



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2009

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Community Resource Exchange makes direct impact

United Way of King County expects to serve 1,500 homeless people at Qwest Field

SEATTLE — More than 400 volunteers and service providers helped about 1,500 homeless individuals and families today at the Unite to End Homelessness **Community Resource Exchange** at Qwest Field.

"It's easy to see that the economic downturn is affecting a lot of people," said Jon Fine, United Way of King County President and CEO. "And it's the people who were struggling before the downturn who are getting hit the hardest. Lines at food banks are growing, more people are in danger of losing their jobs and homes and the ability to meet the increased demand for services is falling. This all means that there is a greater need for the community to rally around and help, which is what the Community Resource Exchange does."

Volunteers helped provide much needed services to all those who came to the event. Qwest Field was packed with people eating hot meals and getting blood pressure tests, dental work, , hair cuts, free voicemail account setups, ID cards and wheelchair maintenance. Free long-distance phone calls allowed guests to connect with friends and family for the first time in years. Also available were referrals to other important services such as housing, legal assistance, counseling, employment training and ESL classes.

"Accessing services can be challenging and confusing when you don't have a permanent address or dependable transportation," said Vince Matulionis, Director of Ending Homelessness for United Way. "Not only did today's event provide these vital services in a centralized location, but offered a powerful personal connection, not only for the clients but for everyone involved."

The Community Resource Exchange is made possible by generous corporate sponsorships by the Seattle Seahawks, Microsoft Corporation, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Swedish Medical Center and Providence Health & Services.

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