

Contact:

Rose Smith
Communications Specialist
Rose.smith@snoco.org
425-409-7916

Giving on wheels: Amidst pandemic, Snohomish County Food Drive gathers donations and hope

The three-hour drive-thru event honored the start of the Evergreen State Fair and will provide 7,743 meals to those in need across Snohomish County

MONROE, Wash., August 31, 2020 – Snohomish County Parks announced today the total impact of their one-day Food Drive event last Thursday held at the Evergreen State Fair Park - a whopping 6,309 pounds of food and \$4,275 of donations which will benefit Volunteers of America Western WA and the Snohomish County Food Bank Coalition. On what would have been the first day of the annual 12-day fair, the community came out in droves to support their neighbors, decorate their cars as floats and even to indulge in some fair scones.

It has been a long-standing tradition at the Evergreen State Fair that on opening day, staff holds a food drive benefiting local area food banks. Even though the Fair was canceled back in May due to COVID-19, the need for donations has never been greater. This special drive-thru event was a creative way for fair staff to honor their dedication to giving back. The timing is crucial, with many in need of food this year due to the pandemic. According to Northwest Harvest, 2.2M individuals in Washington may be food-insecure during the peak of the pandemic with the greatest need from August to December. Volunteers of America calculates that a donation of 1.2 pounds of food or \$1.72 are each equal to one meal. This means the impact of the food drive is 7,743 meals going to Snohomish County residents in need. The Fair Park is a resource for the community in times of celebrations, and in times of need.

This event was made possible from the dedication, hard work and selflessness of many fair staff, volunteers and partner organizations who donated time, advertising, energy and money. “We miss the Fair this year, but our community really stepped up to continue their involvement by donating to local food banks,” said Snohomish County District 2 Councilmember Megan Dunn, who volunteered at the entire event. “There was a constant line of people excited to donate and to be at the Fairgrounds again...Volunteering at the food drive gave me the same feeling of excitement just to be around a community that cares so much.” People also came to get a taste of the fair with food vendors Pompeii Pizza, Pioneer Popcorn and Conifer Foods baking fresh Fisher Scones (which all sold out).

The fun continued with the car decorating contest. Families put time and creativity into transforming their cars into everything from a giant dog, to the first place winner - the Greenhorns who dressed up an entire trailer with their red, white and blue theme “CoroNO Fair is Not Fair!” complete with kids, pigs, a goat, music and plenty of food donations. The second-place winner decorated their car with all their past fair ribbons and great memories. Third place celebrated the 2020 theme of “Wonder and Wander the Evergreen” by bringing llamas and cats in her van decorated as the “Llama Lady”.

More information:

- Donations can continue online at: <https://www.voaww.org/donate>
- www.evergreenfair.org
- www.snocoparks.org
- Washington Hunger Facts: <https://www.northwestharvest.org/crisis-report>

About Snohomish County Parks, Recreation & Tourism

The Snohomish County Parks system is incredibly diverse and boasts almost 12,000 acres of parks and open space; over 110 park properties; 100s of miles of trails and access to fresh and saltwater shorelines. Major regional park assets such as the Evergreen State Fair Park, Kayak Point Park, Lord Hill Park and the Centennial and Interurban Trail systems host local, regional and national events that draw over 5 million visitors each year to Snohomish County.

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