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Multi-day resource fair helps more than 500 people

More than 500 residents received services during a multi-day resource fair hosted by the Snohomish County Executive Office, United Way of Snohomish County and the Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC).

Called “Helping Hands for Hard Times,” the three-day resource fair in Everett, Lynnwood and Tulalip/Marysville provided employment, housing, financial and healthcare assistance to residents currently in need. Services were offered to participants free of charge.

“The success of these resource fairs signals that our families continue to need help during these difficult times,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “It is incumbent upon us to continue to have these resource fairs while there is a direct need.”

More than 25 nonprofit and public agencies offered a variety of services at each fair. Participants also were able to attend classes that focused on asset building, avoiding foreclosure, résumé building and interviewing techniques.

“This expo was ideal for bringing people in need together with the agencies that can help them,” said Carl Zapora, CEO and president of United Way of Snohomish County. “It made for easy referral from one agency to another.”

Topics covered and services offered included employment counseling, job search assistance, skills training, financial aid information for training, home and personal finance consultation, weatherization and home energy assistance, housing resources, healthcare assistance, H1N1 flu vaccinations, childcare resources and a variety of other support services.

“Getting people back to work is important, but we also need to help people keep their homes, re-educate and more,” said Sue Ambler, CEO and president of WDCSC. “It makes a lot of sense to pull together all these resources for easy access.”

For more information on agencies and resources, go to www.snoco.org and search “resource fair.”

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