Grant PUD Community service entry – for APPA Community Service Award, Utility Services
Jan. 30, 2019

With nearly 4,000 miles of electric grid and two Columbia River dams, Grant PUD serves a vast agricultural and industrial region of just over 95,000 people in rural Central Washington State.

We’re more than just the power company here. Our customers are also our neighbors. Our kids go to the same schools, we eat at the same restaurants, attend the same youth sporting events and stand elbow to elbow with each other at local celebrations. Community service is part of our DNA. When our coworkers or our community needs us, Grant PUD and its employees have a long history of stepping up.

Grant PUD encourages community service. We sponsor a number of events, including a food drive and big presence at the Grant County Fair. We don’t offer a work incentive plan for service. And we don’t track the countless hours of volunteerism and self-started fundraising of our employees. These efforts are numerous and come straight from their hearts.

With this award entry we hope to encapsulate decades of ongoing community service at all levels of our organization. We hope to demonstrate our collective achievement and sustained performance as an outstanding and compassionate partner and public citizen across our communities’ social, cultural, educational and economic fronts. Enthusiastic community service is one more way Grant PUD is Powering our Way of Life.

Here’s a concise list of our 2018 and ongoing efforts:

- **VoltsWalkers**
  Active, creative and with the collective support of hundreds of collaborative coworkers, the VoltsWalkers are a fundraising dynamo that began some 20 years ago as Grant PUD’s team in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. They’ve grown to become the most prolific cancer-related fundraising team in the region and among the top in the country. Countless hours preparing for and hosting luncheons, barbecues and twice-annual auctions – all at their own expense – have yielded a fundraising total of $197,000 so far. And they’re still going strong! All – 100 percent – of their proceeds have gone to cancer research or, most recently, care for cancer patients in Grant County.

- **Share the Warmth**
  This annual program allows Grant PUD’s customers to voluntarily add a little extra to their bill payments to create a fund to help qualifying low-income customers pay their electric bills. In 2018, alone, the program helped keep the lights on for nearly 300 families, raising $55,301 from customer donors, which include many of Grant PUD’s employees. More than $74,000 was distributed.
- John Lunderville Foundation
John Lunderville was a 22-year-old autistic man who died of brain cancer. His dad, Shane, works at Grant PUD. The family started this foundation in 2017 to honor John’s memory. To date, the foundation has collected more than $8,000 to support community, families and organizations that deal with autism or cancer. Of that total, $4,000 has been provided for yearly scholarships to Grant County high school students who have a family member with autism or cancer. All funds raised are awarded.

- Support for Seattle Children’s Hospital
Since 1969, Grant PUD employees at our Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams have lead this nearly annual, effort. Since then, they’ve collected a total of $84,000 (in inflation-adjusted dollars) for both Children’s Home Society and Seattle Children’s, our region’s primary care facility for young people with severe or unique health challenges. It’s a leading pediatric and adolescent academic medical care center. Many of our employees have directly benefited from the quality and compassion of the hospital’s staff.

- BBQ fundraiser for family of Chelan PUD Central Maintenance technician Eddie Bromiley
In the weeks following a crane accident that resulted in the June 2018, on-the-job death of a technician at the dam of a neighboring PUD, Grant PUD’s Power Production team rallied to organize a fundraising barbecue and taco feed for the family of the late worker, Eddie Bromiley. Contributions from Grant PUD effort totaled more than $7,000. The accident happened at Chelan County PUD’s Rock Island Dam.

- McKenna’s Open Cupboard Annual Peanut Butter Drive
McKenna Brianne Fuglie, daughter of Grant PUD Senior Lands Specialist Blair Fuglie, was killed in a car accident in 2014. Since then, Grant PUD employees have volunteered annually to staff tables at local supermarkets to ask shoppers to donate cash or jars of peanut butter for the local food bank, where McKenna worked, as well as the local senior center and school district. Peanut butter is highly sought after for its protein value. Their efforts have annually collected more than 600 jars of peanut butter and funding to purchase 3,000 jars more.
- **Steve Koziol Memorial Salmon Derby**

Our folks at Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams organized (2015) a fundraising salmon fishing derby, now in its fourth year, to honor the memory of a coworker Steve Koziol, who died from pancreatic cancer. The one-day derby happens on the Columbia River between the two dams. Prizes go to the biggest salmon caught (first through fifth place). Raffle prizes are awarded, too. The event has raised $6,785 to date. All proceeds go to the Lustgarten Foundation for the prevention and cure of pancreatic cancer.

- **Fill the Bucket Food Drive for Grant County food banks**

Grant PUD hosted its first annual “Fill the Bucket” Food Drive and United Way rally in October/November 2018 with two kick-off barbecue fundraisers and lobby displays that included actual bucket truck buckets for customers to fill with donated food. Employees from around Grant PUD staffed tables at grocery stores around the county to encourage donations. The effort yielded 2,400 pounds of food donations and $2,400 for Grant County food banks.

- **Holiday giving**

Over the years, Grant PUD employees have consistently contributed to happier holidays for Grant County residents by organizing “giving trees” for Grant County seniors, children of military servicemen and women and others. Participants set up trees at the dams and elsewhere around the District. The trees are adorned with recipients’ names and gift ideas. Employees take names off the trees, buy the gifts and then participate in holiday parties to hand-deliver gifts to recipients.

- **The World’s Largest Swim Lesson**

Grant PUD in 2018 participated in a free swimming lesson that attracted approximately 100 children to a local public pool. The event introduces kids to water safety to prevent drowning deaths. Grant PUD employees handed out water-safety coloring books and fun gadgets for the kids. As operator of two Columbia River dams with a federal obligation to provide for water recreation and access, this event is a natural fit for us. We expect to participate annually.
Archaeology Days at Wanapum Heritage Center
The Wanapum Heritage Center and Grant PUD together host Archaeology Days, now in its 20th edition. The annual, 3-day event drew nearly 900 school children and adults in 2018, alone. Kids come to learn Native American crafts, pastimes and culture. They race solar-powered cars, learn about hydropower, observe fish and wildlife, and discover area geology and its cultural richness. On “adult day,” grownups come for a day of Native American-themed talks by area experts and enjoy a fresh salmon lunch. The Wanapum Band of the Priest Rapids Indians live on their ancestral lands on the west end of Grant PUD’s Priest Rapids Dam. Our close relationship with the Wanapum and the event’s spectacular setting at the Wanapum Heritage Center, tucked into the sage-covered Columbia River shoreline, make this one of the year’s most anticipated events.

Miscellaneous outreach
Grant PUD and its employees have a big annual presence at the Grant County Fair, where our line crews put on an electrical safety show that drives home the dangers of coming in contact with hot power lines. Our employees participate in a host of smaller community events around the county, including an environmental fair at a local community college, hydropower “water cycle” workshops for kids in county libraries, “salmon-in-the-classroom” workshops in schools, job fairs, business expos and more. On the personal side, our coworkers volunteer as coaches and more in area schools and science fairs, including the Microsoft-sponsored “TechSpark DigiGirlz event at a local school.