

# Missoula County Media Release

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## Donations Needed for 13th Annual Project Community Connect

Organizers are seeking clothing donations for the 13th annual Project Community Connect, a one-day event that provides essential services to those experiencing, or who are at risk of, homelessness.

This year's event, which will provide access to services and items including clothing, toiletries, food, haircuts, and medical and dental care, is slated for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, at Zootown Church, 3623 Brooks St. More than 100 community organizations and businesses will come together to provide critical services and hospitality to Missoula's most vulnerable community members.

Project Community Connect offers a winter clothing closet, where participants can obtain any clothing item or winter gear needed at no cost. This clothing closet is very popular and can only happen with generous donations from community members. Organizers ask that people consider donating new or gently used clothing or winter gear, in any size, for men, women or children. Items needed include:

- Sweaters
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Pants
- Warm socks
- Underwear (new only)
- Gloves
- Winter coats
- Winter boots
- Winter hats
- Scarves
- Long underwear
- Hand warmers
- Sleeping bags
- Blankets
- Backpacks

Donation bins have been placed at locations throughout Missoula, including:

- Missoula County Courthouse, 200 W. Broadway St. (rotunda)
- Missoula Public Library, 301 E. Main St. (main floor Reference Desk and basement)
- Missoula Food Bank, 1720 Wyoming St.
- Missoula Federal Credit Union, all six locations
- Missoula REI, 3275 N. Reserve St., Suite K-2
- The Women's Club, 2105 Bow St.
- Consumer Direct, 100 Consumer Direct Way
- Community Medical Center, 2827 Fort Missoula Road (cafeteria)

Donations will be accepted through Monday, Jan. 28.

Project Community Connect participants are often individuals with disabilities, veterans, and families with young children. In 2018, more than 2,636 services were provided to 290 Missoulians with the help and support of 134 volunteers, 604 volunteer hours and 123 community organizations and businesses.

“We’re grateful for the support we’ve received in the past for Project Community Connect, and we’re confident the Missoula community will step up again this year,” said Sindie Kennedy, grants administrator in Missoula County Community and Planning Services. “By sharing human connections while meeting basic needs and providing core services, we can all help participants move away from their housing crises toward self-sufficiency.”

Missoula’s Project Community Connect (formerly known as Project Homeless Connect) is part of a national movement and historically coincides with the Department of Housing and Urban Development Point in Time Survey, a homeless census that takes place every January. The event is facilitated by members of the Missoula At-Risk Housing Coalition, including Missoula County.

For more information, call Kennedy at 406-258-3688 or email [skennedy@missoulacounty.us](mailto:skennedy@missoulacounty.us). To learn about volunteer opportunities and receive the latest updates, follow the [Missoula Project Community Connect Facebook page](#).

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