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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Local Non-profit Oregon HEAT Receives National Award
For Oil Recycling Program**

TUALATIN, Ore. — A new program offered by Oregon HEAT won countrywide recognition last week at the National Energy and Affordability Conference in Denver. The Victorine Q. Adams Award of the National Fuel Funds Network (NFFN), which honors institutional innovation and achievement among nonprofit agencies, was presented to Oregon HEAT for its collaboration with an oil recycler to lessen the energy burden of low-income Oregonians and reduce the level of petroleum waste products in the state.

Oregon HEAT is the largest independent non-profit that raises funds to provide energy assistance to Oregon families in economic crisis. NFFN is a Washington D.C. - based collaborative organization with a focus on increasing available energy assistance and whose 300 members include non-profit and government agencies and utilities across the US and in Canada and the United Kingdom. The award is named for the founder of the Baltimore Fuel Fund - the country's first organization to help low-income families with energy costs.

“Oregon HEAT is seen as a national model, always on the cutting edge of program delivery,” said George Coling, NFFN’s Executive Director. “The Oil Program assists less fortunate Oregonians and at the same time protects Oregon’s natural environment from contamination. Organizations throughout the U.S. are looking to replicate this pioneering endeavor.”

In November 2007, Oregon HEAT launched the program, partnering with Oil Re-Refining Company (ORRCO) to pick up donations of home-heating oil as well as used petroleum products from businesses to have them recycled. Proceeds from the sale of recycled products are used to

provide vital energy assistance to low-income residents in the donor's local community. ORRCO is an Oregon-based firm that has been recognized internationally for its petroleum recycling expertise.

Accepting the Award in front of 700 conference attendees was Roger Rees, Executive Director of Oregon HEAT. "We're proud to be recognized by our colleagues from across the country. The work you do every day to help the neediest in your communities serves as continual inspiration to our staff and Board."

So far, the Oil Program has raised approximately \$3,200 to help families in need. Several diverse businesses and utilities have already pledged participation in this unique program, including: Springfield Utility Board; Bob Brown Tire Centers; Eugene Water and Electric Board; and the Boeing Company.

"The sharp increase in energy and gasoline costs this past year is alarming," said Rees. "And now it looks like next winter home energy prices will be - by far - the highest that we have ever seen. The Oil Program will help raise desperately needed funds to meet the coming demand, whether it is a one-time donation of heating oil or ongoing donations from local businesses."

To find out more information about partnering with Oregon HEAT to recycle your business' used petroleum products, or to donate your home-heating oil please call 503-612-3790 or email info@oregonheat.org.

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 34 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.

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