

5 Days of Christmas to benefit HopeSource

Posted: Monday, December 2, 2013 1:55 pm

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A 5 Days of Christmas benefit this week will raise money for HopeSource, a human services organization, at Canyon River Ranch, a resort in the Yakima River Canyon.

The new event will feature holiday activities Wednesday through Sunday at the resort. Each evening of the first four days, community dinners with music and talks are planned. All funds will go toward HopeSource's Hope University program, said Jim Pappas, media chairman for the HopeSource board of directors.

Since 1966, HopeSource has provided a wide range of human services, such as housing and transportation, to address the needs of local families. It added Hope University in 2005 to provide training in life and employment skills as a way for clients to become permanently self-sufficient.

Pappas said the benefit came about from a conversation last spring between Ron Stiffler, general manager of Canyon River Ranch, and Susan Grindle, CEO of HopeSource. Stiffler wanted to create a holiday benefit at Canyon River Ranch and approached

Grindle about a partnership. Out of that conversation, the 5 Days of Christmas benefit was born.

"If this goes well, we'll continue it," Pappas said. "That's what we talked about, making it an annual event."

Canyon River Ranch, situated along state Route 821 south of Ellensburg, donated food, services and rooms for the five-day event. About 250 to 300 people are expected, in addition to about 80 people at Friday's dinner, and 65 to 70 at Saturday's dinner.

On those nights there will be an auction as well. Auction items include authentic ethnic food dinners, a trip to the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Race and wilderness adventure trips. "Our target goal is \$30,000 to \$35,000, we'd like to reach that," said Pappas.

Saturday is Junior Elves Day and showcases family-oriented activities, like horse-drawn carriage rides, Christmas cookie and ornaments decorating, and group fly-tying lessons. A shuttle will be provided that day.

For more information,

visit www.5DaysofChristmas.com.



