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Energy Northwest Celebrates 30-Years of Supporting Head Start

RICHLAND, Wash. – Energy Northwest is sponsoring 11 Head Start holiday parties at local schools this week. Agency employees “adopted” nearly 400 children, marking a three decade tradition of Energy Northwest supporting Benton Franklin Head Start.

Each child provided a wish list to Santa and will receive at least one toy and one clothing item. The gifts will be distributed by Energy Northwest employees, playing Santa and his elves, during various Head Start parties on Dec. 15 and 16 at 10:30 a.m. Media are encouraged to attend the parties at the Children’s Developmental Center in Richland on Dec. 15.

“This event marks 30 years of making a commitment to bring a little joy into the lives of Tri-City children,” said Cindy Way, Energy Northwest Head Start committee chair. “Each year, we are seeing more and more employees wanting to be involved. It’s a heartwarming experience for all of us.”

The number of Head Start children served in Benton and Franklin counties has more than doubled in the past two decades.

“As Head Start’s services have grown and become more decentralized, Energy Northwest employee’s commitment to making the holidays a very special time for some of the neediest children and families in the Tri-Cities has never wavered,” said Jim Skucy, Benton Franklin Head Start executive director.

Parties will be held Dec. 15 at the Children’s Developmental Center, Jefferson Elementary and Marcus Whitman Elementary in Richland, and Victory Christian Center in Benton City. Parties will be held Dec. 16 at Good News Church and the Martin Luther King Center in Pasco.

Head Start is one of three major non-profit organizations Energy Northwest employees support each year; the others are United Way and March of Dimes.

About Head Start:

Created in 1965, Head Start is the most successful, longest-running, national school readiness program in the United States. It provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. More than 25 million pre-school aged children have benefited from Head Start.

About Energy Northwest:

Energy Northwest develops, owns and operates a diverse mix of electricity generating resources, including hydro, solar and wind projects – and the Northwest’s only nuclear power plant. These projects provide enough reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy to power more than a million homes each year, and that carbon-free electricity is provided at the cost of generation. As a Washington state, not-for-profit joint operating agency, Energy Northwest comprises 28 public power member utilities from across the state serving more than 1.5 million ratepayers. The agency continually explores new generation projects to meet its members’ needs.

Energy Northwest -- www.energy-northwest.com.