

Welch Family Challenge drive raises \$132,000 for CAP

By Brenda Blevins McCorkle / The Daily News | Posted: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 8:05 pm

The Welch Family fundraising challenge fell short of its goal to raise \$87,000 in community donations, but sponsors were happy the drive attracted more than twice as many donors as last year.

In the end, though, the drive will end up less successful than last year's inaugural effort.

This year, 393 people contributed to the drive, far more than the 147 who donated last year, according to Lower Columbia CAP.

Community donations for the two-week drive that ended Sunday totaled \$45,000, which will be matched by the Tim and Lee Welch of Woodland and a group of other philanthropists known as "Friends of Tim & Lee."

The group had pledged to match up to \$87,000 in donations from the community. CAP announced Tuesday, however, that the group will put up the entire \$87,000 it pledged - even the portion unmatched by community giving. This means the drive will raise \$132,000 for CAP, falling short of the \$146,000 raised last year's drive.

Tim Welch said the larger number of individual donors shows that more people are realizing they can do something for the community to make it a better and safer place.

"Every donation, and especially the small ones, demonstrates that we can each do something to help our neighbors," he said. "Even putting \$10 in an envelope."

The Welches hope to raise \$1 million for CAP's endowment fund. CAP says the money will gather interest, which will be used to pay for social services such as the Help Warehouse food bank, disabled and senior transportation, Meals on Wheels, disability services and other programs.

Welch said that his fellow philanthropists have already committed \$65,000 for next year's campaign. The "Friends of Tim & Lee" include the Jerry Adams Family Trust, Bill and Karen Boehm, Ben and Judy Coombs, Dan Evans, Bob and LaVina Jones, Bob and Pauline Kirchner, Ed and Dollie Lynch, George and Marilyn Ramirez and Rick and Barbara Wollenberg.

"These people who are supporting Lee and me are with us for the long run," Welch said.

One of his goals is to get as many local citizens involved in the project as possible. This year's effort showed him it is gaining ground.

"I am passionate that we get the community to look inward," he said. "Times are tough, and if we don't do that, they won't get easier."