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**Retired Superintendent Richard Melching
Appointed as Interim President**

Vancouver, WA – July 9, 2007. The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington announced today the appointment of Richard Melching, retired Superintendent of the Evergreen School District, as Interim President. He will serve in this role while the Board undertakes a search for the new permanent President, according to Susan D. Keil, Chair of the Community Foundation Board.

“The members of the Board unanimously endorsed Rick for this assignment. We are delighted to have someone with the reputation, expertise and community profile that Rick has as our Interim President. We have a skilled, committed staff at the Foundation who will continue to provide, under Rick’s leadership, the excellent service people have come to expect from the Community Foundation,” said Susan Keil.

In accepting his role, Rick Melching described his interest in this position. “The Community Foundation is a great organization with a solid reputation in the community, and I am honored to be part of it. It has successfully harnessed individual passions and philanthropy in order to create a better future for all of us. We are poised to expand the Foundation’s role and the impact it can have in the lives of our citizens, and I am proud to help lead that effort.”

Melching and his wife, Sarah, are long time Clark County residents. Rick retired as the Evergreen School District Superintendent in 2005. He now works as a consultant in the areas of executive coaching, board development, strategic planning and project management. Additionally, he serves on a number of nonprofit boards including the Clark County Early Learning Foundation, the Evergreen School District Foundation and the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. He will become an ex-officio member of the Community Foundation Board during his term as interim President. Previously, he served as Chair of the Coalition for East Vancouver Communities, on the Board of the Columbia River Economic Development Council and as a member of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and the Vancouver Police Chief's Advisory Committee.

Nancy Hales, the Community Foundation's President for 16 years, left recently to open a private consulting practice.

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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