



Project Homeless Connect

January 25, 2007

Statewide Outcomes Report





What is Project Homeless Connect?

- **Project Homeless Connect** was a one day event sponsored by community leaders and designed to provide housing, services, and hospitality in a convenient one-stop model for people experiencing homelessness.
- New Jersey was the first state to coordinate a statewide Project Homeless Connect.
- PHC was held in connection with the HUD mandated Point in Time Count.
- Each PHC site offered unique services and giveaways



New Jersey Project Homeless Connect

Held at 43 Sites in 20 Counties*



Guests Attended: 5,121

Volunteers: 940

Camden County, Cathedral Kitchen

*Morris County held their PHC on December 6, 2006



Housing Services Received *

- **Shelter for the Night:** **203**

- **Housing/Shelter Info:** **1,063**
 - Number reflects either referrals or information about housing (emergency, transitional, permanent)

* Data reported on this, and subsequent detailed service related slides, will not include: Atlantic, Burlington, Cumberland, Essex, Morris, and Union County. With the exception of Atlantic County being counted for Shelter Today

Mainstream Resources

Legal Assistance 265

Mental Health 336

Employment Info 89

Addiction (Counseling/referral). . 259

Other 103



Cape May County, First Baptist Church



Services Received (Specialized)

Children's Services	257
Emergency Services	148
Women's Services	496
Veterans Services	148
Elder Services	46



Ocean County, Macedonia Baptist Church

Medical Services Received

HIV Testing	145
HIV Counseling	67
Blood Pressure	390
Glucose Test	100
Flu Shot	85
Women's Services	16



Mercer County, Trenton YWCA

Primary Care	2
Triage	3
Vision	41
Dental	204
Medical Referrals	40
Other	98



Hudson County, Jersey City Armory



Mainstream Benefits

- Social Security/SSI/SSDI 204
- Welfare (GA/TANF) 53
- Food Stamps 100
- Fuel Assistance 7

Clothing Giveaways

Coats	1,545
Clothing	2,228
Socks	1,802
Shoes	204
Hats/Gloves & Scarves . . .	1,290



Camden County, Cathedral Kitchen

Additional Giveaway Items

Blankets 1,199

Toiletries 1,535

Condoms 690

Flashlights 225

Books 160



Mercer County, Trenton YWCA



Additional Giveaways, Cont'd

- Duffel Bags/Care Kits/Bags 506
- Postcards/Phone Calls 120
- Bus Tickets 100
- McDonald's/Rite Aid/Phone cards 102
- County Outreach cards/Soc. Serv. Directory . . 549

- The success of PHC was made possible by the numerous **volunteers** who participated in events throughout the State.
- **United Way organizations** statewide played an important role in providing funding, donations, and volunteers.
- **Faith-based organizations** groups were essential, as they hosted a number of PHC sites and collected donations for the event
- **Girl Scout Troops** were significant in many counties, by collecting donations and preparing items for the day of the event.



Participation of Student Volunteers

- Hudson County: 20+ *St. Peter's College* students volunteered at PHC.
- Mercer County: 5 *Temple University, Dental Students* performed 200+ dental exams and distributed toothpaste and toothbrushes.
- Passaic County: *Passaic County Community College, Nursing Students* performed blood pressure screenings and gave flu shots to PHC attendees.
- Middlesex County: *Rutgers University, Master Level Social Work interns* worked to plan and organize PHC events in Middlesex County.
- Bergen County: *Local High School students* served food to homeless individuals at the PHC site.

- **Elected Officials** visited PHC sites throughout the state.
Including Assemblyman and Freeholders from Bergen, Cape May, Mercer, Ocean, and Passaic Counties.
- **County Executives** from Essex, Hudson and Bergen Counties visited PHC sites in their jurisdictions.
- **Secretary of State, Nina Mitchell Wells** attended the Passaic PHC event as a result of the significant involvement of 50 AmeriCorps volunteers in Passaic County.



Suggestions for Future Project Homeless Connects

- Plan early to secure adequate donations and volunteers.
- Hold year-round meetings, at least every two months, to encourage continuous discussion of, and planning for, PHC.
- Work to increase the number of agencies involved in planning Project Homeless Connect
- Discuss how your County can make additional housing resources available to those who attend PHC.

Feedback and Discussion

- Was Project Homeless Connect effective?
- Were you able to reach any of the 'hard-to-reach' homeless in your County?
- Was Project Homeless Connect able to link additional homeless people to mainstream resources?
- Is there a benefit to coordinating Project Homeless Connect and the Point in Time Count in the future?