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COWLITZ COUNTY PUD

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LOWER COLUMBIA CAP

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Cowlitz PUD Employees Team-up to Donate Nearly Three Tons of Food to Help Warehouse



Back row, from left: Help Warehouse manager Lois Shelton, Niki Hilton, Zach Cooper, organizer Treana Storie, PUD Commissioner Ned Piper, Mike Lee, Marvin St. Peter, and Brian Rakoz. Front row: Shari Tomasli, Michelle Drew and Lora Provolt. (Photo courtesy of Doug Koenig/CAP)

Longview, WA — Cowlitz PUD's 170 employees donated nearly three tons of food to CAP's Help Warehouse in March.

During the month of February, five teams of PUD employees donated food items and money in a friendly competition, with the proceeds to benefit the Help Warehouse. The teams sponsored different activities to raise funds—a spaghetti feed, 50/50 raffles, even selling home-baked cookies. Together they contributed 5,967 pounds of food to the Help Warehouse, nearly 1,000 pounds more than their first food drive in December 2007.

“This is the largest food drive by any one company,” said Lois Shelton, Help Warehouse Program Manager, “and second only to the community food drives—Walk n’ Knock, Postal Carriers, and Bill Ammons’ food drive.”

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Treana Storie, who organized the PUD effort, says the employees are already geared up for next year's food drive to beat their own record. "The competition became very intense," said Storie, "but it was also a great team builder among all our employees."

Thanks to the generous discounts provided by Tom and Linda Doerr of Market Place, one PUD team was able to purchase 200 pounds of hamburger and 180 pounds of potatoes in addition to their other donations.

PUD Commissioner Ned Piper joined in the competition and was on hand when the employees delivered the food to Help Warehouse. "I'm very proud of them," said Piper. "It's rewarding as a Board member to watch the employees have so much fun while they are helping people who are in need. They have a great sense of community spirit."

Shelton also expressed appreciation that the PUD employees moved their food drive away from the holiday season to February. "Many food drives occur during November and December and then food donations fall off for much of the other ten months of the year."

Storie said it was helpful to know that there are lean periods during the year when food banks are hurting for donations. "We may consider running the food drive in summer next year," said Storie.

Help Warehouse is the central food collection and distribution center for Cowlitz and Wahkiakum food banks. Last year, Help Warehouse staff and volunteers distributed over one million pounds of food.

For a full list of area food banks:

- Visit www.lowercolumbiacap.org
- Click on Programs and Services
- Click on Help Warehouse

For more information about how to organize a food drive, call Shelton at Help Warehouse at 360-425-3430, ext 281.

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