



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Columbia Valley Community Health partnering with North Central Educational Service District to host the 4th Annual Back to School Health Fair**

*Immunizations, Sports Physicals, and Free Backpacks and School Supplies for school-aged children*

Wednesday, July 10, 2013: **Wenatchee, WA:** [Columbia Valley Community Health](#) (CVCH) is partnering with the [North Central Educational Service District](#) (NCESD) Educational Foundation this year for the annual CVCH Back to School Health Fair. The two organizations, along with the [United Way of Chelan and Douglas Counties](#), will be disseminating 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies to school-aged children on Saturday, August 10, 2013, from 9am – 12pm at the Wenatchee CVCH clinic, located at 600 Orondo Ave. All school-aged children (grades K-12) must be present to receive a backpack. This free family event is open to the entire community.

This is the fourth annual Back to School Health Fair for Columbia Valley Community Health, an event that kicks off [National Health Center Week](#), August 11 – 17, 2013. National Health Center Week is a national campaign meant to raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America's Health Centers as local solutions to community health needs. This is the first year that CVCH is partnering with NCESD Educational Foundation and their sponsor North Cascades National Bank.

NCESD has been providing school supplies to low-income families for over 16 years, initially as the "Stuff A Bus" program, and most recently the "School Supply Readiness Program". **Alan Walker**, Executive Director of the United Way of Chelan and Douglas Counties, participated in the 2012 CVCH Back to School Health Fair and realized there was an opportunity for a natural partnership.

"The same families were attending both events, which were being held within a couple of weeks and just a few blocks apart from each other," Walker said. "By combining the two events, we can help coordinate opportunities for families and better serve our community."

CVCH departments and other community organizations will have booths, host games, provide information about their services, and offer important health-related information. CVCH medical staff will be administering immunizations and sports physicals in its Wenatchee clinic. Children may receive the required "back to school" immunizations without an appointment, but individuals interested in receiving a sports physical are encouraged to make an appointment in advance by calling 509.662.6000. CVCH will bill insurance if available and fees may apply to physicals and immunizations.

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*CVCH Press Release: CVCH Back To School Health Fair Continued*

**Marlen Mendez**, Outreach Manager at Columbia Valley Community Health, wants to spread the word that these two much-anticipated community events are merging for this year's health fair.

"We are happy to partner with NCESD and the United Way," Mendez says. "Our organizations have similar goals, are guided by compatible missions and we all work towards building healthy, strong communities."

The first 1,000 school-aged children (entering grades K-12) will receive free backpacks filled with age-appropriate school supplies. CVCH is providing the backpacks and the NCESD will donate the school supplies. NCESD receives support from [North Central ESD Educational Foundation](#), [North Cascades National Bank](#), the Wenatchee Sunrise Rotary, United Way, Ballard Ambulance and [Staples](#). CVCH will receive 300 of its 1,000 backpacks from the First United Methodist Church of Wenatchee.

For more information about this Back to School Health Fair event, contact [Marlen Mendez](#) at 509.661.3623. For more information about CVCH and its programs, please contact [Andy Stewart](#), Director of Planning and Development at CVCH, at 509.664.3530.

#### **About Columbia Valley Community Health**

[Columbia Valley Community Health](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that offers medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, WIC and outreach services to everyone in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Their mission is to provide access to improved health and wellness with compassion and respect for all.

Established in 1972, CVCH is now an industry leader and was the first in the Pacific Northwest to achieve the Joint Commission's Primary Care Medical Home certification. CVCH serves over 24,000 patients a year between all of its departments and locations in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Chelan.

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