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**Project Homeless Connect provides services to
1,000 at day-long event**

(Everett, Wash.) – Before the doors opened at 9 a.m. for this year’s Project Homeless Connect, there was already a line out the door. As the event began, hundreds of guests streamed into Evergreen Middle School in Everett to access services like foot care, dental checkups, and haircuts.

All told, approximately 1,000 individuals were served by the seventh annual Project Homeless Connect in Snohomish County, a one-day event providing free direct services to families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Project Homeless Connect builds on a national model to deliver immediate services and to improve long-term access to services. Begun in Snohomish County in 2008, this event is a collaboration among the Snohomish County Human Services Department, United Way of Snohomish County, Snohomish Health District, City of Everett, multiple nonprofits, volunteers and the Homeless Policy Task Force. This year’s leading sponsor is the Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound.

A total of 82 providers and 150 volunteers made this event possible. Of the approximately 1,000 attendees, 260 were children, and 186 were aged 55 or over. During the registration process, guests were asked about food insecurity. Of those responding to this question, 77% reported feeling worried or stressed about having money for nutritious meals some of the time, 33% reported always feeling stressed about their next meal.

Everett Gospel Mission organized the meal service this year. Guests were seated and served by volunteers in a restaurant setting, and given a choice of appetizers and hot entrees. This table service is a hallmark of the event, and something that guests look forward to.

Guests at the event also had the option of receiving a backpack with toiletries, a new pair of sneakers, a family portrait, immunizations and more. There was also child care available on-site.

Project Homeless Connect can be found online at [www.uwsc.org/phcsnoco.php](http://www.uwsc.org/phcsnoco.php), on Facebook at [Project Homeless Connect - Snohomish County](http://www.facebook.com/phcsnoco) and on Twitter at @[phcsnoco](http://www.twitter.com/phcsnoco).

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