



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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For more information contact:

Sarah Wilkins, Communications Coordinator  
Columbia Valley Community Health  
P: 509-664-3564 / E: selizabeth@cvch.org  
[www.cvch.org](http://www.cvch.org)

**Health Fair Offers 1,000 Free Backpacks and School Supplies to School-aged Children**  
*Immunizations, Sports Physicals, Education, Games and Backpacks at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Health Fair*

Monday, August 5, 2013: **Wenatchee, WA:** [Columbia Valley Community Health](http://www.cvch.org) (CVCH) is hosting its fourth annual [Back to School Health Fair](#) this **Saturday, August 10, 2013 from 9am to 12pm** at the CVCH Wenatchee clinic, located at 600 Orondo Ave. School-aged children can receive immunizations, sports physicals, and free backpacks and school supplies. This event kicks off [National Health Center Week](#), August 11 – 17, 2013, a national campaign to raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America's Health Centers as local solutions to community health needs.

This year, CVCH is partnering with the [North Central Educational Service District](#) (NCESD) and the [United Way of Chelan and Douglas Counties](#), to disseminate 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies to children entering grades K-12. The NCESD Educational Foundation has been providing school supplies to low-income families for over 16 years, most recently known as the "School Supply Readiness Program". Previously, these two events were being held only a few weeks and a few blocks apart from each other. CVCH, NCESD and the United Way want to inform the community that they are combining these two free events to better serve the families who rely on these backpacks and supplies each year.

**Rich McBride**, Superintendent of North Central ESD, said, "This Back to School event is a wonderful opportunity to ensure a successful beginning of the school year for children who might not otherwise have the tools and supplies needed to do so."

**Patrick Bucknum**, CEO of Columbia Valley Community Health, says he is pleased that the event is gaining traction. "It is a privilege to host this increasingly collaborative effort to start the youth in our community off on the right foot for their school year. Our providers and staff look forward to this event each year, and donate hundreds of hours to plan a coordinated event that not only provides access to basic school supplies, but to mandatory immunizations and sports physicals."

The first 1,000 school-aged children (entering grades K-12) will receive free backpacks filled with age-appropriate school supplies. Children must be present to receive a backpack. CVCH medical staff will be administering immunizations and sports physicals during the event. Children may receive "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*

Attendees can talk with professionals from various CVCH departments including [Pediatrics](#), the Diabetes and Nutrition Program, Children’s Dental, and [WIC](#) (Women, Infants and Children) Nutritional Program. Other participating community partners include Ballard Ambulance, the [Chelan-Douglas Health District](#), [Child Care Aware of WA](#), [Children’s Home Society of WA](#), [Columbia Valley Girls on the Run](#), [Community Development Institute Head Start](#), Compassionate Friends, [Literacy Council of Chelan & Douglas Counties](#), [OIC of Washington](#), [TOGETHER for a Drug Free Youth](#), [SAGE](#), and [Wenatchee YMCA](#).

The NCESD Educational Foundation is donating the school supplies and receives sponsorship support from [North Cascades National Bank](#), the Wenatchee Sunrise Rotary, the United Way of Chelan and Douglas Counties, Ballard Ambulance and [Staples](#). CVCH provides the backpacks and will receive 300 of the total 1,000 from the First United Methodist Church of Wenatchee for the fourth year in a row.

For more information about this Back to School Health Fair event, contact [Marlen Mendez](#) at 509.661.3623 and visit [CVCH.org](#). 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.

**About the NCESD Educational Foundation**

The NCESD Educational Foundation was created for the purpose of supporting and assisting the educational activities of the four counties (Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan) that comprise North Central Educational Service District. Their mission is to “...create community partnerships to develop resources and grants to inspire, ignite and expand opportunities for our teachers and students.”

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