

## COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH – MAY 2012



Governor Christine Gregoire signed a Proclamation declaring May as “Community Action Month”. The signing supports a nationwide effort to highlight the importance of Community Action.

For nearly 50 years, Community Action Agencies, like Ellensburg’s own HopeSource, have dedicated their efforts to changing lives and combating poverty by providing vital life skills to at-risk and low-income members of their communities.

In 1964 the Economic Opportunity Act served as America’s initial stride in combating poverty across the nation. Just two years later, HopeSource was established. Its mission: “To move people to permanent self-sufficiency by preparing them for education, employment, and economic development opportunities by offering services and programs such as emergency shelter, transitional housing, energy assistance/home weatherization, transportation and life skills coaching.”

While there exist 29 Community Action Agencies in the state, only one serves Kittitas County. HopeSource. Expanding from the crest of Snoqualmie Pass east to the Columbia River, its service area encompasses 2,297 square miles of central Washington.

Over 24% of the county population lives below the poverty line, compared to 11% across the state. The current population of the county is 40,915 which means there are 9,820 potential individuals in need. In 2011, HopeSource had resources to serve only 1,500 families or approximately 15% of the total target population. HopeSource believes the only way out of crisis is through education such as they provide with each and every service through their Hope University program. Courses include as Positive Work Habits, Budgeting, Tenant Prep, and Saving Money When You Shop. Conservation Education workshops are also provided through the Energy and Weatherization programs.

In addition to the services provided in house, HopeSource works closely with other community partners to ensure that each family is connected to the resources they need to succeed whether provided by HopeSource or not.

Through a consistent commitment to philanthropy right here in the community, HopeSource, in cooperation with other community partners, has revolutionized the availability and diversity of local human services, enriching the quality of life for those they serve and the community as a whole.

To learn more contact HopeSource at 509-925-1448, [www.hopesource.us](http://www.hopesource.us), or [www.facebook.com/hopesource.us](https://www.facebook.com/hopesource.us)