

# Woodland couple reshapes historic donation to Lower Columbia CAP



Roger Werth / The Daily News Lee Hutton-Welch and Tim Welch.

[By The Daily News](#) The Daily News Online | Posted: Wednesday, September 29, 2010

A Woodland couple has recast their historic commitment to the area's largest social service agency in hopes of doubling its value.

Last year, Tim Welch and his wife, Lee Hutton-Welch, agreed to leave a \$350,000 bequest to Lower Columbia CAP in their wills, the largest donation in the history of the 46-year-old organization. Under an agreement announced Wednesday, though, they'll donate the same amount of money in \$35,000 annual payments over the next 10 years.

But there is a catch: They're challenging the community to join them. The size of their annual contribution will depend on how much others contribute to CAP. They will match other contributions up to \$35,000.

Over 10 years, the plan has a potential to raise \$700,000 — double the amount CAP would receive had the Welches' estate just paid the bequest after their deaths.

The first challenge period takes place between Oct. 1 and Oct. 15. Another donor already has committed \$5,000, according to CAP.

"This is a gift for the here and now instead of the hereafter," Tim Welch said in a written statement released by CAP. "We want to see our money having an impact now. We want to be part of the dream."

"We are delighted at this response," Welch said. "It means that the impact of our gift could double, and that the CAP Foundation could be receiving \$70,000 each year."

"This is a great time to donate," CAP Foundation President Bill Boehm said in the agency's written statement. "Your donation of \$25 becomes \$50. Your donation of \$1,000 becomes \$2,000."

It's not yet been determined when the "matching period" for donors will be held in future years.

Boehm explained that a gift to CAP's Foundation is not spent but invested in an endowment fund. "The money grows more money, and the interest earned will help fund CAP services."

"The Foundation is about the future of CAP," Welch said. "And an endowment is the way to ensure that vital CAP services will be here for our community in the future."

Lower Columbia Community Action Program (CAP) was organized in 1964 by local citizens to address poverty in the community. It runs a myriad of programs to help people improve their lives — such as job training and home ownership initiatives — and "safety net services" such as the Help Warehouse food distribution center, senior community lunches and energy assistance.

Donations to CAP can be written out to the "CAP Foundation" and sent to 1526 Commerce Ave., Longview, WA 98632, or you can donate online at [www.lowercolumbiacap.org](http://www.lowercolumbiacap.org).