

=====  
2013 Loveland Homeless Connect matches volunteers with homeless and near  
homeless Loveland residents to guide them through one-stop shop of  
services  
-----

Daily Reporter-Herald, The (Loveland, CO)-October 11, 2013  
Readability: 11-12 grade level (Lexile: 1300L)  
Author: Shelley Widhalm Reporter-Herald Staff Writer

In one day, homeless and near homeless Loveland residents will have access to a one-stop shop of services they need, while the volunteers who guide them through the services also will benefit.

"It's a rare opportunity to find out more about homelessness in your community," said Alison Hade, administrator of the city of Loveland's Community Partnership Office.

So far, 50 volunteers have signed up for the 2013 Loveland Homeless Connect on Friday, Oct. 25, but at least another 100 are needed.

The volunteers will be partnered one-on-one with homeless and near homeless residents to help guide them through 30 different booths in the gymnasium at Truscott Elementary School, plus another 10 stations set up in the hallways and outside the school building.

Representatives from a variety of agencies will be at the booths to provide information about housing, food, clothing, counseling, workforce, medical and other services. A few of the agencies will offer free services and items, including haircuts, bus passes, pet food, books, bike repairs, auto diagnostics, pet vaccinations and medical screenings.

There also will be free breakfast and lunch.

"It becomes very convenient for participants to take care of a lot of issues and gather a lot of information all at once," Hade said.

During the inaugural event last year, 160 people volunteered to work with 170 participants. Hade is expecting at least 150 participants to attend this year.

The volunteers can work a half- or full session in three- or six-hour shifts, though the event is four hours. They come an hour early or stay late to attend a kick-off meeting and help finish setting up or to stay late to eat lunch with their partner for the day.

"The volunteers will go into a room and wait for people participating in the event to show up," Hade said.

Once matched with a participant, the volunteers fill out an intake (and later an exit) form to identify what the partners need, as well as to find out their stories and what legal or other issues may be preventing them from obtaining housing or employment.

"It allows volunteers to gain a better understanding of the cause of homelessness and the needs of the homeless in our community," Hade said.

The number of people who are chronically homeless in Loveland according to a one-day count on Jan. 22 is 104. A five-month count from Nov. 1, 2011, through March 31, 2012, showed there were 192 people accessing the 137 Homeless Connection and Angel House shelters and services.

"It's important for the community to gain a better understanding of the causes of homelessness, so we can start to see that there are services and programs that can be provided to make a difference," Hade said.

Shelley Widhalm can be reached at 669-5050, ext. 531, or swidhalm@reporter-herald.com. Follow her on Twitter: @ShelleyWidhalm. Read her blog: shelleywidhalm.wordpress.com.

If You Go

What: 2013 Loveland Homeless Connect.

When: 8 a.m.-noon, Friday, Oct. 25.

Where: Truscott Elementary School, 211 W. Sixth St.

Volunteers needed: Go to <http://honservice.org> and click on News & Events to sign up.

Volunteer training: Noon-1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, City Council Chambers.; 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, City Council Chambers; 4-5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21, Gertrude Scott Room, Loveland Public Library.

Section: News

Record Number: 24290892 Copyright (c) 2013, Daily Reporter-Herald, The (Loveland, CO), All Rights Reserved.

[http://docs.newsbank.com/s/InfoWeb/aqgdocs/NewsBank/149637F1395A4FE0/0F3A552076B8B92E?p\\_multi=LLRB&s\\_lang=en-US](http://docs.newsbank.com/s/InfoWeb/aqgdocs/NewsBank/149637F1395A4FE0/0F3A552076B8B92E?p_multi=LLRB&s_lang=en-US)