



# Project Homeless Connect Offers Life-Saving Breast Cancer Screening



PHC 62 – Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, Polk Street, Wednesday, March 23, 10am - 3pm.

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- Another new service will be help for individuals who want to update their records following the passage of Proposition 47, a state law that reduces certain nonviolent felonies to misdemeanors.
- As with everything that Project Homeless Connect does, the heart and soul of Wednesday's event will be the volunteers.

**San Francisco, CA** – Being homeless puts people at risk for many health problems from pneumonia to serious infections, but one problem that is often overlooked is the risk for breast cancer. Project Homeless Connect (PHC), the City's one-stop model for helping those in need, now has a program to help change that.

At PHC 62 on Wednesday, March 23rd, women who are experiencing homelessness will be able to book a mammogram. There is real need for this kind of service. A 2014 study of homeless women<sup>1</sup> found that "The overall low rate of mammogram in this population compared with the national average is alarming."

**"Offering education and regular screenings could literally be a life-saver." - Kara Zordel**

"We know that early detection is the key to treating and curing breast cancer," says Kara Zordel, the Executive Director of Project Homeless Connect. "Because of the struggles of life on the street, breast cancer is often the last thing on a woman's mind." Public health studies show that the risk of dying from breast cancer is higher among African American women, in part because of late diagnosis. "For many of our participants," says Zordel, "Offering education and regular screenings could literally be a life-saver."

## Helping Participants Update Records Under Prop 47

Another new service will be help for individuals who want to update their records following the passage of Proposition 47, a state law that reduces certain nonviolent felonies to misdemeanors.

“In California, having a felony conviction can mean being barred from employment and housing opportunities, as well as basic benefits like food stamps,” says Zordel. “By helping participants update their records under Prop 47, we will give them a better chance at finding housing and jobs and better odds of staying out of prison.”

## The Heart & Soul of Our Events

As with everything that Project Homeless Connect does, the heart and soul of Wednesday’s event will be the volunteers. They help provide the wide array of services available to people in need. Those include health care, medical and dental screenings and eye glasses. People can also get help signing up for social security, getting a state-issued ID, help securing housing, even help connecting with family again.

In addition to the main event, PHC also has an Every Day Connect service, to provide people in need with items when they need them, such as a waterproof to replace one destroyed by the rain, or new socks to replace a worn out pair.

For more information contact  
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To help meet this need they have set up a Wish List page on Amazon, where people can make donations to cover the cost of providing these essential resources.

For information on how you can donate go to [www.projecthomelessconnect.org/donate](http://www.projecthomelessconnect.org/donate).

### ***About Project Homeless Connect***

*The mission of Project Homeless Connect™ (PHC) is to provide a single location where non-profit medical and social service providers collaborate to serve the homeless of San Francisco with comprehensive, holistic services. The federal government’s Interagency Council on Homelessness has declared Project Homeless Connect a national best practice model. PHC has been replicated in over 260 cities across the United States, as well as in Canada and Australia.*

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## Sources

<sup>1</sup> Breast cancer screening among homeless women of New York City shelter-based clinics.  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25029909>