

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



Flu shots and more available for the homeless

November 12, 2009 7:21 AM

COUNTY Shoes, H1N1 immunizations, counseling, various screenings and other services will be available to the homeless population free of charge next week at the Casa Esperanza Homeless Center during the fifth annual Project Healthy Neighbors fair.

More than 20 local organizations are teaming up for the homeless health fair, which will be open for business 8-11 a.m. Monday through Wednesday at Casa Esperanza, 816 Cacique St., according to a news release. Approximately 500 homeless individuals and families are expected to stop by, and more than 100 volunteers -- physicians, nurses, dental medicine and hygiene professionals, community leaders, students and others -- plan to offer a helping hand.

The national nonprofit organization Soles4Souls has donated 330 pairs of shoes to be given out, and in all, 430 pairs will be available, according to the release. Survival backpacks stocked with ponchos, socks, sweatshirts and personal needs items will additionally be available to homeless participants.

The only health event of its kind in Southern California, Project Healthy Neighbors will also bring comfort to the friends of the 26 homeless people who died in Santa Barbara this year, according to the release.