Project Homeless Connect with CBTV

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Project Homeless Connect
(light music) - People are experiencing homeless. It's a part of their life. It's not their whole identity. We're here to help them deal with that in whatever way works best for them. Project Homeless Connect was a way to get City Services out of their desk to where people are at. One event of the year we give away hoodies. All of the hoodies are supplied by our supporters, our volunteers, community members, churches, schools. Everyone participates. ^I was approached by Warm Up America to see ^if we were interested in accepting donations of afghans. Their network was so unique and from all over the US, and different people would be sending us these afghans, and I'm really excited to give them out tomorrow. We took a peek at them. They're gorgeous. It's like a really good touch of love. - Warm Up America started in Wisconsin. A bunch of neighbors got together making blankets and afghans for neighbors in need. ^The beauty of giving away an afghan ^is not just to keep somebody warm, ^it's to give somebody something that somebody's made ^with their heart, like love goes into this, and it feels very, very special. - The event itself is like the whole bottom floor of this arena, plus upstairs is our vision. The services that we provide are medical, dental. We have county benefits, SSIS, benefits for people with disabilities. We have DMV here. They come with a camera. People are able to come to our event and get an ID that day. We also have massage, acupuncture, behavioral health, mental health. We have pet sitting and Vet SOS, so offering care for people's pets, I think, really helps them feel like their pet is safe and that they can focus on themselves. At the end, before they leave, they'll go through Food Bank and then our checkout. We try to reduce all the barriers that are out there. We learn what they are from the people who come to our events. They tell us and we respond. It's hard, hard work. It's heart wrenching. It doesn't pay. If you don't have your flame ignited and constantly fed, it's really hard to do that for someone else, and I think that's one of the most special things about this event. People's lives are gonna change tomorrow. I know it seems like grandiose, but they're going to change, even if it's on a small level of somebody who's been sleeping on the street forever. They're going to come in and be treated really well. (upbeat music)

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