

CAP challenge grant drive wraps up

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The CAP challenge grant ended Friday with a whopping \$73,000 in community donations from 132 people, and the dollar-for-dollar match from a Woodland couple will swell that to nearly \$146,000.

Originally, Tim and Lee Hutton-Welch had challenged the community to match their pledge of \$35,000 to the CAP Foundation, meaning the drive's original target was \$70,000.

But community donations soared during the two-week campaign, and the Welches decided to match all donations received through Friday.

Money raised in the campaign will be put in the CAP endowment fund as an investment that will help sustain CAP programs for the needy. CAP is the area's largest nonprofit social service agency.

"This campaign is no longer about one family's gift," Welch said in a statement CAP issued Friday. "This money will now be part of an endowment that will not be spent but which will grow more money, and the interest earned will go to support those CAP programs that are always underfunded, like Help Warehouse and Meals on Wheels.

He added: "This foundation will ensure that CAP remains community-based and less dependent upon the government funding. Lee and I have been humbled by this experience."

Lower Columbia Community Action Program runs a variety 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.