Project Connect Resource Fair and Mo Chip coming to Chillicothe in early November
News
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If you are new to Chillicothe, or even if you have lived here all of your life, there are community resources available to you. With this in mind, on Saturday, November 3rd, you are invited to participate in the PROJECT CONNECT Resource Fair. This free event will be held at the Calvary Baptist Church Family Life Center from 10 to 2 o'clock.
The Steering Committee reports over 55 exhibitors are scheduled for the first PROJECT CONNECT Resource Fair in Chillicothe. A wide range of exhibitors will be on hand representing a variety of service areas such as Senior Services; Food Pantries & Food ministries; Dental, Medical & Mental Health; Service Clubs; and Career & Employment Services to name a few. There will also be FREE blood sugar and blood pressure testing, hearing screenings and door prizes. A variety of speakers and entertainment will occur throughout the event including Grand River Harmony Chorus, John Corky Hesler, Mike Hibner, Harry Wyse and Mayor Chuck Haney.

The Steering Committee has teamed up with the local Chillicothe Masonic Lodge, Friendship Lodge #89 AF & AM, to host the MoCHIP Child Identification & Protection Program to Chillicothe during the fair FREE OF CHARGE.

No parent wants to believe that the unimaginable could happen to them, though nearly 2,000 children are reported missing or abducted in the United States each day. The peace of mind MoCHIP provides to Missouri families is invaluable. The program consists of five major components digital photographs, digital fingerprints, vital child information and emergency contacts, a dental bite impression, and two laminated ID cards. The photographs, fingerprints, and child data are burned onto a mini-CD that is compatible with the AMBER ALERT system already in place. The dental impression provides a virtual diagram of the child s biting surface, which, like fingerprints is unique to each individual, and further supplies enough saliva to provide a DNA sample that can also be used as scent source for trained canine search teams. Combined, this five-part process provides a dramatic, time-sensitive recovery tool for authorities.

On the day of the MoCHIP event, parents are urged to gather pertinent information such as doctor, dentist and emergency contacts and phone numbers; allergies, medications and parent work, cell, and assorted phone numbers. As would be expected, security and privacy are of utmost importance.

All information and specimens are collected on site, processed and provided to the parent or legal guardian in a yellow envelope. At the end of each event, databases are erased using state-of-the-art software. The only item retained by the Masonic Children s Foundation is the signed permission slip. Parents/guardians must attend the event in order for a child to participate. If a child has participated in the MoCHIP program in the past, please bring the CD as it will decrease processing time.

The PROJECT CONNECT Steering Committee is made up of representatives from Community Options, Green Hills Women s Shelter, Livingston County Victims Services, North Central Missouri Mental Health Center, SALT Center, Saint Luke s Home Care & Hospice, United Methodist Church and University Extension.

Blue Level Sponsors for the event are Consumer Direct, Indian Hills Retirement Village, Hedrick Medical Center and Royal Oaks Hospital. Corporate Sponsors are Clark s Furniture; Constitution-Tribune; Lockridge, Constant & Conrad LLC; and Sensenich Jewelers. For more information, please contact Karen Hinton, Livingston County Victim s Advocate at (660) 646-8000 ext. 215 or Jessica Trussell, MU Extension Human Development Specialist, at (660) 646-0811.