

Homeless Connect Edmonton Event

Next date: October 2017 (dates and details yet to be determined)

Through Homeless Connect Edmonton more than 2,300 guests will have access to 70 services, with the help of more than 350 volunteers. The Shaw Conference Centre hosted the first event in 2008, and two events have been held each year (spring and fall). Service providers attend the event to give dental and eye care, new clothing, shoes and books, legal aid and housing services, along with free meals, haircuts and professional portraits.

Donations needed:

- Mens' clothing
- New socks
- New underwear / Mens, womens, children
- Diapers
- Usable work boots and work clothing
- Toiletries and personal care items
- Backpacks
- Hangers

Spring sponsors:

- ATB Financial
- Bissell Centre
- CGI (IT services provider)
- Chris's Delivery Service
- Copy City
- Economic Development Edmonton
- Edmonton Food Bank
- Edmonton Potato Growers
- Edmonton Public Library
- ETS
- Freeman Audio Visual
- GES (special event suppliers)
- Alberta Blue Cross
- HSAA – union of health care professionals
- Impark
- RBC
- Salvation Army
- Servus Credit Union
- Shaw Conference Centre
- ShowTech Power and Lighting
- Spark (promotional items supplier)
- United Way

Homeless Connect Edmonton is not a registered charity and therefore cannot issue tax receipts.

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Registration/Exit Survey:** Conducting intake and exit surveys, helping guests navigate the registration lines, running supplies when needed.
- **Greeters:** Homeless Connect is about respect and inclusion. Greeters set the tone, shaking hands with guests as they arrive, ensuring they feel welcome, and directing them to registration.
- **Guides:** Once a guest has registered, a guide meets them and directs them to the services they need. A guide is a guest's host, ensuring they receive the services and information they need. Guides walk with guests through the event and help them to find the services they are seeking.
- **Special Ops:** Our special ops volunteers cover a variety of services offered at Homeless Connect. These services include:
 - **Child Care Registration** - registering families, taking pictures of the child and logging them into the system.

- **Hair** - sweeping hair, helping with line control, etc.
- **Clothing** - organizing and sorting clothing, helping guests find what they need, etc.
- **Serving Coffee**
- **Meal Service** - helping families and people with mobility issues get meals, ticking off wrist bands, line control, clearing plates, etc.
- **Photography Registration**
- **Buggy/Coat Check** - taking in items and handing out tickets to guests.
- **Floater:** All of the above! Our floater volunteers assist each area and give much needed breaks to those volunteering for the entire day.

All volunteers work closely with our guests. This event is very hands on and volunteers are asked to do a lot of lifting, standing and moving. At this time, **there are VERY limited positions available for those with mobility issues.** Please make sure to specify if you have any issues with standing, heavy lifting or walking on your application form.

Time Commitment

New volunteers are asked to attend a mandatory training session prior to the event. This session is approximately one hour in length and goes through the important aspects of the event, as well as gives the volunteers an opportunity to meet their Team Leads and ask questions.

The event has two time slots available for volunteers: **All day shifts** (8:30am-3:30pm) or **Morning shifts** (8am-12:30pm). Depending on the amount of activity, volunteers may be sent home early by their team leads.

Volunteer Groups

Unfortunately, **we are unable to accept groups of volunteers for this event.** Should you have a group of people that are interested in volunteering, please sign up as individuals and state on the volunteer application what group you are with. The volunteer coordinator will try to keep groups together, but there is no guarantee that groups will be placed together.

Youth Volunteers

Homeless Connect encourages youth to volunteer at the event. Youth 12-16 years of age must be accompanied 1:1 by a parent or guardian. All youth under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign their waiver. **Unfortunately due to liability reasons, we cannot have anyone under the age of 12 volunteer at the event.**

Set Up/Tear Down

Homeless Connect takes a lot of man power to get the event set up and taken down in a timely manner. Volunteers able to come early before their shift or stay after 3:30pm to help our team are greatly appreciated. We are also looking for volunteers who are interested in coming just to help with tear down starting at 3pm.

Please check back in September for volunteer opportunities.