Holiday Community Involvement

Jenna Blake, a former Klickitat PUD summer intern, began the Christmas Toy Drive for Klickitat County foster kids as a school project at Klickitat High School during her sophomore year. Jenna chose to continue her efforts after graduation, and 2022 marks the ninth year of the toy drive.

In mid-November, Jenna drops off donation boxes to businesses throughout Klickitat County. She collects them in mid-December. Once all the toys, coats, hats and gloves are sorted, Jenna delivers them to the Klickitat County Department of Children & Family Services office to distribute to local foster children for Christmas. The program has grown to include 15 drop-off locations in six communities around Klickitat County.

"I love doing this and knowing that I am helping foster children during the holiday season," Jenna says "My goal, as always, is to make these kids' and foster parents' Christmas mornings at least a little better."

Klickitat PUD participates as an annual donation drop-off location and even added a box at KPUD's White Salmon office this year. It's a great cause, and KPUD staff enjoys shopping for donations to benefit children in our community.

2022 also featured the first Annual Giving Tree Festival, benefiting the Children's Organ Transplant Association in honor of Cameron Mains and Alison Coons-Azevedo.

Klickitat PUD employees Lori Fakesch and Holly Thiele spearheaded the effort to find and decorate a KPUD employee association tree. The employee association donated funds—as did individual employees—to cover costs. The Grinch tree, pictured above, was donated to the festival. Family fun was had as staff throughout the utility joined together in the decorating festivities.

At the festival, raffle tickets were sold and excess funds raised were donated, some to "The Grinch Tree." In a lucky turn of events, Klickitat PUD employees won the Grinch tree, currently displayed in the Goldendale office lobby. KPUD staff looks forward to repurposing the tree for next year's festival.

Klickitat PUD staff enjoys giving back to our community.

KPUD collected donations for the Christmas Toy Drive and the Annual Giving Tree Festival.