COLUMBIA COUNTY

OREGON

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For Immediate Release
May 13, 2009

For additional information contact: Commissioner Earl Fisher, 503-397-4322

COLUMBIA COUNTY/PORT OF ST. HELENS
FOOD DRIVE

Commissioner Earl Fisher organized a friendly competition with the Port of St. Helens to raise awareness of families in need of food in these hard economic times. All of the food was donated to the Columbia Pacific Food Bank.

The prize, according to Commissioner Fisher is "bragging rights". We can be proud of our efforts and many thanks to all who contributed. Those County employees participating raised 1,228 lbs of food and the Port raised 998 lbs of food for a total of 2,226 lbs. I know Columbia Pacific Food Bank appreciates food donations through-out the year, not just at special times.

Laury Lapping, Project Developer, for the Columbia Pacific Food Bank stated that food donations are welcomed anytime of the year and that the demand for food boxes has had a 26% increase in the past year. With the way the economy is today she expects demand for food to increase--how high an increase no one knows.

Laury provided the following statistics as 'food-for-thought': Columbia Pacific

Food Bank distributes food to all 5 emergency food pantries in Columbia County. In 2008 the Columbia Pacific Food Bank provided 9,228 food boxes serving 25,312 Columbia County residents.   The number of pounds of food distributed in 2008 was 850 thousand pounds. Laury expects that to increase in 2009 to 1 million pounds of food.

If you would like to donate to the food bank, please call 503-397-9708 or www.cpfoodbank.org to donate online.

Those in the attached picture from left to right are:

Gale Farmer, Assessor's Office

Cherie Layton and Shelly Blickenstaff – Finance Department

Becky Magnuson – Assessor Office

Debbie Holland – Juvenile Department

Commissioner Fisher

Jan Kenna – Children & Families Commisson

Mary Ann Guess – Finance Department

Joelle Leach – Assessor's Office

Jan Greenhalgh – Board Secretary

Ruth Baker – Finance Director

Photo by Janet Wright, County PIO