

Community Foundation for Southwest Washington awards \$50,000 to nonprofits

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Longview's Help Warehouse food bank distribution center is almost halfway toward raising enough money to replace its ancient freight elevator, which Lower Columbia Community Action Program officials say is running "on borrowed time."

Tuesday, the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington pledged \$5,000 toward the \$100,000 cost of replacing the elevator, which is more than 60 years old. The cost estimate includes the expense of relocating the food bank for the time the elevator is replaced.

In the past two years, CAP has received about \$30,000 in community donations for the elevator and a \$10,000 grant from the Weyerhaeuser Foundation.

"We understand how essential the elevator is to this community's food distribution system, and we hope that our pledge will encourage individuals and businesses to raise the rest of the funds needed to replace it," Richard Melching, president of the Community Foundation, stated in a CAP press release.

Help Warehouse, a CAP program, has been the central food collection distribution center for Cowlitz and Wahkiakum food banks since 1982. In 2010, the warehouse, which operates out of a former Sears store built in the late 1940s, distributed over 1.5 million pounds of food.

CAP was among 10 local programs and groups The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington awarded a total of \$50,000 in grant money Tuesday. Each of the following organizations and programs received \$5,000:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters - mentoring program for at-risk children
- Children's Community Resources - money for children's urgent medical needs for the 2011-2012 school year
- Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts - Missoula Children's Theatre summer theater camp
- Community Home Health and Hospice - oxygen concentrators for home-bound patients
- Emergency Support Shelter - Children's Justice and Advocacy Center program
- Life Works - automatic security gate project
- Longview Stageworks - instructors/supplies for after-school theater program
- Pathways 2020 - St. Helens Elementary School garden project
- Southwest Washington American Red Cross - emergency shelter trailer project

For more information about The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington, go to www.cfsww.org.