



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Foundation to award over a quarter million dollars in grants

Vancouver, WA – March 17, 2009. The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington will award over a quarter of a million dollars in grants to nonprofit organizations and schools in Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania counties on Thursday, March, 19, 2009 at the Hilton Vancouver, Washington. Local nonprofit leaders, philanthropists and Community Foundation Board and Grants Committee members will attend the Awards Event that will commence at 9:00 a.m.

Twenty-seven nonprofit programs will receive a total of \$243,946 from the Community Giving Fund and the Children's Trust Fund. In addition, the Community Foundation continues to allocate over \$30,000 annually for the Principal's Checkbook Program.

The Community Giving Fund

The Community Giving Fund is a permanent endowment within the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington that supports a broad range of organizations and programs that improve the lives of our community's residents. Grant award selections are guided by a committee of Board and community members knowledgeable about local needs.

The following organizations are this year's grant recipients: Affordable Community Environments, Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest, CDM Services, Clark County Food Bank, Clark County Safe Kids, Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program, Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts, Deaf Advocates Foundation, Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, Free Clinic of SW Washington, Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Hough Foundation, Loaves and Fishes Centers, Parks Foundation of Clark County, Val Ogden Center/Janus of Southwest Washington, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, YW Housing, and YWCA Clark County.

The Children's Trust Fund

Established in 1989 to support children's issues, the Children's Trust Fund is the result of the efforts of a group of women dedicated to raising funds. Nearly \$1 million in grants has been awarded to local nonprofits since the Fund was established.

2009 grants are for: The Arthur D. Curtis Children's Justice Center, Boys and Girls Clubs of SW Washington, comfort items for children who are victims of trauma, Impact Northwest, Infant Layette Program benefitting Healthy Steps Women and Children's Center and Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital, Reach Out and Read, ROCKSOLID Community Teen Center, Share, Washington State University Foundation/At-Home At-School.

Principal's Checkbook Program

Funding for the 2008/2009 Principal's Checkbook Program came from the following sources; the Children's Trust Fund, Tribe Fund for the Principal's Checkbook Program, iQ Credit Union, Masco Family Trust, La Center Casinos Charitable Fund, and the community-at-large.

This year, the urgent needs of children and youth from 94 schools in 16 southwest Washington school districts in Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania counties will be supported through this Program.

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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The Community Foundation
Grant Awards Event

March 19, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Hilton Vancouver
301 West 6th Street

As each organization receives their grant award, they will describe the work the funding will allow them to accomplish. A selection of quotes is as follows:

“Our grant award means a great deal to the Deaf Education Advocates Foundation. Grant funds will pay for any tools, equipment or uniforms students at Washington School for the Deaf will need on the job but are unable to afford, helping each student successfully transition to adult life.”

Courtleigh Guerci, Board President

“Your contribution will allow us to work with Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation to “open the door” to the low-income families, seniors, and citizens with disabilities in Clark County, enabling them to participate in healthy recreation programs.”

Cheri Martin, Executive Director of the Parks Foundation

“The women and children who occupy our transitional housing units work so hard to overcome poverty and homelessness. Having a safe, comfortable place to sleep makes all the difference in their world. Thank you for choosing to fund beds for the women and families of YW Housing so they can sleep well at night.”

Megan Newell, Executive Director of YW Housing

“Our goal is to inspire a love of reading in every child we meet. Your support for the Reach Out and Read Program is deeply appreciated and will make early learning and literacy a standard part of pediatric care of southwest Washington.”

Devon Ebbing, M.D., The Vancouver Clinic

“This award will go a long way to provide mentoring to the teens who attend ROCKSOLID. With the declining economy and negative pressures that face kids today, we can continue to provide a positive influence in their lives, thanks to grants like the one we received from the Children’s Trust Fund.”

Nancy Miller, Executive Director