

HopeSource starts food delivery service in the Upper County

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By Nicole Klauss, staff writer



HopeSource is now making it easier for people with disabilities to receive food by offering delivery service in the Upper County.

“This is really going to make a lot of difference,” said Mary Woods, one of the first two clients to receive a food delivery on Thursday. “I’m definitely going to make sure a lot of people know about it.”

HopeSource, a nonprofit organization that provides access to education, employment and vital services in Kittitas County, is currently the only food bank serving the Upper County.

The mobile food van service will deliver a box of food from the food bank to people who are not able to physically get there for pickup. The service will deliver to Easton, parts of the Teanaway, Ronald, Roslyn, Cle Elum and South Cle Elum.

Filling a need

Justin Gasper, Healthy Futures Coordinator for HopeSource, said there was a need for the service with the current clients the organization serves. Many of HopeSource’s clients are either riding the bus or are slowed down in some way, which makes getting to the food bank difficult, he said.

“When I started looking at the numbers from social services, I realized there’s definitely a lot of disabled people in this area,” Gasper said. “There was also pretty reliable data to back up the idea that a mobile food service would be helpful and would reach a lot of people.”

HopeSource also pitched the idea to its transportation clients to see if they would be able to benefit from the added service.

“I just called a bunch of them, and a lot of them indicated they would really like the service and use it,” Gasper said. “That’s where a lot of the interest has come from.”

Woods heard about the service from HopeSource’s transportation dispatcher.

“I used to go to the food bank regularly,” she said. “I haven’t been able to for reasons for well over a year.”

Getting started

HopeSource held a fundraising event at Stonehouse 101 in November to raise money for the van, which was purchased in March.

The food delivered is comprised of food from a federal assistance program and donated food. The boxes are put together based off of nutritional guidelines. Clients who register to use the food bank may visit the bank two times a month for one year, or may request delivery two times a month.

HopeSource will make delivery runs twice a week. Ronald and Roslyn will be served on Thursdays, and Cle Elum, Easton and the Teanaway areas will be served on Friday.