

MINNEAPOLIS/HENNEPIN COUNTY
PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT
OCTOBER 1, 2007

SUMMARY OF POPULATION SERVED

The Minneapolis/Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect in October 2007¹ served 1,780 individuals, a 46 percent increase over the total attendance in 2006 of 1,218 individuals.² The average guest served at both events is an African-American male who is 40 years of age and has experienced several episodes of homelessness without meeting the definition for long-term homeless.³ Despite this similarity, there are some differences found between the two events. At the October 2007 event there was a greater proportion of families with dependent children in attendance, there were fewer single females, and there was an increased proportion of American Indian guests. In addition, the October 2007 event drew a smaller number of veterans and a slightly smaller number of people with a disability.

Overall the demographics are as follows:

Total number of people served: 1,780

Head of Household and Single persons served: 1,476

Average age is 41 years old (48 years for males and 37 years for females)

Race:

African American 49%

White 23%

American Indian 15%

Asian, Pacific Islander - both under 1%

Other multi-racial 4%

Other/missing 8%

Gender:

Male 59%

Female 36%

Transgender - less than 1%

Missing 5%

¹ The report for the December 2007 Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect event can be found at <http://www.wilder.org/download.0.html?report=2005>

² The report for the December 2006 Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect event can be found at <http://www.wilder.org/download.0.html?report=1947>.

³ The state of Minnesota defines an individual, unaccompanied youth or family as “Long-Term Homeless” if they are without a home for a year or more OR have had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. Any period of institutionalization or incarceration (including transitional housing, prison/jail, treatment, hospitals, foster care, or refugee camps) is excluded when determining the length of time the household has been homeless).

Veteran status

Yes 10%

No 78%

Refused 2%

Missing 10%

Homeless status

First time homeless 27%

Multiple times homeless 12%

Long-term homeless 21%

Not currently homeless 30%

Missing/refused 10%

Guests were asked to complete an exit survey as they left the event. Of the 1,543 surveys collected, less than one percent reported that Project Homeless Connect was not worth their time, citing long lines as the main reason.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES PROVIDED

Project Homeless Connect offered an incredibly wide range of services and resources for people who were experiencing homelessness. Everything from housing counseling to job applications to flu shots to haircuts were available onsite for anyone who needed help. Some of the highlights of the services included:

- 136 people received a free health assessment followed by onsite healthcare services targeted at addressing their unique health needs, including dental assessments, prescription medicines, immunizations, assessments for traumatic brain injury, and non-prescription medications and medical supplies.
- 252 households received a free housing triage consultation which included an assessment of their housing needs and immediate referral to the appropriate organization or housing provider.
- 1 person was able to obtain housing on the day of the event
- 75 people received a free voicemail number, enabling them to better search for housing and employment and to stay connected to family.
- 142 adults and children were enrolled in educational programs such as General Education classes and Head Start.
- 16 people received vouchers to pay for their GED exam.
- 161 people received free legal consultation. 63 percent of the questions involved civil law matters, half of which were related to housing, public benefits and family law. 37 percent involved criminal law matters, two-thirds of which involved inquiries about the expungement of criminal records which were keeping individuals from housing and employment.
- 165 people were helped with obtaining an ID to help them access housing, employment and benefits.
- 30 youth were able to get counseling that day.
- 61 people got help with applying for SSI disability benefits.

An outline of all the services provided is shown below.

HEALTH CARE

On-site medical and dental care was provided by Healthcare for the Homeless and Appletree Dental, with substantial help from The College of St Catherine's.

148 people completed a **health intake**

76 **medical visits** were provided (19 with an MD, 34 with a Nurse Practitioner, and 23 with a Public Health Nurse)

60 **dental assessments** were given

32 **prescriptions** were provided

14 **non-prescription medications and medical supplies** were given

4 people received a **metabolic syndrome/diabetes screening**

4 people received help with their **asthma**

20 people received **foot care**

13 **immunizations or flu shots** were provided

20 **TBI assessments** were given

6 people received **STD or pregnancy testing**

2 people received a **stroke evaluation**

37 **mental health/chemical dependency screenings** were provided by Hennepin County Medical Center and COPE.

