

Letter Carriers' Food Drive Wraps with 800 Pounds

The Northern Kittitas County Tribune
By Jim Fossett

CLE ELUM-Driving the streets of Cle Elum last weekend you could see evidence that once again the good citizens of this community were responding to the needs of the hungry.

Saturday, May 10, it was the U.S. Post Office's annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive. The drill: leave bags of non-perishables near your mailbox for pickup.

Monday, May 12, volunteers representing Cle Elum's Pennsylvania Avenue HopeSource Food Bank appeared at the Post Office to pick up the goods.

"It was wonderful," said HopeSource director JoAnn Rushton. "We estimate we got about as much as we did last year, between 800 and 900 pounds. Safeway helped a lot. They asked what we needed and provided \$200 worth of groceries."

Rushton, Gene Leslie, and Justin Gasper were at HopeSource unloading the food.

Said Gasper, "This helps, but we still need soup, chili, mayonnaise, salad dressing, and spices, so please let your readers know."

This was the U.S. Post Office's 22nd national drive to address a statistic that has become the agency's war cry.

About one in six Americans goes hungry or wonders where the next meal will come from.

In an average month, from the HopeSource Food Bank in Cle Elum, 320 people are fed.

Although we are not availed addresses for people who use the food bank, by way of comparison and based on U.S. Census Bureau population counts collected in 2010, the 320 people who use the HopeSource food bank in Cle Elum represent 17% of the people living in the city proper.