



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Richard Melching
360.694.2550
richard@cfsww.org

**The Community Foundation celebrates
25 years of community philanthropy**

Vancouver, WA – April 21, 2009. The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington will celebrate its silver anniversary at its 25th Anniversary Annual Luncheon on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, commencing at 11:30 a.m. The event, to be held at the Hilton Vancouver Washington, is open to the public. Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased at www.cfsww.org or by calling 360.694.2550. Sponsorship packages are also available.

“This will be a true community celebration. We have had a tremendous response from our region’s donors, volunteers, community leaders, nonprofits and other friends.” says Richard Melching, President. “We are already close to 2008 attendance numbers which were significantly higher than 2007. It’s one indicator that charitable giving is still a priority in southwest Washington.”

“Why we give” is the theme for the celebration that will include a video featuring more than 30 individuals responding to the question: Why do you give?” Event highlights will also include announcements of new initiatives and recognition of Brot Bishop, Jr. as 2009 Friend of the Foundation and Steve and Jan Oliva as 2009 Philanthropists of the Year. The next era of community philanthropy will be launched with a music video “Thanks for Your Philanthropy,” featuring local nonprofit and philanthropic leaders in song.

2009 Friend of the Foundation – Brot Bishop, Jr.

Brot Bishop, Jr. has lent his expertise and talents to the Community Foundation for more than a decade. As Chair of the Community Foundation’s Board and a long-time

Investment Committee member, Bishop has participated with the belief in sustainability as the key to true success. He has positioned the Community Foundation to keep pace with the changing times while assuring the most important community issues are addressed. This commitment to community also resulted in his leadership of the public-private-Community Foundation partnership that built the Jack, Will & Rob Center. Bishop and his wife, Kelley, support a wide range of community causes including Kings Way Christian School, Southwest Washington Medical Center, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Mercy Corp, Share, the Portland Metro Boys and Girls Club, and the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington.

The Friend of the Foundation is presented by the President of the Community Foundation to individuals who have provided both professional and personal support to our mission of promoting philanthropy. Past recipients include B.J. Bjodstrup, William C. Dudley, T. Randall Grove, Freeman Keller, David Kenny, Jeanne Kojis, Ron Legg, Jeanne Mack, Michael Minnick, Karen Sahlstrom, Rhona Sen-Hoss, and Larry Smith.

2009 Philanthropists of the Year – Steve and Jan Oliva

Steve and Jan Oliva, who have resided in Clark County since 1963, support a broad range of organizations that benefit many. By serving as a catalyst for giving, they have greatly enhanced the livability of this community. Organizations that they have supported include the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington, Clark College, the Community Foundation for southwest Washington, the Confluence Project, Fort Vancouver Regional Library, Humane Society for Southwest Washington, Southwest Washington Medical Center, Vancouver Downtown Association, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver School District Foundation, and YWCA Clark County.

The Philanthropist of the Year recognizes and celebrates individuals, foundations and corporations who have demonstrated outstanding charitable leadership and whose generosity is an example to others at the community level. Past award recipients are: Leslie Durst, E.W. Firstenburg, Ray Hickey Foundation, Wes and Nancy Lematta, Ed and Dollie Lynch, David and Patricia Nierenberg, and Margaret Pulliam.

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 \$84 million into the community since it was established in 1984.

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