

Right, KPUD Serviceman Bernie Predeek has volunteered time at the White Salmon Valley Community Library to participate in preschool story time, teaching the kids about KPUD's "big" utility trucks.

Below, KPUD sponsors the annual Power of Youth Award for a member of the Klickitat County 4-H program. Mikaylee Balcom won the award in 2011.



## KPUD: Part of the Community

*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart.*

— Elizabeth Andrew

Volunteer participation is a commitment to community. Klickitat PUD and its employees take seriously.

"Owned by those it serves" is more than a motto and applies to more than just being your electricity, water and sewer provider. KPUD employees are also ratepayers and members of your communities, and it is important to them that the communities all across Klickitat County thrive.

As a utility, there are lots of local contributions made for the communities. KPUD attends parades, fairs and community events throughout the county, including the Huckleberry Festival in Bingen and the Klickitat County Fair in Goldendale. KPUD employees attend these events and bring information about your utility, ongoing or upcoming projects, energy conservation, and distribute handouts and giveaways.

KPUD also attends the HUGS Fair, which is held annually in White Salmon and provides an opportunity for families to gather information on a variety of topics that relate to the health and safety of children through fun, hands-on activities.

Throughout the year, KPUD contributes employees' time, equipment and vehicles to put up and take down holiday decorations, banners and replace lights at ball fields throughout the county.

Special projects seem to arise every year, and the utility responds to these requests as much as it is able.

Bernie Predeek, serviceman in KPUD's White Salmon office, has spent time with the White Salmon Valley Community Library preschool story time kids. The kids were reading stories about big trucks and, with Bernie's help, they got a chance to see one up close. Meeting Bernie, watching him maneuver the bucket, and having a chance to sit in his truck really brought the "big truck" theme to life for the kids. The children were especially impressed with how tall Bernie is.



A project for the Centerville School involved employee Tim Garrigus helping carry on the tradition of putting the graduating eighth-grader names on the 35-foot chimney at the school.

Each year, KPUD sponsors the Power of Youth Award to a member of the Klickitat County 4-H program. The award is based on the young person's community involvement, volunteer activities and leadership skills. Rewarding the youth for being committed to their community encourages them to continue with a lifetime of volunteerism.

If you have donated blood lately, you may have noticed KPUD has partnered with the American Red Cross and has helped sponsor blood drives.

Employees from KPUD donated about 40 pints of life-saving blood in 2011. The Red Cross sends its sincere "thank you" for each of the individuals who will be able to have surgery, survive a serious accident, or lengthen their life span because of the blood that was collected.

The next scheduled blood drive is January 12 at Community Grace Brethren Church in Goldendale.

Employees are encouraged to take part and interest in civic and community activities on their own time. Here are some examples of how KPUD employees are giving back:

- Eva France donated time by parking cars for the "Fiddling Under the Stars" event, and for James Ogden's concert by driving wheelchairs for residents of the assisted living facility. She also donated time at the Klickitat County Fair and Rodeo, organizing and taking tickets at the admissions gate, and driving people to the event by limo for Dr. James Ogden's Mopar Service.

- Judy Woody served on Thanksgiving Day at the Goldendale community dinner and donated her time at the Glenwood Rodeo.

- Howard Sinor also volunteered at the Glenwood Rodeo and loves to participate every year.

- Wanita Gordon volunteers through the Columbia Gorge Community College's Gorge Literacy Program and tutors students who are learning to read and write English.

- Several volunteer coaches work at KPUD. Jeff Speelman and Greg Watson both donated their time as soccer coaches for AYSO, and Tim McMurrin coached girl's softball.

- Jim Smith volunteered at the Goldendale swimming pool, helping uncover the pool for the summer and covering it for the winter. He also spent many days as head timer at swim meets.

- Lori Fakesch is a Klickitat School board member and spends time attending meetings and being involved in school activities. She also donates many hours to scheduling the entertainment at the Klickitat County Fair. She was awarded 2008 Volunteer of the Year by the Klickitat County Fair board for her outstanding dedication and commitment, and continues to be committed to the fair's success. She is an avid participant



**KPUD bucket trucks get a workout around the community. Above, linemen raise and take down holiday decorations every year.**

**Left, Tim Garrigus adds eighth-grader names to the Centerville School chimney.**



in planning the Klickitat Canyon Days and serving at the Glenwood Rodeo.

- Brandon Walter is a reserve police officer for the Goldendale City Police and helps keep the town safe and protected with his volunteer hours, not only on the job, but staying current on certifications and training for the job.

- Miquette Ihrig and Russ Patton have donated many hours to public service. They are involved with Klickitat County Search and Rescue and participated in numerous searches in 2011, attended meetings and training sessions, and kept their certifications current.

Thank you to all the volunteers who keep all of the communities alive and kicking across Klickitat County. Without these volunteers, many programs, events and necessary functions would be left by the wayside. ■