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Joe and Teresa Pauletto Named 2010 Philanthropists of the Year; Vern Peterson Named Friend of the Foundation

Vancouver, WA – March 17, 2010. The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington announced today that Joe and Teresa Pauletto have been named the Foundation's 2010 Philanthropists of the Year and Vernon F. Peterson has been named the 2010 Friend of the Foundation.

Both honors will be awarded at the Community Foundation's Annual Luncheon, which will take place at 11:00 AM on May 12, 2010, at the Hilton Vancouver Washington. The event is open to the public and individual tickets can be purchased for \$50 from www.cfsww.org or by calling 360.694.2550. Sponsorship packages are also available.

Philanthropists of the Year

“Joe and Teresa are quiet but devoted charitable leaders who have made a considerable impact on our community,” said Richard Melching, Community Foundation president. “The depth of their work is matched only by the size of their hearts. We are pleased to celebrate their excellent philanthropic example.”

In 2009, Joe served as the president of the Walk and Knock food drive, which brought in a record 162 tons of food – an increase of more than 14% from the previous year. The Pauletts support the Southwest Washington Medical Center Foundation, where Joe serves as Secretary

of the Board of Directors. They are also committed to advancing early childhood development – Teresa is a key supporter of the Clark County Early Learning Foundation, and they both volunteered for many years at Ellsworth Elementary School. Their philanthropy extends to Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, Share, Habitat International, Northwest Harvest South, Medical Teams International, Children’s Center, Dare to Live, Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation, Open House Ministries, Oregon Public Broadcasting, Portland Rescue Mission, Shared Hope International, Sunshine Foundation, YWCA, Columbia Land Trust, La Salle Catholic College Preparatory, San Miguel High School and Friends of the Children.

The Philanthropist of the Year award recognizes and celebrates individuals, foundations and corporations who have demonstrated outstanding charitable leadership and whose generosity is an example to others at the community. Former recipients include Leslie Durst, Ed Firstenburg, the Ray Hickey Foundation, Wes and Nancy Lematta, Ed and Dollie Lynch, David and Patricia Nierenberg, Steve and Jan Oliva, and Margaret Pulliam.

Friend of the Foundation

“Vern is a long-time champion of charitable giving, a field he certainly knows from a tax standpoint and one he advocates for in his daily interactions,” said Melching. “We are proud to honor a Friend of such distinction.”

Peterson is a longtime community member, founding the accounting firm Peterson & Associates, P.S. in 1962. He has held several leadership positions for community organizations including the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, Columbia River Economic Development Council, Fort Vancouver Historical Society and Clark College Foundation.

Peterson was recognized as the Clark County First Citizen in 2003. He also received the Vincent A. Gervais Award for Public Service by the WSCPA and is a member of the Clark County Rotary Hall of Fame.

Peterson's involvement with the Foundation dates back many years. He has lent his expertise and sound judgment to gift acceptance deliberations while also informing outreach to the professional advisor community. Peterson has a vast knowledge of charitable giving tools. His advocacy has encouraged many people to consider charitable giving in their financial planning, deepening the impact of philanthropy in our community.

The Friend of the Foundation is presented by the president of the Community Foundation to individuals who have provided both professional and personal support to our mission of promoting philanthropy. Former recipients include Brot Bishop, Jr., William C. Dudley, T. Randall Grove, Freeman Keller, David Kenny, Jeanne Kojis, Ron Legg, Jeanne Mack, Michael Minnick, Karen Sahlstrom, Rhona Sen-Hoss and Larry Smith.

About the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington:

The Community Foundation helps a broad cross section of citizens build stronger communities through effective philanthropy. One of the nation's 700 community foundations, it is a tax-exempt, public charity that primarily serves southwest Washington. The Foundation holds more than 240 distinct Funds, ranging in size from \$10,000 to over \$3 million, that are pooled, managed and invested to generate growth and income for granting and inflation purposes. Governed by a volunteer Board of local leaders, the Foundation offers services to donors and nonprofit organizations and a wide range of benefits to the community. In total, the Community Foundation has infused more than \$87 million into the community since it was established in 1984.

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