

Comcast volunteers step up for CAP



By Bill Wagner / The Daily News: Mykalie Davison of Kelso and her mother, Sue Davison, far right, paint columns Saturday morning at the Lower Columbia Action Program's HELP warehouse as part of Comcast's nationwide day of service.

By Amy M.E. Fischer / The Daily News | Posted: Saturday, April 24, 2010

Comcast employees, family and friends spent Saturday morning sprucing up the Lower Columbia Action Program building in downtown Longview as part of Comcast's Day of Caring.

Twenty-three Comcast volunteers from throughout the Lower Columbia region weeded flower beds and pressure-washed the CAP building on Commerce Avenue. In the basement, where the social service agency's HELP warehouse is housed, volunteers rebuilt a mesh-and-wood wall that surrounds pallets of dry goods to be distributed among local food banks. "The wall was falling down from being hit from their forklift so many times," said Mark Skaeie of Longview, a Comcast maintenance technician.

Across the vast storage room piled with stacks of flattened cardboard boxes, volunteers painted walls white and large support pillars red.

"I always have a good time when I come," said Washougal resident Christy Tipton, a Southwest Washington Comcast service center supervisor who's participated in previous service days. "This is a way we can give back to our actual customers."

Nationwide, more than 55,000 volunteers participated in the entertainment, Internet and communication company's 10th annual day of service Saturday, according to a Comcast press release. From Longview to Eugene, roughly 1,600 volunteers worked on 19 projects, said Mike Williams, Comcast's regional sales director. The company's goal is to surpass 2 million volunteer hours next year, he said.

"The idea is that we want to take one day of the year and just make an amazing impact across the country," said Comcast regional spokeswoman Theresa Davis.

On behalf of each employee and family member who volunteered, the Comcast Foundation will provide grants to help local partner organizations continue their mission of serving the community throughout the year, the press release said.