

News Release 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY PARTNERS WITH USPS LETTER CARRIER FOOD DRIVE

BELLINGHAM, Wash.— United Way of Whatcom County is proud to partner with the National Association of Letter Carriers to support the *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive is the nation's largest single-day food drive and the effort provides food to local food banks to keep them stocked throughout the upcoming summer months. Last year in Bellingham alone, nearly 60,000 lbs. of food was donated by community members.

"Food bank usage is at an all-time high, and we know that food security is an issue in Whatcom County," said Peter Theisen, United Way of Whatcom County president. "This food drive has been very successful in the past, and we're excited to help make it possible again this year."

Residents can participate on May 12 by leaving a bag of non-perishable food items where their mail is collected. Examples of good non-perishable items include canned foods, boxed cereals and dry rice or pasta. Letter carriers will collect the food items and then teams of volunteers will distribute the food to local food banks and other hunger relief organizations.

Hunger is a prevalent issue in Bellingham. According to the Bellingham Food Bank, the largest food bank in Whatcom County, one in six Bellingham households use the food bank regularly and 15% of all Bellingham families use the food bank at least once a year. The Food Bank Food Distribution Program is one of 43 programs supported by United Way of Whatcom County to improve Education, Income, and Health for our entire community.

"It's easy to participate and these contributions make a crucial difference for our community," Theisen said.

For more information about the annual *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive, ask your letter carrier, contact your local post office or visit either www.helpstampouthunger.com or www.facebook.com/StampOutHunger, or follow the drive at www.twitter.com/StampOutHunger

United Way of Whatcom County has worked for over 50 years to increase financial resources for local health and human service needs, and to seek and invest in community-building opportunities to

improve Education, Income and Health for Whatcom County residents. For more information about United Way of Whatcom County visit www.unitedwaywhatcom.org or Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/UnitedWayWhatcom>

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