



**VolunteerCenter**  
Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties  
HANDS ON NETWORK

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Economic Survival Fair Offers Hope, Help, and a Little Lunch to Everyone**

OLYMPIA – As the economy continues to limp towards recovery, the Volunteer Center of Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties continues to provide helpful resources to empower individuals and families struggling to meet their daily financial challenges.

The Economic Survival Fair offers everything from free legal advice to haircuts from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at The Olympia Center on 222 Columbia St. NW in Olympia. Free tax preparation is available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“This is the second year that we’ve brought volunteers and agencies together to host this event for the community and we hope that the information we’re offering will help people to not only hang on during tough times but really provide them with the skills they need to improve and sustain their financial and physical well-being,” said Volunteer Center Executive Director Sara Ballard.

Participants can also gain valuable tips on interviewing for jobs, meal preparation on a budget, energy bill savings, financial literacy and parenting. Representatives from one of more than 30 community organizations will be on hand to talk about services they provide. Free onsite childcare is also provided for the event and attendees are invited to stay for the free community meal at the end of the fair. New this year is on-site free tax preparation, where trained tax volunteers will help individuals file their 2009 tax returns.

The Economic Survival Fair is lead by the Volunteer Center and co-hosted by United Community AIDS Network, Crisis Clinic of Thurston and Mason Counties, United Way of Thurston County, Family Education and Support Services, Family Support Center, Thurston County CASA, and Center for Community Based Learning and Action at the Evergreen State College.

Key Bank, OBEE Credit Union, Olympia Federal Savings, Rotary Club of South Puget Sound, ROXY 94.5 FM, MIXX 96.FM, and KGY 96.9 FM sponsored this year’s fair. For more information about the fair call 360-741-2622 or visit the Volunteer Center’s web site at [www.volunteer.ws](http://www.volunteer.ws).

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The mission of the Volunteer Center of Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties is to support volunteer efforts to address community needs; and inspire, engage, and mobilize volunteers. The Center accomplishes this mission by connecting people with opportunities to serve, offering volunteer management training and the promotion of volunteerism. The Center also provides more than 3,000 volunteer referrals per year, works with more than 250 nonprofit and public agencies in its service area and offers more than 650 volunteer opportunities through its Web site at [www.volunteer.ws](http://www.volunteer.ws)

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