

Walk and Knock food drive hauls in more food than last year

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Saturday's Walk and Knock food drive collected 73,300 pounds, slightly better than last year's total of 70,600.

"Given the economy, we are very grateful for 'slightly better,' " said Alan Rose, community relations director for Lower Columbia CAP, which manages the Help Warehouse food bank.

Money donations on the first day of the area's largest food drive were \$1,734, down from last year's \$3,053. In 2010, late donations brought the total up to \$11,840. The record is \$15,000.

Help Warehouse serves around 6,000 local families.

"Many families are struggling and doing the best they can. And the community is struggling and also doing the best it can," Rose said.

The number of cash donation envelopes with only \$1 in them was up from last year, Rose said.

"That tells us that people with very little were giving what they had. That's always very humbling."

Colleen Dean, food coordinator with Help, said there was much to be grateful for — including the beautiful weather.

Rose said more money donations typically arrive throughout the next week.

To donate, call 425-3430 — extensions: 281, 282 or 283 — and a volunteer will pick up the bag on Tuesday. Donations of food or cash may also be dropped off at Help Warehouse, 1526 Commerce Ave. Donation envelopes may be mailed to that address.

Recommended items are canned soup, rice, peanut butter, baby food, canned vegetables and fruits, beans, tuna, canned chicken, pasta sauce, cold and hot cereals, granola bars, nuts, toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, diapers, laundry detergent and dish soap.