hygiene kits. Hundreds of vouchers for follow-up care for medical, dental, employment and benefit appointments were distributed for guests to use in the weeks following the event.

A total of 883 local citizens, made up of community volunteers and service providers, pitched in to help during the six-hour event, nearly tripling last year's volunteer count.

Highlights from the 17-page 2008 Project Homeless Connect for Lane County Final Report include:

General: 1,158 guests served, 602 community volunteers, 281 service providers

Services:

- 776 received housing information and referrals
- 608 received basic needs assistance
- 378 received services/information for families and children
- 251 received hair cuts
- 189 received vision and hearing tests
- 184 received dental consultations, with 66 follow-up appointment vouchers distributed
- 139 physician or nurse consultations, 111 vital signs checked, with 67 follow-up appointment vouchers distributed
- 150 pairs of reading glasses and 44 pairs of prescription glasses were distributed
- 100 received flu shots, vaccinations or immunizations
- 87 guests exchanged an old bike for a refurbished bike, 70 bikes were repaired on-site, 140 bike helmets and 33 new bike trailers were given away
- 81 received employment information

Meanwhile, results from the Lane County Human Services Department's 2008 one-night shelter count and 2007 street count revealed that nearly 2,111 citizens, on any given night, are living in temporary shelters or on the street.

A complete report outlining the full details of the 2008 Project Homeless Connect event is available at www.homelessconnect.org. Organizers are planning a third annual event tentatively set for Friday, March 6, 2009.