21 people received **harm reduction services** through Access Works/TC Hope.

87 **safe sex kits** were provided by Turning Point and MDWST Healthcare for Women.

110 people received **blood pressure checks** Hennepin County Medical Center.

100 **blood glucose checks** were given by Hennepin County Medical Center.

1 **appointment** was made with MDWST Healthcare for Women.

286 sets of **information or referrals** were given by Hennepin County Medical Center, COPE, Access Works/TC Hope, Brain Injury Association of Minnesota, NIP Community Clinic, Turning Point, and Healthcare for the Homeless.

Total Health Care Services: 1,041

HOUSING

252 households completed **housing triage** (72 families, 5 youth and 175 singles)

1 person **obtained housing** from St. Stephen's

23 households were **placed on a waiting list** for housing for Ascension Place, Community Involvement Program, Exodus Residence, and St. Stephen's.

122 **housing applications or intakes** were given and/or completed for Ascension Place, Cabrini Partnership, Minneapolis Public Housing, Our Savior Housing, Vail Place, Community Involvement Program, and Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin.

Over 403 sets of **referrals or information** were given by Simpson Housing, HousingLink, Vail Place, Community Involvement Program, Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin, Exodus Residence, St. Stephen's, the COHR team, and Turning Point.

Total Housing Services: 801

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

5 **library cards** were provided by the Minneapolis Library.
75 people received a **voicemail** number through Twin Cities Community Voicemail.
475 pairs of **shoes** were provided by Basilica of St. Mary.
235 sets of **information or referral** were given by Community Action of Minneapolis, Park House, Amicus, the Minneapolis Library, the Native American Community Clinic, and the Metro Area Agency on Aging.

Total Community Resource Services: 790

EDUCATION

142 adults and children were **enrolled in educational programs** by Minneapolis Transitions Schools, Minneapolis Public Schools, and Parents in Community Action, Minneapolis Public Schools—ABE.

16 people received **GED vouchers** through Minneapolis Transitions Schools.

217 sets of **information or referrals** were given by Minneapolis Literary Council, Minneapolis Public Schools—Early Childhood Family Education, Minneapolis Transitions School, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Public Schools—Safe and Drug-free Schools, Minneapolis Public Schools—Out4Good, Minneapolis Public Schools—ABE, and Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps.

Total Education Services: 375

LEGAL SERVICES

101 people were helped with questions regarding **civil law matters** including housing, public benefits, family law, bankruptcy, personal injury, employment, immigration and consumer matters

60 people were help with questions regarding **criminal law matters** including criminal record expungement.

Over 50 **referrals** for additional legal services were given

Total Legal Services: 211

EMPLOYMENT

45 **job applications** were completed with Easter Seals and REI

42 people received **job skills training** from Easter Seals

90 people received **information** on jobs from Hilton Company

Total Employment Services: 177

ID'S

10 **birth certificate** vouchers and 35 applications were provided by the Alliance of the Streets.

45 **Social Security cards** were renewed by Metro Area Agency on Aging.

110 **driver's license/ID** vouchers and 137 sets of information were given by the Department of Public Safety.

Total ID Services: 165

YOUTH SERVICES

30 **counseling sessions** were given by The Bridge.

135 sets of **information or referrals** related to benefits, housing, education, emergency shelter, life skills, ID's, mental health and case management were given by YouthLink/Kulture Klub, Freeport West, Avenues, and The Bridge.

Total Youth Services: 165

BENEFITS

69 sets of **information or referrals for veterans services** were given by the VA Medical Center and Hennepin County VETS.

61 people received help with **Social Security Benefits** by Chamberlin Edmonds, Outreach Services, and Salvation Army SSI Outreach.

25 applications for **energy assistance** were given by Community Action of Minneapolis.

Total Benefits Services: 155

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES

115 sets of **information or referrals** were given by 348-Tots/Follow Along Program and Child-Teen Check-Up.

Total Children and Families Services: 115