



CONTACT:

Richard Melching, President
Community Foundation for
Southwest Washington
360.694.2550
richard@cfsww.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2012

Community-based Grant Programs Open Inquiry Process
The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington calls for 2012 grant inquiries

Vancouver, Wash.—The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington has issued a request for grant inquiries for their 2012 granting programs. Annually, the Foundation works with grants advisory committees which award grants from two endowed funds that support community-based organizations throughout southwest Washington. Both the Community Giving Fund and the Cowlitz County Community Fund serve to improve the lives of southwest Washington residents by meeting current and emerging local needs.

The 2012 grants cycle will work to bring another round of vital grants to local nonprofit organizations and municipalities, Area nonprofits with a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status or municipalities are encouraged to apply by submitting a Grant Inquiry Form. Forms are accepted through January 15, 2012. Grant inquiry forms and guidelines, which include criteria and suggestions for writing competitive proposals, can be downloaded from the Community Foundation's website at www.cfsww.org. Specific questions about the granting process should be directed to Anne Digenis, Donor Services and Grants Officer, at 360.694.2550.

“This is an opportunity for local nonprofits, who are struggling with decreased funding, to diversify their income sources in the upcoming year,” Digenis said. “The Community Foundation is here to support our community’s diverse needs and continues to award grants to organizations that make the best case for exerting positive impacts in our region.”

The selection process is guided by a grants advisory committee of community leaders who are knowledgeable about current and emerging local needs. The committee evaluates each inquiry and invites specific organizations to submit full proposals. Grant proposals will be due by March 5, 2012. From these applications, the committees make recommendations to the Community Foundation Board of Directors. The Board then reviews the recommendations to ensure grants are awarded to programs and projects that best address community needs and improve our region's overall quality of life. Grants will be presented in May 2012.

Funded by gifts from many donors, ranging from a few dollars to many thousands of dollars, the Community Giving Fund has awarded over \$3 million since its inception. Last year, the fund distributed nearly \$145,000 dollars to 18 organizations with grants that ranged from \$1,000 to \$15,000. The Cowlitz County Community Fund was first imagined by community leaders who wanted to bolster local support for the unique and pressing needs of Cowlitz County. In 2011, the fund's inaugural year, ten organizations were awarded \$50,000 to support a broad range of community needs. This year, grants will again range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

"These funds serve as important, ongoing support mechanisms for our region's nonprofits and the meaningful services they provide," Richard Melching, President of the Community Foundation, said. "Under our prudent management these funds continue to grow, and through their impactful civic initiatives they further our tradition as a robust, giving community."

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. The Foundation 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 grants that support nonprofit organizations and provide other benefits to the community. Through our competitive granting programs, and at the recommendation of donor advisors, we support a broad variety of programs and projects, seeking to build a community where all residents thrive.

###

Community Foundation for Southwest Washington

1053 Officers Row, Vancouver, Washington 98661 • 360.694.2550 • 360.737.6335 fax • www.cfsww.org