



# Newsletter

January, 2004

*Linking individuals and families to resources*

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## ConneXions Update

- 1) Ongoing meeting information
- 2) Executive Committee Update
- 3) Universal Application Committee
- 4) Information Services Committee
- 5) Regional Meeting Update

## Highlights of Projects in Action:

- 1) Free Medical clinic
- 2) Union Gospel Mission Dental Clinic
- 3) Rest House for Homeless

## ConneXions Update

- 1) **Ongoing Meetings:** As we focus our work ahead on the sub-committees, we have decided the steering committee will meet quarterly. **The next steering committee meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20th from 3 –5pm. Location will be at the First United Methodist Church of Olympia, 1224 East Legion Way.**
- 2) **Executive Committee Update:** Since the last Steering Committee Meeting Holly and John have assembled an Executive Committee to assist in the strategic planning and development of ConneXions. Currently the Executive Committee consists of Linda Greenly, Treasurer, and the Chairs of the Universal and Information Committees, Debby Gaffney, Jane Jones and Bev Peterson. Their work to date includes developing a draft work plan, timeline and also planning for informational region-wide ConneXions and United Way meetings.
- 3) **Universal Application Committee:** The Universal Application Subcommittee will meet face to face for their first meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 14 from 3:00 - 4:30 in Room 230 at the North Thurston Public Schools Administration Building on College in Lacey. Members have been asked to come to the meeting prepared to discuss the UA downloaded from the Jesse Tree website, it's applicability to workers or local agencies they have shared it with to date. The committee's mission is to propose a Universal Application that would be seen as desirable by the ConneXions community, one that gathers meaningful information, is easy to navigate, does not duplicate existing efforts and ultimately maximizes our service delivery efforts.
- 4) Members will be engaged in exploring what information is essential to the UA and will be contacting local agencies for feedback and possible test runs at some point. If you are interested in participating in this committee's work in any way, please contact either co-chair, Debby Gaffney at 412-4470 or Jane Jones at 459-1718 or [bjkjones@comcast.net](mailto:bjkjones@comcast.net).
- 5) **The Information Services Committee/Information Service Database:** The Information Services Committee met on December 8th. Tedd Kelleher from the State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development gave a presentation on the software that he has created to track the homeless population for the state. This software is web based, customizable for multiple organizational needs and is free. This software uses current National AIRs taxonomy coding and

adheres to the National AIRs import/export data. It is HIPPA compliant, each individual organization can set parameters for sharing information. The state is willing to host this application or to let others host it. The costs for hosting are not yet known. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 27th from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Crisis Clinic. We will be discussing the Jesse Tree software.

- 6) **Regional Meeting Update:** There was a great turnout for the January 9th meeting in McCleary. Despite the snow and ice, about 30 people from various organizations and counties (Mason, Lewis, Pacific & Grays Harbor) attended to hear about the efforts in Thurston and Mason counties to get ConneXions up and running. People showed great interest in taking the information back to their own communities. Everyone at the regional meeting was invited to attend any upcoming ConneXions meeting.

### ***Highlights of Projects in Action:***

1) Westminster Presbyterian Church continues on the path to opening a **Free Medical Clinic** for our community in the weeks to come. A steering committee and subcommittees, comprised of members of Westminster and other local faith groups as well as community members, has been meeting since the end of October. In this short time, they have endeavored to become educated on the needs of our community and solidify their vision and plan for the steps necessary to open the doors. The mission of the **Neighborhood Free Medical Clinic** is to provide free basic medical care and referral services to the underserved residents of our community with compassion and dignity.

The committee members are in discussion with Lacey Presbyterian Church on Carpenter Road (across from the fairgrounds) to utilize space in their building for the clinic. It is anticipated to be open one night a week, beginning the end of March. Ways in which this initial site can serve the homeless population with some creative transportation (site is on the bus line) and how to include the possibility of some expansion sites in the community as we gain experience and capacity in this project are being explored.

Any offer of support is welcomed! Please contact Executive Director, Jane Jones, if you would like to join in the committee work, make a donation of some type or if you have other resources to share. Jane can be reached at [bjkjones@comcast.net](mailto:bjkjones@comcast.net) or 360-459-1718. Watch for an official announcement about the location, and website that is under development, phone and e-mail address. Thanks to all who have made this a reality for our community!

2) The Union Gospel Mission Adult Dental Clinic is up and running. After playing catch up for the last week due to delays from the snowstorm, dentists are excited and very willing to put in their time volunteering. A new dentist and two new assistants came forward to volunteer their services this week. The phones are ringing off the hook for emergencies. The biggest problem they are experiencing is the overwhelming demand from doctors who have patients that are pre-op, who can not proceed with surgeries, until they receive much needed dental procedures. This was not a need they had anticipated meeting. They need more dentists and trained assistants in the community to come forward and volunteer their time, even one day a month would make a big difference to meet the overwhelming demands. An article in the Olympian reported that the clinic needed volunteers to come forward, but did not specify that their need was for trained assistants. At this time they do not have the capacity to offer training to volunteers who are looking for training and experience. If you are or know of an experienced or retired assistant or dentist who would like to volunteer your services, please contact Linda Barrett or George Wehnes at 360-709-9725.

3) Bread and Roses has found a location in Tumwater that is being used as a shelter for homeless people who have been discharged from the Hospital to use for recovery and rest. For more information, contact Selena Kilmoyer, 360-754-4085.