

Volunteers build boxes for Walk 'n' Knock food drive

Saturday, September 26, 2009

By The Daily News

Gathering items for the largest community food drive held each year takes a lot of hours and a lot of preparation.

That's why the Lower Columbia Contractors Association (LCCA)

donated a day of their time and skills building wooden totes for CAP's Help Warehouse to assist with the annual Walk 'n' Knock food drive scheduled for December.

The Lower Columbia Contractors Association has more than 230 member businesses. The member-driven trade association was organized by local home builders in 1956 to represent professionals in the home building industry. Help Warehouse, a program of Lower Columbia Community Action Program (CAP), is the food collection and distribution center for Cowlitz and Wahkiakum food banks.

On Sept. 17, members of the association met at All Out Sewer and Drain in Longview to construct 30 wooden boxes for Help Warehouse to store food donations.

"This is a tremendous gift to the community," Rick Philbrook, CAP's warehouse coordinator, said in a press release. "Our totes are 20 years old and falling to pieces."



Helping build wooden totes for CAP's Help Warehouse are Lower Columbia Contractors Association members Eric Pucci from NewRock Homes (in box), and from left, Brock Anderson from NewRock Homes, Jason Schoonover from Affordable Homes, Ben Clark from NewRock Homes and Neal Kandoll from NK & Co. Photo courtesy of Jeanette Scibelli

Philbrook approached Jeanette Scibelli, LCCA executive director, who proposed the project to the association's board of directors. The board voted unanimously to take on the project.

"Partnering with CAP's Help Warehouse enabled us to help a much larger segment of the community," LCCA President Kurt Henthorn said. "We were happy to do it."

Material for the totes was donated by Pacific Tech Construction, Schlecht Construction, ProBuild, NewRock Homes, All Out Sewer and Drain, and ServiceMaster by JTS.

The project was completed in three hours, with a crew from different construction companies pitching in. All of the companies that participated are LCCA members. The crew included Eric Pucci, Isaac Wulff, Clint Scherping, Nick Anderson, Brock Anderson, Ben Clark and Jim McGaughey, all from NewRock Homes; Ray Caldwell from All Out Sewer and Drain; Jason Schoonover from Affordable Construction; Neal Kandoll from NK & Co.; Kurt Henthorn from B & M Heating; and Jeff Richter from NW Home Automation.

"This is coming just in time for Walk 'n' Knock," Philbrook said, noting that the largest community-wide food drive happens each year on the first Saturday in December. "Thanks to the contractors' association, we will be ready for the food donations."