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CONTACT:

Sarah Nevue, Vice President of Development
360.694.2550
sarah@cfsww.org

Scholarship Fund to Support Fire Cadets in Southwest Washington

Established in Memory of Pfc. Andrew J. Shields

Vancouver, WA – December 16, 2008. The Andrew J. Shields Memorial Scholarship has been established at the Community Foundation to support Fire Cadet Programs in southwest Washington. Pfc. Shields, an Airborne Combat Medic serving with the 173rd Airborne Combat Brigade, died May 31, 2008 in Jalalabad City, Afghanistan of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. A 2007 graduate of Battle Ground High School and a highly-regarded Cadet firefighter, Pfc. Shields was 19 years old. The Andrew J. Shields Memorial Fund is open to contributions from the general public.

Andrew Shields was a member of the Fire District 11 Cadet Program, now Clark County Fire and Rescue, and the Cadet Battalion Chief for the first year Cadets. “His leadership qualities were immediately identified and that’s why he rapidly rose to be a leader in his class,” says Mike Ciraulo, a division chief with the Clark County Fire & Rescue and Battle Ground’s mayor. “He was morally and ethically superior in his standards and beliefs. He was well respected by his classmates and the instructional staff.” Just prior to his deployment to Afghanistan, Pfc. Shields shared his Army experiences with the current class of Fire Cadets and his sister’s 5th grade class. He remarked, “Stay focused. Know what you want to do with your life and make your dreams come true.” Andrew Shields joined the Army as a junior in high school, fulfilling his lifelong commitment to his country and to serving others.

The Andrew J. Shields Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by Pfc. Shields' father, Jon Shields; stepmother, Carol Shields; and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Standley Scholes. Andrew Shields followed in the footsteps of his father who was also a medic and served in the first Gulf War. Coincidentally, father and son served in the same company and resided in the same barracks in Ft. Benning, Georgia. Andrew Shields listed his father, a Clark County sheriff's deputy, as his hero on his MySpace page.

The Andrew J. Shields Memorial Fund will provide scholarship support to students in Fire Cadet Programs. These programs emphasize scholastic and practical learning with an emphasis on basic fire fighting essentials, techniques, strategies, and skills. Fire Cadets from Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania counties will be eligible to apply. A committee will award an inaugural scholarship in spring 2009 and annually thereafter. An application will be available February 2009 and may be obtained at www.cfsww.org or by contacting the Community Foundation.

Contributions may be made to The Andrew J. Shields Memorial Fund in care of the Community Foundation, 1053 Officers Row, Vancouver, WA 98661 or online at www.cfsww.org

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 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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