

# Area postal workers collect at least 46,000 pounds of food Saturday

By Barbara LaBoe / The Daily News | Posted: Saturday, May 14, 2011

Mail carriers and volunteers worked into the night collecting donated food Saturday - and even without the final totals officials hope they may break last year's hefty numbers.

As of 7 p.m., about five or six mail trucks were still returning with food people donated by leaving on their front steps Saturday. Postal workers collected the food during their routes.

Even without the last few trucks, Longview postal workers collected 35,500 pounds of food and Kelso brought in 10,600 pounds for a total of 46,100 pounds, said Alan Rose, community relations director for the Lower Columbia Community Action Program

Last year 51,500 pounds of food was collected for the Help Warehouse and Rose said he thinks they have a chance to meet or top that this year. In addition to the outstanding trucks, officials also placed drop-off barrels at Fred Meyer, Grocery Outlet and the Longview Post Office. Numbers from the barrel donations won't be tallied until Monday, he said.

"We all feel it was an awesome day - great weather, great volunteers, and of course, great postal workers who delivered a lot more than mail today," Rose said.

The food collected in Longview and Kelso goes to CAP's Help Warehouse. Castle Rock and Woodland also conducted their own food drives for local food banks Saturday, but those figures weren't available Saturday night.

The food drive - one of the main food drives of the year for the CAP food bank - is sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers locals 2214 and 2103. The collection bags were donated by Pacific Surgical Institute and Longview Junior Service League.

In addition to the people who donated, Rose said a big thanks goes to the mail carriers who pack the food to the food bank.

"This is a major undertaking for them, assisted by family members and retired postal workers," he said. "On this day each year they carry the community on their backs, and we can't thank them enough."