



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 16, 2008

News Release 08-10

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## Energy Northwest brightens Christmas for Head Start children

**RICHLAND, Wash.** – Energy Northwest continues its tradition of supporting the Benton-Franklin Head Start program, hosting ten Christmas parties at local schools this week.

Nearly 400 children enrolled in the Benton-Franklin classroom-based Head Start Program have been “adopted” by Energy Northwest employees. Each child provided a wish list to Santa and will receive at least one toy and one clothing item. This is Energy Northwest’s 28th year supporting Head Start holiday activities.

The gifts will be distributed to the children by more than 50 Energy Northwest employees, playing Santa and his elves at various Head Start Christmas parties on Wednesday and Thursday at the following times and locations:

<b>December 17</b> (All parties begin at 10:00 a.m.; volunteers arrive at 9:00 a.m.)	<b>December 18</b> (All parties begin at 10:00 a.m.; volunteers arrive at 9:00 a.m.)
<b>Central Pasco</b> (Three parties) 3203 W. Sylvester, Pasco, 509-542-9688 EN Contact: Andrea Villareal 509-366-7978	<b>Children’s Center</b> (Three parties) 1549 Georgia Ave, Richland, 509-735-1062 EN Contact: Amy Brown 509-948-3025
<b>Martin Luther King Center</b> (Two parties) 205 S. Wehe, Pasco, 509-544-9446 EN Contact: Libby Giles 509-551-1657	<b>Benton City</b> (One party) 313 #B 3rd Street, Benton City, 509-588-5250 EN Contact: Carole Bergara 509-438-8430
<b>Sunnyslopes</b> (One party) 732 W 19th, Kennewick (Corner of 19th and Garfield) EN Contact: Amy Brown 509-948-3025	

Head Start is one of three major fundraising campaigns Energy Northwest employees enthusiastically sponsor each year. The others are United Way and March of Dimes.

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**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. Nearly 25 million pre-school aged children have benefited from Head Start.

**About Energy Northwest:**

Energy Northwest is a not-for-profit public power, state joint operating agency headquartered in Richland, Washington. Chartered in 1957, the consortium has 24 public power members; 20 public utility districts and four municipalities. The agency's nuclear, hydro, wind, and solar power projects collectively deliver nearly 1,300 megawatts of reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible electricity to the Northwest power grid. Energy Northwest continually explores and develops new generation opportunities while offering a wide range of energy and business services.

[www.energy-northwest.com](http://www.energy-northwest.com)

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**Note to Producers & Editors:** Energy Northwest contacts are available at each location to support your news gathering efforts. Please call one of the points of contact listed in the event information table above.