

2013 Community Connect Event Highlights

Posted: July 2013

The Community Connect Event was first held in 2009 as part of Yamhill County's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. 2013 was the 5th Annual Community Connect Event for Yamhill County. This one-day resource event was created to connect individuals and families with resources and services in our community. 2013 was the second year this event was held at the Sue Buel Elementary School in McMinnville.

The event drew over 340 guests this year. Between the dental portion and the main event, there were over 80 volunteers that assisted with the 2013 Community Connect Event.

- 100 people or about a third of the guests were seen through the dental portion of the event which was coordinated by the Yamhill County Dental Society.
 - This year there was an additional Medical Teams International (MTI) dental van for a total of 3 vans at the event.
 - An additional dental office, Evans Street Dental Center, was added to the Mountain View Oral Surgery office to assist patients off-site this year.
 - There were 13 dentists and over 20 hygienists, assistants and other office staff assisting with dental this year.

A shuttle was provided for the duration of the event from the school to the dental offices to the Yamhill County courthouse and back again every thirty minutes courtesy of YCAP.

The Yamhill County Transit Authority provided for free county-wide bus service all day on June 21st.

There were 39 service agencies at the event providing information on local services. The McMinnville Fire Department brought a fire truck and Fire Department mascot to the event; both were a big hit with the children attending the event.

Dean Williams of Pedal Power Partnership which is a partnership between Dean, Waste Management, and YCAP hit a huge milestone on Friday, delivering their 1000th bike to an 8 year old Sheridan girl. In addition, the partnership was able to give away 58 children bicycles and tricycles on Friday along with 60 bicycle helmets and make repairs to over 20 bikes Friday afternoon.

Hairdressers Crystal Leonor and Lori Sarnhal of Stiletto Salon were able to provide approximately 45 free haircuts to children and adults during the event.

The Lion's Club provided free vision and hearing screening once again this year for the event. The WVMC Cancer Center provided 33 free skin cancer screenings for adults this year which was a new addition to the event. Also new to the event this year was a clothing give-away organized by a group from Salt Creek Baptist Church in Dallas, Oregon. They filled half the gym with all sizes and types of children and adults clothing and it was well received by the guests attending the event. The other half of the gym was dedicated to the Red Cross Blood Drive which had 23 successful blood donations during the course of the event.

Sandwiches, fruit and snacks were provided to all guests. The sandwiches were donated from local vendors including Subway, Jake's Deli, Oly's Wrap Shack, Newberg Pogy's, and Chaplain's Pantry, as well as made by Yamhill County Gospel Rescue Mission and other volunteers. A majority of the snacks were donated by Betty Lou's. Water was provided by Coastal Mountain Springs and waste management services were donated by Waste Management.

Ed and Sheryl Ryker of Grocery Outlet provided 10 gift cards to the event which were used for drawings throughout the event. Love INC provided approximately 200 snack packs for guests. Providence Newberg Medical Center provided almost 600 hygiene kits and water bottles for the guests of event and Linfield students assembled all of the hygiene kits. For the day of the event, Linfield allowed the event to borrow canopies and water containers; McMinnville Water & Light allowed usage of traffic cones; and the McMinnville Chamber allowed the event to borrow clipboards.

The Amity Service Integration Team provided funding for dog and cat food which was handed out on Friday to 113 households to assist 125 cats and 158 dogs in our community.

The McMinnville School District (MSD) was a key part of the event, donating the use of Sue Buel Elementary and the MSD Conference Center for the day of the event. Ron Harper, Chief Custodian at Sue Buel should be recognized for all his efforts around the event.

The success of this event as well as future Community Connect Events depends completely on community collaboration. If you would like to sponsor or assist with the 2014 Community Connect Event, please contact Elise Hui at 503.883.4318.