

Project Homeless Connect set for Wednesday

By Nicole Dominique Hillsdale Daily News Posted Jan 23, 2012 @ 06:30 PM



Much-needed assistance for struggling families will be available in a “one-stop shop” on Wednesday as Project Homeless Connect returns for its fourth year.

Under one roof. “There are so many agencies in one place, to make it really easy,” said Amber Yoder, communications officer for the Hillsdale County Community Foundation. Project Homeless Connect is available to the public, and is especially beneficial for not only families that are homeless, but those who are at risk. Organizations, such as the Salvation Army, South Central Michigan WORKS!, King’s Kupboard Food Pantry, Domestic Violence and Bridges Out of Poverty, among many others, will be available to offer their services “at one location so that people can accomplish in one day what might otherwise take several weeks,” announced a press release on the event. “The event will showcase ... WIC, food, housing and clothing assistance, resources for veterans, assistance for homeless and runaway youth, alcohol and drug abuse treatment and recovery information, services available to senior citizens, employment and training services, legal advice and more.”

Additional services

There will also be free tangible services at the event, including a hot meal, haircuts, flu shots, personal care packages, coats and family photographs. “The most popular station is the hair-cutting station,” Yoder said. Free items and services are available while supplies last, and the haircuts are handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Many employees from around the county are working at the event on a volunteer basis, forgoing a day of paid work to help their community. “We always greatly appreciate that,” Yoder said about the volunteers.

Transportation available

For those who may have trouble finding a ride to Project Homeless Connect, the sponsors have that covered, too.

Transportation assistance may be available, and those interested should call the Community Action Agency at 517-437-3346 for more information. Assistance is based on a case-by-case basis.

Why you should attend

Project Homeless Connect is expecting over 200 people to come to the event seeking services and help from the volunteers. The event makes a difference in the lives of Hillsdale County residents by bringing together 30 non-profit agencies and volunteers to assist those in need. “It’s beneficial for anyone, not just those who are homeless now,” Yoder said. “A lot of people in Hillsdale County are at risk of becoming homeless. (It’s a place) to make those connections. Everyone’s there together. Get the information you need.”