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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amber Yoder, Communications Officer

Voice Reply – (517) 439-5101, Fax Reply – (517) 439-5109, Email Reply – a.yoder@abouthccf.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Connecting the Homeless to Needed Resources:
3rd Annual Project Homeless Connect Event to be Held January 26th**

Hillsdale, MI, January 18, 2011–

A “one-stop shop” for human services will once again be open to the public on Wednesday, January 26th. The 3rd Annual Hillsdale County Project Homeless Connect event seeks to bring together those who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless and agencies and organization that can provide needed assistance. Sponsored by the Hillsdale County Housing Continuum of Care, the event will be held at the Hillsdale Free Methodist Church from 2-5 pm.

Project Homeless Connect will bring together a wide array of human services at one location so that people can accomplish in one day what might otherwise take several weeks. The event will showcase a variety of services, including WIC, mental health and depression screenings, food, housing and clothing assistance, resources for veterans, domestic violence services, assistance for homeless and runaway youth, alcohol and drug abuse treatment and recovery information, discounted groceries, disability employment and transportation services, services available to senior citizens, employment and training services, vision, hearing, and developmental screenings for children, legal advice, and more.

In addition to valuable informational resources, PHC will also offer on-site services, including a free hot meal, free haircuts (on a first-come, first-served basis), free flu shots, personal care packets, and free family photographs. Free transportation is also available to those living outside the Hillsdale city limits. A schedule has been established to provide for several pick-up and drop-off locations throughout the county.

PHC is expecting around 200 people to come to the event seeking services and help from the volunteers. Project Homeless Connect makes a difference in the lives of Hillsdale County residents by bringing together over 20 non-profit agencies and volunteers to assist those in need. Since the program's inception in 2009, Project Homeless Connect has been supported by numerous volunteers, individuals and businesses giving their time, resources and essential services. Among those who have consistently supported Project Homeless Connect are several local hair stylists, SAGA Incorporated, providing a free hot meal to all attendees, and the Pittsford High School National Honor Society, whose members volunteer their time wherever it is need during the event.

January 26th is also the date set for the 2011 Point In Time Count, a one-day effort to document and count all homeless individuals in each county throughout the state of Michigan. During the 2010 Point In Time Count, Hillsdale County showed a homeless count of 62 residents. In reality, this number is likely to be much higher. An accurate count is essential for Hillsdale County, as the number is used to determine the county's allocation of federal HUD funds to assist those who are homeless.

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