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**CONTACT:**

Richard Melching, President  
360.694.2550  
[richard@cfsww.org](mailto:richard@cfsww.org)

**Community Foundation Awards First Impact Grant**

**Vancouver, WA – January 31, 2008.** The Community Foundation has announced its first Impact Grant, providing \$200,000 to Innovative Services NW. With this gift, the Community Foundation joins the ranks of our region’s premier foundations - the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, the Meyer Memorial Trust and the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust – in providing grants at the \$200,000 to \$300,000 level to Innovative Services NW’s “A Future for All” building campaign.

The Impact Grant will fund and name the Community Room of the Mary Firstenburg Family Center in the 36,000 square foot building, scheduled to open in 2008. “As a Community Foundation, we are a convener – we bring people together to address the needs of our citizens. Innovative Services NW is an ideal recipient of the Community Foundation’s first Impact Grant because they touch so many people. Additionally, the Community Room in the new facility will become the place for people to come together around a wide range of concerns that affect us all. It’s a perfect fit,” remarked Jo Marie Hansen, member of the Community Foundation Board and its Grants Committee.

The purpose of the Community Foundation’s Impact Grant is to provide funding for one-time projects that will serve the community in the broadest sense. Grants may complete a capital project, provide a significant ‘signature’ gift, address a compelling community need, or involve

the Foundation as a catalyst or facilitator to encourage additional support. Programs and projects must be accessible to everyone; provide services at no cost or low cost; and not duplicate services provided by other organizations.

“Our goal is to provide Impact Grants on a regular basis when proposals of consequence come along. We view these as ‘capstone gifts.’ They represent a community endorsement, expanding the potential of the project,” noted Sue Keil, Chair of the Community Foundation Board. The Impact Grant to Innovative Services NW was made after an examination of proposals by Foundation staff and committees composed of Board members and community experts. Interviews and site visits were part of the evaluation process.

“This is a wonderful naming opportunity for the Foundation as the Community Room will be a center of community activity,” said Mike Wilson, Vice President of Development for Innovative Services NW. “The Impact Grant will allow us to leverage broad support to totally equip our family services building.”

The Impact Grant was awarded from the Community Foundation’s Community Giving Fund. This is a permanently endowed fund at the Foundation. “Gifts to the Fund have been made by individuals who want to support the well-being and vitality of the community well into the future. We anticipate the Community Giving Fund to grow significantly in future years as more individuals discover this charitable solution for their gifting during their lifetimes and through their estates,” remarked Richard Melching, the Community Foundation’s President.

Since its founding 24 years ago, the Community Foundation has awarded \$80 in grants, \$6.4 million in 2007. The Foundation manages \$60 million in endowed funds.

Innovative Services NW has served the community for 45 years. It values, assists and supports children, adults and families in our community who have disabilities or other disadvantages. They do this through offering a continuum of services including therapy and childcare for children; employment training and job support for teens and adults; and intervention, education and support for families.

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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