

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

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**Mayors and County Commissioner Kick Off 2008 Project Homeless Connect**

**Eugene, Ore.** – On Tuesday, December 4th about forty people attended a kick-off reception for the 2008 Project Homeless Connect hosted by Adam's Place Restaurant (30 E. Broadway in Eugene). Among the honored guests were Springfield Mayor Sid Leiken; Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy; and Lane County Commissioner Faye Stewart, all of whom serve as honorary co-chairs for the event. Don Davis, a client of Shelter Care and a participant in the 2007 Project Homeless Connect, gave a moving portrait of how easy it is for hardworking families, seniors and people with disabilities to become homeless and how events like Project Homeless Connect can connect them to services to help them get back on their feet.

The 2007 Project Homeless Connect provided 1,007 people with information about basic services and benefits, medical care, food and haircuts. Excitement about the event is building as many of the same service providers and sponsors are getting involved again. Speakers emphasized that it is vital to have widespread participation by the public and by businesses. The event utilizes 300 volunteers who help orient guests, serve meals and provide many other services. Organizers also need donations, both cash and in-kind materials and services.

The 2008 Project Homeless Connect will take place on Thursday, February 7 from 9:00am - 3:00pm at the Lane Events Center at the Fairgrounds. For more information, visit [www.homelessconnect.org](http://www.homelessconnect.org) or contact Sophia McDonald at (541) 682-3770 or [sophia.mcdonald@co.lane.or.us](mailto:sophia.mcdonald@co.lane.or.us).