

New Program Will Help Get Medical Care To Homeless

The Yakima Valley, facing an increasing awareness of just how big its homeless problem really is, now has a program designed to get medical care to that population.

A federal grant to Neighborhood Health Services of Yakima will fund

the new program for three years.

NHS received \$650,000 a year for three years through the Department of Health and Human Services. That will cover hiring some additional staff, leasing office space and taking services into the area's streets and

homeless shelters.

"We're anticipating serving over 1,000 people the first year," said Rhonda Hauff, primary care administrator.

That might not reach all the area's homeless — a population that is hard to find and count — but it will be a good start, she noted.

"At the last count there were about 1,200 homeless people counted in a one-day period last January," she said, noting that actual figures likely are higher.

NHS is leasing space from Triumph Treatment Services in Yakima at Naches Avenue and Chestnut.

"They're one of the partners in the Homeless Network of Yakima County that provides services to homeless individuals and families," she said. "There are about 40 different agencies in that network, and we'll be working closely with them to coordinate services."

Neighborhood Health will offer primary care and dental screenings, while Triumph will do chemical-dependency counseling and therapists from Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health offer mental-health services.

"Our nurses will be going out on the streets and working in the shelters, doing nursing assessments, first aid and public health screening and referring people to our primary-care clinic," Hauff said.

The grant will fund a family nurse practitioner and a nurse, plus an eligibility worker to help individuals and families sign up for Medicare or Basic Health coverage. Those needing more treatment will be referred to NHS' main Yakima clinic, she said.

One problem in trying to care for the area's homeless involves identifying and reaching out to them. Many were shocked at the extent of the Valley's homelessness when a real outreach survey was undertaken a year or so ago.

"We believe we are becoming more aware of the homeless and how to identify who they are and where they are," Hauff said.

"By partnering with the agencies that have been working with the homeless families for a long time, we're better able to identify where to find the people who need help.

"A part of what we're trying to do is find the families that need health services, because often they are not reaching out for care. Maybe we can identify them earlier. Part of this grant will help us go find them wherever they are."

Craig Schultz Construction of Yakima is renovating the office space at Triumph to house the new program.

On another front, Neighborhood Health is also remodeling a building it purchased in Sunnyside to house its programs there.

Currently it offers Women, Infants and Children (WIC) supplemental food services and the state's First Steps program for pregnant women.

"We're hoping next year to put dental services in there," said Executive Director Anita Monahan. "And we're also hoping to expand into primary care at that site."



Director Anita Monahan of Neighborhood Health Services in Yakima outside the future location of a new program that will provide health services for the homeless.

Got Dirt??? Let's talk Dirt!!!

When your car gets dirty do you wash it? When your two year old gets chocolate cake all over his face do you wash his face? Sure you do. Did you know that your printers get dirty? Like cars and kids your printers need cleaning too! Good maintenance on your printers will insure fewer repairs and longer life. Schedule now for us to come and do a preventative maintenance on your printers and fax machines. It's an investment that will pay for itself.

Laser Tech Keeps Your Printers Happy!!!

LaserTech 509-457-5569

lasertechnw@nwinfo.net

NW, Inc.

1008 W. Ahtanum Rd., Suite 5 • Union Gap

Tired of T-1 Rates?

Get a "T-1 Alternative" from Charter Business!

High-speed Internet services at 2 and 3 times the download speed of a T-1, at a fraction of the cost. If you've had it with your T-1 service, the lack of flexibility, and those outrageous fees, Charter Business has a better alternative...

High-speed Internet and Video solutions from Charter Business offer you scalable services that are reliable, easy to use and can grow as your business grows.

Contact your local representative to learn more about how Charter Business can help provide affordable, reliable and fast solutions for your Business.

Call Tom Daniels today at:
(509) 575-1699
tom.daniels@chartercom.com

Charter Business
The Way Business Works

Get The Speed You Need From Charter Business

You Were Supposed To Receive Their Past-Due Payment Today

"We're sorry, you have reached a number that has been disconnected or is no longer in service. If you feel you have reached this message in error, please hang up and dial again."



Maybe It's Time To Let Someone Else Collect Your Past-Due Accounts. And Maybe It's Time For You To Get Back To Running Your Business.

YCCS
A NATIONAL COLLECTION SYSTEM
"Firm But Fair"

(509) 248-1610
1-800-841-5873