

One thousand guests attend Project Homeless event

More than 100 Central Oregonians pitched in at a recent Project Homeless event, a one-day resource fair for those in need in Deschutes, Jefferson or Crook County.

Guests were able to see a doctor and a dentist, get support on finding and obtaining affordable housing and job opportu-

nities, make a long-distance phone call, receive basic necessities, and access numerous other community services, all under one roof at the Hooker Creek Event Center on Oct. 13.

Approximately 1,000 guests were served at the event.

Five hundred volunteers served 1,150 meals.

Haircuts were given to 72 people, while 1,182 personal care kits were distributed.

Veterinarians offered care to 71 dogs, 10 cats and one parakeet, while 25 spay and neuter referrals were given.

Forty bike locks were given out, 23 bikes were serviced and 2 bikes had brakes installed.

The event came to be after volunteers counted more than 2,000 homeless people in the tri-county area. More than 700 were school-age children.

"If all the homeless children in Central Oregon were gathered together, they would fill a dozen school buses. Everyone, especially children, deserve an

opportunity to succeed in school and in life, and that is tied to having a stable home. To succeed, you need a place to call home," says Jim Schell, executive director of Central Oregon Partnership.

Project Homeless Connect is spearheaded by the Homeless Leadership Council, sponsored

by Central Oregon Partnership and supported by SELCO Community Credit Union. Project Homeless Connect is also supported by the Kirby Foundation, Deschutes County, Oasis Church, Cascade Healthcare Community, Pahlisch Homes and individual donations from community members.

Campaign helps fight child abuse

Victims of child abuse will soon have additional resources with a new campaign that aims to target community members in Warm Springs.

Elaine Knobbs, director of prevention and education with Kids Center in Bend, visited Warm Springs to meet with staff members at Victims of Crime Services recently.

Kids Center coordinates the Darkness to Light Tri-County Initiative, which strives to reduce child sexual abuse in Central Oregon using evidence-based trainings, targeted outreach material and a targeted media campaign.

At the Kids Center, Knobbs said, kids are referred to them when they're suspected of being victims of child abuse.

"We see over 300 kids a year who are suspected victims of child abuse—and specifically sexual abuse," Knobbs explained.

Knobbs met with staff at VOCS to discuss methods of prevention relating specifically to Warm Springs in order to further the campaign.

The emphasis, she said, will be on educating adults about their responsibility to protect children.

Before the responsibility rested more on the children themselves. Now, Knobbs said, "We're talking about how to change that."

They plan to have the campaign running in full force by 2008.

"I hope it generates more open discussion of sex abuse, but I really think it needs to come from the community," Knobbs said.

Dealing with children often helps adults that dealt with child sexual abuse as well, she added.

"By helping adults talk about it, it often helps their own healing," Knobbs explained.

Part of the campaign will involve Darkness to Light trainings—one of which they conducted at the prison last week.

"We're trying to hit multiple levels of outreach," Knobbs said.

Part of their goal is to make the subject of sexual abuse less

taboo to talk about.

According to Knobbs, "It takes personal power and individual initiative to work together to solve this problem."

Kids Center is partnering with VOCS, the Crook County Health Department, the Deschutes County Health Department, the Jefferson County Public Health Department, the Crook County Juvenile Department, the Deschutes County Juvenile Community Justice Department, the Jefferson County Community Justice Department, the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, Central Oregon Battering and Rape Alliance (COBRA), the Deschutes County Sheriff's Department, and J Bar J.

The Darkness to Light campaign is a four-year endeavor that began in January 2006, with a concentrated and intensive focus for the first two years.

National research shows that for every one adult trained in the Darkness to Light sexual abuse prevention curriculum, 10 children are potentially better protected from abuse.

Grants available to help build, restore veterans' and war memorials

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is inviting non-profit veterans' organizations to apply for 2008 grants to help build and restore veterans' and war memorials on public property.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has \$258,000 available to award in this grant cycle.

The 2005 Oregon Legislature created and authorized the lottery-supported grants, which successful applicants can use to fund up to 80 percent of a project's construction or restoration costs.

Organizations eligible for the

funding must be based in Oregon; or, like the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, have chapters in the state.

The program's first grants, awarded earlier this year, supported projects to establish a new veterans' memorial in Albany's Timber Linn Park and replace a bronze statue of a Civil War soldier atop a Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery monument in southwest Portland.

OPRD will offer information on the grant application process along with technical assistance at a workshop for eligible applicants from 1-4 p.m. October 23 at OPRD headquar-

ters, 725 Summer Street NE, in Salem. December 14, 2007 is the application deadline. OPRD's Local Government Advisory Committee will review applications and recommend grants to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission. Criteria used in evaluating project proposals will include partnerships involvement, public support, timeliness and sustainability.

More information about the grant program can be found online through the following website: www.oregon.gov/OPRD/GRANTS/veterans.shtml.

Parents, students invited to meet Univ. of Oregon staff

Planning on going to college? If yes, then please attend this meeting on Monday, Nov. 5 at the Agency Longhouse.

Students and parents are invited to meet with University of Oregon staff at the Nov. 5 meeting beginning with dinner at 6 p.m.

On hand will be Dr. Tom Ball, assistant vice provost, and Dr. Emilio Hernandez, junior assistant vice provost, of the university Office of Institutional Equity and Di-

versity. Calvin Goggeley, Native American admissions counselor; Paul Carlisle, financial aid counselor; Dr. Alison Ball, teacher education program; Brenda Tuomi, advisor of the Office of Multicultural Support; and Native American Student Union leaders Corina Miller and Jonas Moses, will also be on hand.

If you have any questions, call Higher Education at 553-3311.

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