



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Columbia Valley Community Health Disseminates Nearly 1,000 Backpacks**

**Tuesday, August 21, 2012: Wenatchee, WA:** On Saturday, August 11, [Columbia Valley Community Health](#) (CVCH) hosted its third annual **Back to School Health Fair** at its Wenatchee location on 600 Orondo Ave. During this free, three-hour event, CVCH staff and volunteers disseminated nearly 1,000 free backpacks to school-aged children. More than 300 backpacks were donated by members of the *First United Methodist Church of Wenatchee* and *Grace Lutheran Church*, and CVCH donated the balance.

Attendees spent the day visiting booths, receiving resources and educational material, playing games (such as ring toss and Plinko) and winning prizes. Attendees could also enter to win one of several grand prizes by completing a passport game piece and receiving stamps for visiting the required booths. More than 1,300 people attended the three hour event.

"We met our goal of highlighting the great things that CVCH does for our community," said [Marlen Mendez](#), CVCH Outreach Supervisor and the event's coordinator. "The participants were able to engage with community organizations, and the kids had fun!"

CVCH Medical staff administered twenty (20) sports physicals and twenty-two (22) immunizations. There were ten (10) CVCH departments, programs and initiatives that participated, and thirteen (13) outside organizations were on hand to share information on the services they offer. The community organizations included [YMCA](#), Head Start, [Together for a Drug Free Youth!](#), [Safe Kids](#), [RiverCom 911](#), the [Literacy Council of Chelan-Douglas Counties](#), DSHS (Dept of Social & Health Services), [United Way of Chelan and Douglas Counties](#), the Wenatchee Fire Department, [Catholic Family and Child Services](#), [Riverview Kiwanis](#), [Reach out and Read](#), and Columbia Valley Girls on the Run.

Reach out and Read and [Columbia Valley Girls on the Run](#) are two outreach programs sponsored by Columbia Valley Community Health. Seven (7) people registered to vote at the CVCH Voter Registration booth, which was hosted by members of the Emerging Leaders Alliance (ELA).

The annual Back to School Health Fair is part of [National Health Center Week](#), a national campaign formed to raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America's Health Centers as local solutions to community health needs. The theme of this year's National Health Center Week is "*Celebrating America's Health Centers: Powering Healthier Communities*," to underscore how Community Health Centers provide

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*CVCH Press Release: Almost 1,000 Backpacks were given out at the CVCH Back to School Health Fair*

access to affordable, high quality, cost effective health care to medically vulnerable and underserved people throughout the United States.

For more information about CVCH and its programs, please contact [Sarah Wilkins](#), Communications Coordinator at CVCH, at 509.662.6000.

#### **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 well over 20,000 patients a year between all of its departments and locations in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Chelan.

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