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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**OREGON HEAT RECEIVES GRANT
FROM THE PGE MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHARITABLE FUND OF
THE OREGON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

TUALATIN, Ore. — Oregon HEAT is the recipient of a \$150,000 grant from the PGE Multnomah County Charitable Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation to help low-income residents of Multnomah County meet their emergency energy needs.

Oregon HEAT is the state's largest non-profit organization providing energy assistance to low-income Oregonians, spending over \$3 million last year to provide crisis help to nearly 13,000 households across the state.

For thirty-four years, The Oregon Community Foundation has been the cornerstone of Oregon's philanthropic giving. Founded in 1973 to manage charitable funds, OCF works in partnership with individuals, families, and businesses to enhance and support the quality of life in their communities. OCF awarded over \$44.3 million in grants and more than \$2.6 million in scholarships last year.

"We're so thankful to Oregon Community Foundation for this grant," says Roger Rees, Oregon HEAT's Executive Director. "Last month reminded us just how cold it can get in Oregon – and how many people need help to stay warm. This funding couldn't have arrived at a better time," Rees says.

Recent reports from the Community Action Directors of Oregon estimate more than 3,500 families in Multnomah County sought energy assistance during the second week of January. Throughout Oregon, an overwhelming 419,000 households are at risk of not meeting their basic needs of heat and lights.

(More)

Multnomah County has the highest population in the state, and the energy burden for its low-income residents can be especially acute. “This,” says Rees, “could mean tens of thousands of our neighbors in Multnomah County are choosing between heating their homes, purchasing medicine, or feeding their families.”

So far this year, Oregon HEAT assistance has helped keep the heat and lights on for nearly 3,500 people in Multnomah County. Around the state, Oregon HEAT and its 34 local agency partners have provided assistance to nearly 6,000 households.

“This grant will make an enormous difference to people struggling to pay for heat in Multnomah County,” says Rees. “It is a fine example of how local philanthropy and charitable giving are making a difference for Oregon.”

About Oregon HEAT

Oregon HEAT is an independent nonprofit organization founded in 1989 to help low-income Oregonians become more energy self-reliant. In partnership with community agencies throughout the state, Oregon HEAT provides energy assistance and advocates access to energy resources for low-income Oregonians. Oregon HEAT's primary program objective is to prevent disconnection of utility service by providing bill payment assistance to low-income households in emergency situations. To donate to, or learn more about, Oregon HEAT: visit www.oregonheat.org; call: 503-612-3790; or write to Oregon HEAT, PO Box 127, Tualatin, Ore. 97062.

About The Oregon Community Foundation

Established in 1973, The Oregon Community Foundation has managed charitable funds donated by individuals, families, and businesses to enhance and support the quality of life in their communities. Today, the Foundation's endowment consists of over 1,166 funds with combined assets of \$825 million. The Foundation makes grants through an application process that involves local citizen review and evaluation of requests and funds. For application materials or to learn more about the Foundation, please write to the Portland office at 1221 SW Yamhill, Suite 100, Portland, Ore. 97205 or call 503-227-6846

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