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DOZENS OF FORT COLLINS ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES WILL OFFER FREE SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AT PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

FORT COLLINS, Colo., March 21, 2016 - Fort Collins' annual Project Homeless Connect is scheduled to take place on April 8, 8 a.m.-noon. Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop event on that offers a range of free services to hundreds of people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

Project Homeless Connect will take place at the Northside Aztlan Center, 112 Willow St. A free breakfast will be available in the morning, and a free BBQ lunch will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Nearly 60 local nonprofits, government agencies and businesses will provide on-site services. Homeward 2020, Bohemian Foundation, the Murphy Center and Colorado State University Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement (SLiCE) co-produce the event with support from United Way of Larimer County.

Free services this year will include basic car inspection; bike repair; medical screenings; basic dental screenings for adults and children; eye exams; family photos; haircuts; housing information; veterans' services; ID and legal services; employment services; counseling; government benefits; child care and children's activities; bus passes; massages; toiletry packages; pet health care; and pet food.

During the event, each participant is paired one-to-one with a volunteer who helps the participant navigate the variety of services available. Last year, SLiCE recruited more than 400 CSU students and Fort Collins community members to volunteer.

About Project Homeless Connect

The Project Homeless Connect concept originated in San Francisco in 2004. In 2005, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness launched the National Project Homeless Connect Partnership. Since 2008, more than 200 cities across the U.S., Canada and Australia have adopted the initiative. Fort Collins welcomed its first Project Homeless Connect in 2010. Since then, more than 2,000 individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Fort Collins community have participated.

About Homeward 2020

Homeward 2020 is an assembly of community and agency leaders working in support of the Ten Year Plan to make homelessness in Fort Collins rare, short lived and non-recurring through a housing first approach. Homeward 2020 provides community leadership by serving as a convener, catalyst, data driver and advocate, and through the collective expertise and experience of its members.

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