

Generosity Shines in Operation Warm Heart

During the cold winter months, higher electricity use for home heating can burden families struggling to pay their monthly bills.

Since 1989, caring Klickitat PUD customers have given generously to the Operation Warm Heart fund. Their gifts help other KPUD customers who have problems paying their power bills. “Neighbor helping neighbor” is a proud Klickitat County tradition.

“Sometimes, people who are normally able to pay their utility bills have life events happen and need a little help through the tough spots,” says Customer Service Supervisor Brandy Myers. “Operation Warm Heart is funded by our customers to help their fellow neighbor.”

What is Operation Warm Heart?

Operation Warm Heart is an emergency energy assistance program funded by contributions from PUD customers.

During the past five years, the program has given more than \$100,000 to help hundreds of families in financial

crisis, often because of a health emergency, change in employment or other extenuating issue. Generally, these families are in danger of having their power disconnected.

Who Gets Help?

All of the funds raised by Operation Warm Heart stay in Klickitat County to help local families experiencing a temporary financial hardship.

KPUD takes applications and works with the Goldendale Ministerial Association to screen applicant eligibility.

How Can I Contribute?

You can be part of Operation Warm Heart with a tax-deductible contribution of any amount. There are three easy ways to give:

- Have a small amount added to your monthly KPUD bill. Most people give just \$1 or \$2 per month.
 - Make a contribution of any amount.
- All gifts are welcome and can be made at any time.

- Place your bill on Operation Round Up, which rounds up utility bills to the nearest dollar, and places the difference into the Operation Warm Heart fund to help needy families.

No matter which option you choose, your gift is tax deductible and is a great way to show your care.

If you wish to participate, please contact KPUD customer service representatives at 800-548-8357, 509-773-5891 or 509-493-2255. ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January	
4	Bells of the Desert concert, 2 p.m., Kennewick First United Methodist Church
4-5	Sam Baker's Go in Peace Symphony, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m., Wy'East Middle School Performing Arts Center, Hood River
8-12	Portland Boat Show, Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Portland Expo Center
10-12	American Dreamers, Friday, 7:30 to 9 p.m., St. Patrick Catholic Parish, Pasco; Saturday, 7:30 to 9 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, Kennewick; Sunday, 4 to 5:30 p.m., St. Joseph Parish, Sunnyside
11	Second Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum, Hood River
11	Second Saturday Contra Dance 7 to 9:30 p.m., Rockford Grange, Hood River
11	Northwest Reptile Expo, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Columbia Conference Center, Portland
14	KPUD Commission Meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
15-19	Rose City Classic Dog Show, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Portland Expo Center
16	Mid-Columbia Ag Hall of Fame, 5 to 9 p.m., Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center, Pasco
17	George Lopez, 8 to 10 p.m., Kennewick
18	Professional Bull Riders: Pendleton Whisky Velocity Tour, 7 p.m., Moda Center, Portland
18	Crossroads Doll & Teddy Bear Show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Holiday Inn-Portland Airport
24-26	WizardWorld, Friday, 4 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oregon Convention Center, Portland
25-26	International Cat Show, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Holiday Inn-Portland Airport
25-26	Great Train Show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Portland Expo Center
28	KPUD Commission Meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
31-Feb. 1	Seafood & Wine Festival, Friday, 2 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 10 p.m., Oregon Convention Center, Portland

Our Meter Readers Need Your Help

No one likes to receive an incorrect bill. To make sure Klickitat PUD meter readers can obtain accurate readings of your electric and/or water meters for billing purposes, we need your help in keeping the area near meters free of debris.

Here are some simple tips to help maintain access to your meters.

- Keep the area around the meters—as well as the pathway to the meter—trimmed or mowed.
- If it snows, shovel a pathway to the meter and around the meter.
- Keep pets away from the meter area and pathway.
- Do not park vehicles on top of your water meter or store materials around your water or electric meter.
- Provide us with a key if you have a locked gate.
- Make sure your address is visible for easy location of your home.

Remember, if you can't get to your meters, neither can we! If you are a rural self-read customer, make sure to submit monthly meter reads to avoid big surprises.

For more information on how you can help KPUD meter readers, call the Goldendale office at 509-773-5891 or 800-548-8357, or the White Salmon office at 509-493-2255 or 800-548-8358. ■

