

RESOURCE FAIR TO BENEFIT PEOPLE AND FAMILIES OF WESTBROOK

WESTBROOK The Westbrook Interfaith Community of Churches (WICC), a compilation and partnership of some Westbrook churches, will be hosting a citywide Westbrook Cares Resource Fair at Mission Possible Teen Center, 755 Main Street, Saturday, February 27 from 10 am noon. Agencies and organizations from Westbrook and all over the Greater Portland area will be on hand to talk about their resources including basic needs, health and wellness and family support.

The Westbrook Cares Resource Fair is the second of a two-part endeavor by WICC to reach out to people in the city. On Saturday, February 20 teams of people from the churches will take to the city's streets in a door to door blitz delivering a brochure telling people about the resources available in Westbrook and beyond. Included will be an invitation to the Resource Fair on the 27th. Approximately 2500 brochures will be distributed via the neighborhood blitz and through other outlets.

The idea of a fair and neighborhood blitz came as a result of the group's desire to show love and compassion for a fellow man and reach outside the four walls of the church buildings in unity. People in Westbrook are facing many challenges including putting food on the table, substance abuse and being able to find a positive place for their kids to play. So, the group wanted to bring a message of hope and help right to their door. Through this two-part endeavor and future ones WICC wants to promote togetherness and community and see living in isolation become a thing of the past.

Good people all around the city and beyond are living in trying times. Maybe they have lost their job or home—maybe they have lost hope altogether and possibly their will to live. The group wants to help usher in that hope again in practical and kind ways. Through the neighborhood blitz and resource fair WICC can help people stay on their feet or get back up. Either way this endeavor is about lending a hand to neighbors and telling them help is here.

Some city pastors and officials have commented on the work that has been done and forthcoming. Reverend Ed DeLong of Westbrook Warren Congregational sees the value of the churches working together.

"We are blessed to have all of these churches serving among us in so many different ways that promise to strengthen our lives together in our good city," said DeLong. "I'm glad to be working with all of these fine sowers."

Mario Maston, senior pastor of Vineyard Church Greater Portland anticipates the impact these efforts will have in the city.

"As churches that love this city, and its people, our hope is that by joining together we can provide help to support and strengthen our community," said Maston. "We believe this is a great opportunity to make our city stronger by meeting real needs in relevant ways."

Finally, Westbrook Police and acting Fire Chief Bill Baker sees the value of this outreach and how its impact will be felt today, tomorrow and beyond.

"It is clear that what sets Westbrook apart is the size of its heart," said Baker. "This community effort to give people hope and lead them to community resources is a cause for great celebration. I am confident that through this outreach many lives will be touched and many futures improved."

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