

Monday  
December 10, 2001

## Need for Food Still Rising in Mattawa

Agricultural hardships leave farm workers unemployed, sending them to food banks

By **MARIA GARRIGA**  
YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

The foot of snow that fell on Nov. 28 in the Yakima Valley did not deter a van full of volunteers determined to bring food back to Mattawa.

But the shelves are bare again.

According to a Aug. 5 story in the Yakima Herald-Republic, food bank volunteers reported they had served more than 1,300 people between January and July. But in November alone, the food bank served more than 1,700, said Leodeli Barajas, the president of the Wahluke Community Association.

That's more than half the size of Mattawa's population, roughly 2,600, according to the 2000 Census.

### MONDAY Sequel

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field work.

Late last spring, an unexpected ice storm wiped out one-third of the cherry harvest in the state, leaving five thousand orchard workers unemployed, according to a rough estimate by the Washington Growers Association.

The governor set aside \$500,000 in emergency aid to the farm workers. Some of the aid

Run by the seven volunteers of the Wahluke Community Association, the food bank feeds an estimated 420 households from Mattawa and the surrounding areas.

Mattawa, a remote agricultural community on the Wahluke Slope, east of the Yakima Training Center, draws many migrant workers with its abundance of



Anabel Andrade asks Maria Orozco questions in this July in front of the food bank in Mattawa.

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