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**www.klickitapud.com**

**Goldendale Office**  
1313 S. Columbus Ave.  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
(509) 773-5891  
(800) 548-8357

**White Salmon Office**  
110 NE Estes Ave.  
P.O. Box 187  
White Salmon, WA 98672  
(509) 493-2255  
(800) 548-8358

WA-18

## PUD Customers Help Their Neighbors

During the cold months of winter, higher electricity use for home heating can burden families struggling to pay their monthly bills.

Since 1989, caring Klickitat PUD customers have given generously to the Operation Warm Heart fund. Their gifts help other KPUD customers in genuine need who are having problems paying their power bills. Neighbor helping neighbor is a proud Klickitat County tradition.

“The real beauty of Operation Warm Heart is that the funds stay in Klickitat County to help local families,” says Nadine Huxley, KPUD customer service manager. “It’s truly neighbor helping neighbor.”

### What is Operation Warm Heart?

Operation Warm Heart is an emergency energy assistance program funded by gifts from KPUD customers. During the past decade, they have given more than \$250,000 to help hundreds of families in financial crisis, often because of a health emergency or change in employment. Generally, recipients are in danger of having their power disconnected or are unable to pay their deposit.

Who gets help? All of the funds raised by Operation Warm Heart stay in Klickitat County to help

local low-income families in crisis. Washington Gorge Action Programs screens applicants to ensure they meet income and other criteria.

### How Can I Contribute?

You can be part of Operation Warm Heart with a tax-deductible contribution of any amount. There are three easy ways to give:

1. Have a small amount added to your monthly KPUD bill. Most people give just \$1 or \$2 per month.
2. Make a contribution of any amount. All gifts are welcome.
3. Place your bill on

Operation Round Up, which rounds up utility bills to the nearest dollar, and places the difference into the Operation Warm Heart fund to help needy families.

No matter which option you choose, your gift is tax deductible and a great way to show you care.

If you wish to participate, call KPUD at (800) 548-8357 or (509) 773-5891 in Goldendale, and (800) 548-8358 or (509) 493-2255 in White Salmon.

Thank you for supporting this program. KPUD appreciates every donation from big to small, and wishes everyone a warm and happy holiday season. ■

