



**Vail Valley Foundation's  
Education Arm**

**SUMMARY OF NEED:** The Youth Foundation's Early Childhood Initiative has been meeting with community leaders, agencies, providers and stakeholders in regards to best meeting the needs of Eagle County's families with young children. One identified need is the occurrence of a family resource event that will promote community connectedness and eliminate the numerous and complex barriers to services which may include: language, cost, transportation, schedule conflicts, follow-up and/or intimidation/hesitation.

**PROPOSED EVENT:** The Youth Foundation's Early Childhood Team, working closely with community partners, will host "The Family Connect" event. More than a resource fair, this event is a one day-one stop event with the goals of: 1.) Supporting for families with children 0-18 years old in becoming healthier, informed, prepared and equipped to be their children's first and most important teacher and advocate. 2.) Building relationships between agencies, families and volunteers and bringing the community together.

The purpose is to have as many services available in a single setting so that families can come in and get their needs met in one day instead of having to go to multiple places and appointments over time. The idea is to have immediate access, which could include direct services, application/intake process begun and/or referrals, so that when the family leaves, they feel that they are more connected to the community and have their basic needs met in regards to their role as parents.

**HOW IS THIS EVENT BEYOND A RESOURCE FAIR?:** Modeled after the National 'Project Homeless Connect,' Eagle County's "Family Connect" will greet families at the door with a trained volunteer who will help the families navigate the agencies offerings. The volunteer will be versed on available services, what documentation is needed to access programs and work with families to select from a menu of available services. Throughout the afternoon, scheduled workshops/events: including story times, art activities, physical activity and Bright Beginnings visits will be offered to families in order to promote parent-child interaction supporting the topics of early literacy, brain development, nutrition and wellness.

**WHAT IS IN IT FOR YOU: THIS EVENT IS ONLY MADE POSSIBLE BY THE CRUCIAL PARTICIPATION OF PROVIDERS AND VOLUNTEERS!  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT!**

**-AS A PROVIDER/AGENCY:** An opportunity to reach interested and eligible families that aren't receiving your services created by a welcoming environment where conversations of agency offerings are begun and a systematic, easy way to provide direct services and/or enroll families in various programs.

**-AS A VOLUNTEER:** A personal, rewarding opportunity to connect to your community and help bridge gaps between our families and the agencies which support them.

**-AS A FAMILY:** A welcoming opportunity that will allow your family to begin the application process and/or access services and participate in activities that will support you in becoming your children's most important teacher.

**WHEN: Sunday, March 10th 12:00-3:00pm (Providers and Volunteers, we ask that you allow for set-up, clean-up and providing services for families that arrive before 3:00pm)**

**WHERE: Vail Christian High School. 31621 Highway 6, Edwards, CO 81632 (Across Highway 6 from St. Clare of Assisi)**

**INTERESTED???**

**FOR VOLUNTEER INFO & SIGNUP:** Contact Kathy Brenda [kbrendza@vfv.org](mailto:kbrendza@vfv.org), 970-748-5997

**FOR AGENCY INFO & SIGNUP:** Contact Megan Burch [megan.burch@eaglecounty.us](mailto:megan.burch@eaglecounty.us) 970-328-8815 or Jennie Wahrer [jennie.wahrer@eaglecounty.us](mailto:jennie.wahrer@eaglecounty.us) 970-328-2604