

Q & A: Have you met HopeSource office manager JoAnn Rushton?

Posted: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 1:18 pm

By ZACH SMITH staff writer | 0 comments

Age and place of birth:

56, Yakima

Current residence:

Just outside of South Cle Elum

Occupation:

Office manager at HopeSource Cle Elum

Education:

Bachelor's degree in anthropology from Central Washington University



How did you become interested in this line of work?

Basically, I got (the job) because it was available and I wasn't working at the time so I applied for it. When I interviewed, they asked what I know about social services and I said 'I worked retail for over 10 years and I studied anthropology so I could probably deal with people.'

What's the most gratifying aspect of your work at HopeSource?

Being able to actually help people, clients and so on, with various things they need. The most fun is the variety — being up here and being able to do everything.

The most difficult aspect of your work?

Being a one-person office.

How has your work at HopeSource influenced your perception of society as a whole?

It opens your eyes quite a bit. You cannot make assumptions about anyone. A family might come in and people might say, 'They have a brand new car, what are they going to the food bank for?' But, they might be living in that car. On the other side, you can't make assumptions that someone is coming in for help, because they may be coming in to donate money. So you just treat people with dignity and respect.

What is the biggest challenge the Upper County community is facing?

Overall, probably just employment. There's just not very many jobs, and the ones we have are your basic fast-food, hotel/motel jobs and those don't pay very well.

What's the best advice you have ever been given?

If you think you can do it, you can do it.