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Nancy Hales to leave the Community Foundation

Vancouver, WA – June 1, 2007. Nancy Hales today announced she will leave the Community Foundation at the end of June. Hales has been the Foundation’s President for over 15 years, beginning as its first paid executive in 1992. Hales plans to take a brief sabbatical and then will open a private consulting practice serving nonprofit organizations in the Northwest region. Her successor is currently being recruited.

“I’ve had the honor and privilege in serving the most generous citizens of our region,” Hales said. “I’ve met my personal goal of building the Foundation to the point where we are a major force for community improvement in Southwest Washington.”

When Hales joined the Foundation, it was a fledgling organization with less than \$2 million in its endowment; today the endowment exceeds \$56 million. “More important than the size of the endowment is what we are now accomplishing,” said Chairman Sue Keil. “When Nancy started, we were able to provide about \$100,000 a year to Southwest Washington in grantmaking. Last year, we gave over \$8 million.”

“One of Nancy’s great strengths has been her ability to build partnerships,” said past Chairman Brot Bishop, Jr. “When you look at Propstra Square in Esther Short Park, at the Firstenburg Community Center, at the Nonprofit Resource Center at the Vancouver

Regional Library, you see she has magnified our impact with her talent for combining forces with others. Frankly, she's talked many of us into doing a lot more for the community than we ever would have done otherwise. With Nancy, it's about enabling others to succeed."

In 2000, the Columbia Land Trust wanted to protect a key wetland in Washougal and Columbia Gorge landmark Cape Horn, and its Executive Director Glenn Lamb asked the Community Foundation to help. Hales reached out and connected interested donors to each request, and both sites were successfully protected from development.

A signature effort has been opening philanthropy's door to citizens of modest means. Under Hales' guidance, the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington has maintained the lowest minimum fund balance required by community foundations nationwide. A donor may set up a fund with only \$10,000, and the list of those who have done so include retired teachers, airplane maintenance technicians, and homemakers.

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 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 \$80 million into the community since it was established in 1984.

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