

Services offered at event on Thursday

If you go:

What: Community Connect Day

Where: FISH food bank, 301 W. Second Ave., Ellensburg (Water Street and Second Avenue)

When: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday

Features: Free meals beginning at 11 a.m.; haircuts; winter clothing; dental checkups and more.

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By MIKE JOHNSTON senior writer |

Area residents struggling with nearly any type of unmet need can attend the fourth annual Community Connect Day event on Thursday to receive help or assistance in how to obtain the services they need.

More than 34 local social service agencies will be at the FISH Food Bank building at Water Street and Second Avenue from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday to reach out to those attending, according to event organizers.

It's open to anyone of any age or income or residential situation, organizers said.

Included will be several free services during the event: childhood and adult immunizations, hot meals, socks and other winter clothing, food to take home, health and dental checkups and more.

In the past, those urged to attend the annual Community Connect Day have been those with low incomes and the homeless, but this year's event is open to anyone with any need, said Hope McMillan, the housing program lead at the nonprofit HopeSource agency.

"There are a lot of people in our community who don't know about all the services that are open to them right here," McMillan said. "This (the Thursday Community Connect Day) is a way of connecting people and families to the situation they are struggling with."

Some of the services highlighted at the Connect Day will be those to help residents prepare for the coming winter months in connection with their health, clothing, food supplies, adequate housing and heating costs.

In addition, live music will be performed at the Thursday event, which is sponsored by the Homelessness and Affordable Housing Network of Kittitas County.