



Enriching Lives

# NEWS RELEASE

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**Contact:** Judy Hammond, Director of Public Affairs, (213) 974-1363  
Brian Lew, Assistant Director, (213) 974-1652  
**Michael Castillo, Event Coordinator, (213) 974-4652**

April 16, 2009

## EVENT CONNECTS HOMELESS WITH NEEDED SERVICES

The County of Los Angeles, in conjunction with the Whittier Area Recovery Network, today hosted Whittier Connect Day, bringing together service providers, agencies and organizations to provide assistance to the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.

It's estimated there are approximately 74,000 homeless people on the streets of Los Angeles County on any given night. Whittier Connect Day 2009 connected individuals and families in the Whittier area with service agencies that can provide housing, health care, cash aid, food, child care and shelter assistance.

Whittier Connect Day was held at the Whittier Salvation Army. Attendees were solicited by distributing fliers, and via word of mouth in the community. In addition, homeless outreach teams assisted with identifying potential clients and invited them to attend. In some cases, transportation was provided by outreach teams, including the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

Attendees were interviewed to assess their needs and eligibility, then escorted by volunteer staff to a series of service and information booths.

Participating County agencies included the Departments of Public Social Services, Mental Health, Child Support Services, Registrar Recorder-County Clerk, Children and Family Services, Community and Senior Services, Public Health, Sheriff and the Public Defender.

Participating non-county government and community -based organizations included the Salvation Army, Social Security Administration, City of Whittier Community Services Department, Stefano, Andy's Hair Design, Weingart Center Association, U.S. Bank, Freedom Re-Entry Center, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital, Women & Children Crises Center, Rio Hondo Temporary Home, St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Interfaith Food Center, Public Counsel, SPIRITT Family Services, Whittier First Day, St. Bruno Catholic Church, Telecare Corporation, Cornerstone Reality, and Luna Recovery Inc.

-more-

## Homeless 2-2-2

Services included legal support and advocacy information, along with identification cards, birth certificates, flu shots, dental screenings, public benefits, hair cuts, alcohol and drug treatment referrals, free community voice mail, domestic violence resources, financial counseling, information to help mitigate property foreclosure, mental health resources, identification cards and birth certificates.

After clients had been escorted to all booths, a discharge interview was conducted to ensure that their needs were met and to encourage ongoing connection with health and human service providers, both government and community based. Follow-up appointments were made for clients who were interested. Lunch was also provided to participating clients.