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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CFSWW Awards More Than a Quarter of a Million Dollars in Grant Funds**

**Vancouver, Wash., April 26, 2011**—The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington’s Board of Directors approved more than a quarter of a million dollars in grant awards for nonprofit organizations and schools throughout southwest Washington. Overall, 36 different organizations will receive a total of \$309,122 from the Community Giving Fund, the Children’s Trust Fund, the Youth Philanthropy Fund and the Cowlitz County Community Fund.

**The Community Giving Fund**

The Community Giving Fund is a permanent endowment within the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington that has allocated over \$3 million since its inception.

“Thanks to our gracious community, we’ve reached a milestone that has reinforced our optimism and confidence,” Dr. Candace Young, Chair of the Community Giving Fund Grants Advisory Committee, said. “Even in uncertain times, these granting efforts position southwest Washington to advance its tradition as a robust, spirited community through impactful civic initiatives.”

The Fund exists to support 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: Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington, Children's Center, Community Home Health and Hospice, Community Services Northwest, Cowlitz County Community Fund, Friends of the Children, Innovative Services Northwest, Metropolitan Performing Arts Academy, Mosaic Arts Alliance, New Day Community Dental Clinic, Parks Foundation of Clark County, Rock Cove Assisted Living Facility, School of Piano Technology for the Blind, Second Step Housing, Share, Vancouver Children's Opera, Wordstock, Youth Philanthropy Program, and YWCA Clark County.

### **The Children's Trust Fund**

Established in 1989, the Children's Trust Fund is a culmination of the efforts produced by the Children's Trust Auxiliary. This group of outstanding women was dedicated to raising funds in the fight to break the cycle of poverty and help children reach their full potential. Today, nearly \$1 million in grants has been awarded to local nonprofits assisting underserved and at-risk youth.

The 2011 grant recipients are: Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest, Clark County Sheriff's Office, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Northwest Children's Outreach, La Center Police Department, Parks Foundation of Clark County, Principal's Checkbook Fund, ROCKSOLID Community Teen Center, Share and YWCA Clark County.

### **The Youth Philanthropy Fund**

Supported through the Community Giving Fund, the Youth Philanthropy Fund has grown into its own and is now giving local high school students the opportunity to grant more than \$20,000 in funds to initiatives that benefit their peers. As this diverse cross-section of students learns the specifics of philanthropy, they also emerge as engaged philanthropists. Ultimately, this proactive program fosters a sustainable legacy of philanthropy

The Youth Philanthropy Fund grantees are: Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington, Clark County Food Bank, Evergreen School District Foundation, Northwest Children's Outreach, ROCKSOLID Community Teen Center and Share.

## **The Cowlitz County Community Fund**

In its inaugural year, this fund is already making large impacts as a local solution to local needs. Initiated by community leaders, the Fund grew out of the community's cooperative spirit. It is no surprise that localized needs and problems are being addressed by its homegrown Grants Committee that is dedicated to leaving a meaningful, positive legacy in Cowlitz County.

“Just as with individuals, a healthy community is one that uses self-reflection to progress.” Rick Wollenberg, Chair of the Cowlitz County Community Fund Grants Advisory Committee, said. “Through neighborly generosity, this fund allows us to apply community knowledge and prudent fiscal management to the process of assessing and addressing our community's needs.”

The first Cowlitz County Community Fund grant recipients are: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Children's Community Resources, Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts, Community Home Health and Hospice, Emergency Support Shelter, Life Works, Longview Stageworks, Lower Columbia Community Action Program, Pathways 2020 and Southwest Washington American Red Cross.

## **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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