



The sixth Project Homeless Connect event was held on December 8, 2008 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This one-stop style service event is a national best practice in delivering multiple services to people experiencing homelessness and is practiced in over 200 communities nationwide. While Hennepin County's event was not the first in the nation, it has become one of the largest and most comprehensive in the nation, serving thousands of homeless each event. At each event, people experiencing homelessness are coupled with a volunteer from the community to determine the individual's needs for the day, and create an action plan for the event. At this event we served nearly 1000 fewer guests than we did at our April event, but found that guests experienced shorter lines, more volunteers, and generally accessed more services than at any event so far. A combination of extra space donated from the convention center, an enormous outpouring of volunteers, and consistent engagement from providers all led to the incredible results for the event.

Project Homeless Connect is a service delivery model that has been proven time and again to be a key to eliminating barriers to housing, employment, education, and myriad other areas that contribute to homelessness. Nearly 1800 people experiencing homelessness were served by over 1600 volunteers, 160 agencies and over 500 service providers took part in providing on the spot services.

Below is a list of some of the services that were provided on-site during our event.

- 221 people accessed legal counsel
- 296 people saw a dentist, 207 received Xrays, 13 received denture vouchers, 177 teeth were pulled
- Over 700 free IDs and Birth Certificates were received
- 122 free voicemails were set up
- 196 people completed housing applications, 3 secured housing that day
- 322 employment applications were completed
- Over 500 shoe vouchers were given out
- 2500 hot catered meals were served
- 334 haircuts were given
- 60 prescription glasses and 248 readers were given out
- 54 mental health assessments
- 43 mammograms were completed
- 105 received medical services

Our next Project Homeless Connect event will take place on **Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009** at the Minneapolis Convention Center. To find more information on Minneapolis/Hennepin Co. Project Homeless Connect, please visit our website.

[www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org](http://www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org).