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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Luncheon Shares Philanthropic Success and a \$100 Million Milestone

Vancouver, Wash., May 10, 2011—More than 600 people attended the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington’s Annual Luncheon at the Hilton Vancouver Washington. The event and awards ceremony recognized the philanthropic triumphs of the past year, as well as a number of the individuals who have helped make these successes possible.

“An invested citizenry is necessary to establish a healthy community, and southwest Washington has been fortunate enough to understand and fulfill this mutual relationship,” said Richard Melching, President of the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. “It has materialized through philanthropic giving, which has seen an upward trend this past year.”

In 2010, the foundation recorded one of its top three years for contributions in their 26-years history. The increase in philanthropic giving was furthered by the Community Foundation’s granting efforts, which increased 300 percent to the tune of \$10.3 million in cash grants distributed. All this momentum, in the midst of a recession, has helped the Community Foundation to surpass a significant milestone—\$100 million in combined grants distributed.

“This occasion demonstrates and celebrates the strong philanthropic infrastructure our community has built,” David Nierenberg, Board Chair, said. “With tremendous dedication and goodwill, our community is growing now and into the future.”

The foundation and its Board of Directors have made a priority to engage the philanthropic community of southwest Washington, which has responded to the community’s increasing needs

during a tumultuous economy. In the past year, this collective action was illustrated by the establishment of 27 new funds created by individuals, corporations and non-profit organizations. In addition, the foundation facilitated donor investments in landmark projects such as the Clark County Food Bank, Congregation Kol Ami, Fort Vancouver Regional Library and the Humane Society for Southwest Washington.

“These new investments are a result of our organization’s increasing expertise in handling complex arrangements and fulfilling philanthropic wishes,” Melching said. “Our Board is filled with competent leaders whose organizational vision is benefitting our community.”

This proactive approach was featured in the program by the Cowlitz County Community Fund, which just completed its first disbursement of grants that are impacting the county. The program went on to emphasize the theme of “Coming Together, Moving Forward,” by showcasing the Youth Philanthropy Program, an initiative that engages the next generation of philanthropists. An awards ceremony then honored Max B. Kamp as the 2011 Friend of the Foundation, presented Mary Granger posthumously with the Catalyst Award for Philanthropic Innovation and named Lee and Connie Kearney as the 2011 Philanthropists of the Year. To close the energizing event, an inspiring video recognized the connections between philanthropic giving and our daily lives in the community, ultimately urging everyone to move forward with philanthropy in mind.

About the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington

Established in 1984, 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 more than 270 distinct Funds, ranging in size from \$10,000 to nearly \$6 million, which are pooled, managed and invested to generate growth and income for granting purposes. Governed by a volunteer Board of local leaders, the Foundation offers services to donors and nonprofit organizations, as well as a wide range of benefits to the community.

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