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CONTACT:

Richard Melching, President
360.694.2550
richard@cfsww.org

**Community Foundation set to honor
Wes and Nancy Lematta as 2008 Philanthropists of the Year
And Michael Minnick as Friend of the Foundation**

Vancouver, WA – April 15, 2008. The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington is pleased to announce Wes and Nancy Lematta as 2008 Philanthropists of the Year and Michael Minnick as the 2008 Friend of the Foundation. The awards will be presented at the May 20 Annual Luncheon held at the Hilton Vancouver. The theme of this year's annual luncheon is "Your Community. Your Community Foundation." Rick Melching, President of the Community Foundation, will be the featured speaker: "Imagine the Changes We Can Create Together." His remarks will focus on the role of philanthropy in promoting positive change. Doors will open at 11:15 a.m. for conversation with the Luncheon and Program from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Philanthropist of the Year Award was first presented in 2004. Its purpose is to recognize and celebrate individuals, foundations or corporations who have demonstrated outstanding charitable leadership and whose generosity is an example to others at the community level. The Lemattas were chosen by a committee of former Philanthropist of the Year award recipients. "Wes and Nancy Lematta have been exceptional philanthropists and true friends to those in need. Whether through their commitment to cancer research, children or education, they have made huge investments of resources, time and expertise. They are citizens of the

highest order and highly deserving of this honor,” said Ed Lynch, 2005 Philanthropist of the Year award recipient along with his wife Dollie.

The Lematta’s have a private foundation, founded in 1998, which primarily gives in Washington and Oregon. In addition, they are Sponsors for Projects 2 and 4 for I Have a Dream of Southwest Washington, have a donor advised fund at the Community Foundation and are “Cornerstone Givers” to the Community Foundation Community Giving Fund. They have also contributed \$1 million toward a new cancer center research laboratory at Providence Cancer Center. Previous recipients are Margaret Pulliam, Leslie Durst, Ray Hickey Foundation, Ed & Dollie Lynch, E.W. Firstenburg and David and Patricia Nierenberg.

In addition, the Community Foundation will honor Michael Minnick, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network as 2008 Friend of the Foundation. The Award is presented to individuals who have provided both professional and personal support to the Community Foundation’s mission of promoting philanthropy. “Mike has introduced so many people in our community to the joys of giving, both professionally and through his volunteer work with the Kiwanis Club,” said Rick Melching, President of the Community Foundation. “It was a natural choice for this year’s Friend of the Foundation.”

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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