

Annual Walk and Knock drive set for Saturday

By Brenda Blevins McCorkle / The Daily News | Posted: Monday, November 28, 2011 7:00 pm

Roughly 1,000 more families are getting help with food through the Help Warehouse and area food banks than at this same time last year.

Lois Shelton, program manager for the Help Warehouse, said that the number of families served now hovers around 6,000. That makes the upcoming Walk and Knock food drive more important than ever, Shelton added.

"It's getting rather rough out there," she said.

Members of the community can help feed the needy this weekend by putting nonperishable items in paper bags that come with Thursday's Daily News and leaving them out on their porches Saturday morning.

Volunteers from local service groups and others will collect the bags for Walk and Knock, which is the area's largest food drive. Donations also can be brought directly to the food banks.

Walk and Knock food collectors will generally visit neighborhoods between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., but those who wish to give should have their bags set out by 9 a.m. If your home has not been visited by 4 p.m., call the Help Warehouse (CAP) at 425-3430 at 8 a.m. Monday or drop your donation off at CAP.

Shelton said support for Help Warehouse has been tremendous, especially during the food drive.

"It's like the whole community gets involved," she said. "It makes a huge difference."

For those who don't have an official Walk and Knock bag, any container will do.

Recommended items are canned foods such as beans, corn, peas, tuna, meats, peaches, tomato sauce and soup; peanut butter; applesauce; powdered milk; baby food; pasta; oatmeal; diapers; soaps; toilet tissue; toothbrushes; and other nonperishable items. No home-canned foods can be accepted.

The food banks also accept cash donations. In the Longview and Kelso areas, a donation envelope is attached to each bag.

Any donation - whether it's money or food - helps fill the basement at the warehouse, Shelton said. She said that the food brought in might not last as long this year, but will offer a "good start."

"We're needing it now," she said. "The food banks have been really low on supplies for about three months."