



**For Immediate Release:**

## **#CPPS♥CARES**

### **College Place Public Schools & Walla Walla University Church at Eden's Pantry Food Drive a Huge Success**

**College Place, WA, Thursday, April 27, 2023:** College Place Public Schools partnered with Walla Walla University Church's Eden's Pantry to hold its fourth community food drive that ended with the distribution of food boxes today. The partnership that began in the Spring of 2020 in the middle of the pandemic has flourished over the last three years. Paul Richardson of WWU Church stated, "this was a tremendous event with great collaboration with College Place Schools. We felt fortunate to be able to serve those in our community with this event."

The event began with volunteers distributing bags across College Place for members of the community to donate. Then more volunteers set out to gather the thousands of pounds of food from doorstep to doorstep. Next, a group of volunteers organized the donations into healthy meal boxes containing the items needed to make meals for a family of three to four for a week. Finally, volunteers distributed the prepared boxes to those in need.

Volunteers from College Place Public Schools including classified staff, teachers, and administrators along with student groups from CPHS Baseball, CPHS and Sager Middle School Latino Clubs, CPHS Rainbow Alliance, WWVA National Honor Society, and members of WWU Church all joined hands to make the event a success.

It is estimated that over 300 families received 25 pound boxes of food, plus a gallon of milk, a gallon of juice, a 5 pound bag of potatoes, fresh fruit, and fresh bread for an estimated total of over 10,000 pounds of food distributed. Need was so great that the day's event only lasted from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. when all the food had been given away. At one point in the morning a double line of cars could be seen down 4th Street in College Place.

"Our staff and students put a lot of time and energy into this event even when they have so much on their plates already. They do it for the simple reward of serving others that is so important; now more than ever," lauded College Place Superintendent Jim Fry.

Fry praised the collaboration and support from community partners: Columbia REA, Walmart, Andy's Market, BMAC Food Bank, and CPPS Educational Service Employees. "When the need is great you really get to see the heart of this amazing community. Our schools are blessed by so much support and we do not take that for granted and are happy to give back," Fry added.

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