

Compassion Rockwood
Saturday, May 3rd 2008
9 AM to 3 PM

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For Immediate Release:

Compassion Rockwood Annually Offers Free Medical, Dental, and Social Services

Once again, the community of Rockwood will be getting some much-needed relief; from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, May 3rd Compassion Rockwood will hold its third annual free clinic and social services fair at Portland Lutheran School. With a goal of serving at least 1,000 people this year, they've rounded out their team with a myriad of Doctors, Dentists, Chiropractors, Podiatrists, and Social and Legal Resource Counselors devoted to meeting the basic needs of this low income, high crime community.

Returning for a third year of service, Compassion Rockwood is the result of a unique partnership between several local ministries, medical, and social service organizations in Gresham and the surrounding area. This year they plan to offer basic medical checkups, dental cleanings and emergency dental care, chiropractic services, basic social service resources, legal resources and education, and children's activities.

The group, led by Milan Homola and Gary Tribbett, began after a small group of short-term missionaries returned home from Mexico in the winter of 2006, with one question on their minds: "Could we do this at home?" Seeing the great need for medical and dental care, along with a lack of social service resources, the group decided to set their sights on the Rockwood Community. With less than 4 months to prepare for their first event, Homola and Tribbett recruited the help of their faith community, Clear Creek Community Church, and began to seek assistance from many other businesses, churches, and ministries in their area. That first year they served more than 300 people, and because of his time-spent serving at Compassion Rockwood, Dr. Bob Sayson decided to retire from his practice, dedicating all of his time and talents to opening a free community clinic in the Rockwood area. The Good News Community Clinic opened in the spring of 2007.

With two years under their belt, and over 700 people served, Homola and Tribbett are excited about seeing what this year will bring. While the group is pleased with the outcome of the previous years, they are still looking to improve the system, according to Lane Pelham, the Public Resources lead with Compassion Rockwood; "We've partnered with several of the Latino churches and ministries within Rockwood, but as you can see that the Russian community makes up a large part of the Rockwood area, and until this year we haven't been able to partner with them in this project. We're hoping that the connections we've established this year will be a good starting place towards working more with that people group in upcoming years."

This year families are not required to pre-register to receive services, but if you would like more information or are interested in volunteering with the ministry you are encouraged to visit the Compassion Rockwood website at www.compassionrockwood.com. Portland Lutheran School is located at 740 SE 182nd Avenue in Portland.

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