



## Office of Mayor Frank C. Guinta

**MEDIA ADVISORY – December 4, 2008**

**Contact:** Mark Laliberte (mlaliberte@manchesternh.gov) (603) 624-6500; Cell: (603) 490-4098

### **Project Homeless Connect to provide “one-stop” access to services for the homeless in our community**

MANCHESTER (*December 4, 2008*) – Heritage United Way, the City of Manchester, the Manchester Continuum of Care, the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and St. Joseph’s Cathedral will be hosting **Project Homeless Connect**; which will be held from **9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at St. Joseph’s Cathedral; 145 Lowell St.; Manchester.** The event will begin with a ceremony to kick-off the event.

Individuals who are homeless – or at risk of becoming homeless – are encouraged to attend.

Project Homeless Connect provides those in need in Manchester with “one-stop” access to services and benefits available to them. These services include: medical/health care screenings and referrals; employment services and opportunities; shelter and housing resources; mental health treatment; substance abuse treatment; domestic violence counseling; and meals, as well as resources for other individually identified needs.

Mayor Frank Guinta said that this event is one of the important benchmarks that was established in the report released in February, “A Home for Everyone: A 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in the City of Manchester,” as well as from the Mayor’s Steering Committee to End Homelessness.

“Back in February, I made a call to action regarding the moral issue of ending homelessness in the city. Project Homeless Connect is a step in that direction,” Guinta said. “While homelessness is unacceptable in our city, the way to solve this most important issue is through cooperation, compassion and creative thinking.”

Susan Howland, Coordinator of Homelessness Services for the City of Manchester and Heritage United Way praises “the generosity of numerous sponsors and supporters allows Project Homeless Connect to provide these services. I would like to thank the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority; Sheehan Phinney Bass + Green; Cellular One; Hampshire First Bank; Z Food

and Drink; Milltowne Grille; Puritan Backroom; Manchester Transit Authority; Jane Beaulieu; Dude's Barber Shop and Metamorphosis Salon for their contributions," Howland said.

If you or your company would like to make a donation, there are many items needed, such as: **coats, larger-sized hats and gloves, socks, boots, backpacks, blankets, pens, datebooks, disposable razors, city bus passes, snack foods, flashlights and long underwear.** Volunteers are also needed

Please call Susan Howland at (603) 625-6939, extension 17, for more information, to volunteer with Project Homeless Connect, or to get involved in other ways.