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www.healthylarimer.org

Larimer County's Homeless Receive Help from Kids at Family and Youth Summit

Larimer County, CO—Do you know local data estimates there are approximately 800 homeless youth in Larimer County? And there could be as many as 2,000 more homeless adults.

Many other kids and families are coming together on Saturday, March 31, to **do something to help!**

The 2nd Annual Family and Youth Summit, to be held on Saturday, March 31, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the First National Bank Exhibition Hall at The Ranch (Larimer County Fairgrounds), includes a service project that will walk Summit participants through the stages of homelessness and give them an opportunity to help those in need. There will be three interactive volunteer stations:

At the Hygiene Kit Assembly Station, participants will learn about life on the streets while filling backpacks with hygiene essentials – all purchased and donated by the Orthopaedic Center of the Rockies. The backpacks will then be distributed by the Interfaith Hospitality Network, Crossroads Safehouse and Catholic Charities Northern-Fort Collins.

Participants will decorate flower pots and fill them with plants at the Plant Potting Station. People moving from the streets into transitional housing will receive one of the potted plants through Neighbor to Neighbor, the House of Neighborly Services and the Fort Collins Housing Authority.

Another station will allow participants to write letters to elected officials that affect governmental policy on issues of homelessness and affordable housing. Representatives from Housing Colorado will be on hand to help with the letter writing and will deliver all the letters.

Additionally, each person who brings two non-perishable canned goods to the Family and Youth Summit will have their name entered in a drawing to win tickets to the Fort Collins Symphony. Food donations will benefit the Food Bank for Larimer County.

“One of the goals of the Family and Youth Summit is to raise awareness about the alarming increase in homelessness in Larimer County while at the same time offering tools for addressing the issue,” said Julie Phillips, United Way 2-1-1 Volunteer Center Specialist. “We have high expectations for this project and are excited to mobilize the community to help.”

(more)



The 2007 Family & Youth Summit

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Homeless Receive Help

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Other features of the Summit, which will have something for kids of all ages – from birth through high school – are:

- Workshops tailored to be of interest to teens, parents and families about topics such as body image, creating family time and homework strategies
- A keynote presentation will be delivered by Jim Davidson, international outdoor expedition leader and high-altitude rescuer, about surviving life's adventures
- Mini sports clinics
- Teen fashion shows
- Story times with local authors
- Inflatables, booths, entertainment, fun activities and a lot more!

The Family and Youth Summit, hosted by the Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County (HCC), in partnership with five local radio stations (107.9 FM The Bear, MY 97.9 FM, 96.1 KISS FM, Fox News Radio 600 AM KCOL, and KIIX AM 1410), provides families the chance to spend a day together having fun and learning about ways to make healthy, safe lifestyle choices.

Admission is \$10 at the door for families and/or individuals. Pre-registration is recommended for the informational workshops as space is limited in each of the sessions. Workshop descriptions and a pre-registration form are available online at www.healthylarimer.org/2007summit. A cash-only concession area will be open for snacks and lunch. For more information, call (970) 495-7503 or go to www.healthylarimer.org.

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The Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County is an alliance of nonprofit, education, health, business, government and citizen leaders who collaboratively identify, develop and implement strategies to improve the health and well-being of county residents. Established in 1994 and located in Fort Collins, Colorado, HCC's special focus since 2002 has been on improving the lives of our youth.