

Indy Homeless Connect

April 13, 2011
Indiana Convention Center

Indy Homeless Connect is a one-day community event where service providers, with the help of volunteers, offer a number of services to those experiencing homelessness in Indianapolis. The event connects homeless neighbors to housing assistance, employment resources, benefits, medical care, mental health counseling and a variety of other services.

On April 13, 2011 the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention and the City of Indianapolis held the sixth annual Indy Homeless Connect at the Indiana Convention Center. *More than 1,035 men, women and children made connections that lead to improved health, self-sufficiency and the opportunity to create a home for themselves and their families.*

2011 Results

- 92 children under the age of 5 accessed new shoes through Samaritan's Feet
- 100 completed applications for housing
- 115 individuals received social security services
- 220 neighbors applied for food stamps (SNAP) and TANF
- 81 individuals applied for Wishard Advantage health insurance
- 331 individuals obtained legal/credit/tax services
- 15 individuals filed income taxes for current and previous years
- 522 medical services were performed
- 80 individuals received new eye glasses at a follow-up vision care blitz
- 60 neighbors attended a follow-up dental blitz and 141 teeth were pulled
- 100 individuals received foot care
- 61 individuals received an ID
- 149 individuals received birth certificate vouchers
- 110 veterans received veterans' services with access to health services and other benefits
- 200 individuals accessed employment resources and an individual was employed
- 200 neighbors accessed business suits from Gentlemen's closet, representing 13 ½ racks of clothes
- 207 individuals received haircuts
- 157 neighbors received spiritual care through counsel, prayer and encouragement
- 130 individuals accessed unclaimed property totaling \$2,402.00



Indy Homeless Connect would not have been possible without the help of over 675 volunteers. Homeless service providers, government agencies, and the Indianapolis community at large came out to support the event. Many of these volunteers commented that not only did the experience demystify the concept of homelessness for them, but was just as rewarding for them as it was for the neighbors who received services.

The organizations and individuals who provided financial and in-kind support were also essential to this event being a success. Everything from socks, hygiene kits, books, office supplies, to cash was greatly appreciated.

Not only is Indy Homeless Connect a day to offer services and caring, it is also an opportunity to raise awareness about homelessness in Indianapolis. It is a day to bridge the gaps between our homeless neighbors, the services which aid them and the community to which they belong. **For more information visit www.chipindy.org**