

Date: August 12, 2010
To: Local Media
Re: The Rockwood Building Groundbreaking on August 24th at 1:00pm
Contact: Kristan Knapp, Director of Development, (503) 548-0228
Jean DeMaster, Executive Director, (503) 548-0222

For Immediate Release:
**The Rockwood Building breaks ground: will provide Affordable
Housing and Human Services in East Multnomah County**

Human Solutions, Inc. (www.humansolutions.org) announces the groundbreaking for the construction phase of The Rockwood Building, a new 75,000 square foot building located at 124 NE 181st Street (at Couch) in Gresham. The building will contain a Multi-Service Center leased to six non-profit agencies on the ground floor plus 47 affordable apartments on two upper stories. Partner agencies that will offer services at the Multi Service Center for low-income and homeless area residents include Loaves & Fishes, Mount Hood Community College Head Start, LifeWorks Northwest, Metropolitan Family Service, Wallace Medical Concern, and Human Solutions.

After more than six years of fundraising and project design, The Rockwood Building will be the realization of a concept envisioned by Human Solutions that will bring much-needed housing and a suite of human services designed to serve low-income families in the Rockwood area, together in a single building. The Rockwood Building will be constructed on a lot that has been empty for thirty years in the heart of one of the poorest areas in Multnomah County. It will bring infrastructure development and much needed social services to families in East Multnomah County, many of whom have been displaced by gentrification that has taken place in many Portland neighborhoods.

"Human Solutions is thrilled to be celebrating the groundbreaking of The Rockwood Building," said Jean DeMaster, Executive Director. "This is a success story not only for our agency and funding partners but for the low income and homeless residents of this community. We are extremely excited about the Multi Service Center model, which will bring together six service providers in a single, location, allowing all of the participating agencies the ability to even more effectively coordinate services and care for their clients."

The project's complex financing structure includes thirty diverse funding sources. Major funding will come from Low Income Housing Tax Credits issued by Oregon Housing and Community Services and sold to Bank of America; New Markets Tax Credits sold to Bank of America; a construction loan made by Bank of America; HOME and CDBG funding from the City of Gresham, the Portland Housing Bureau and Multnomah County; permanent loans from the Network for Affordable Housing (NOAH) and The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and generous grants from numerous corporations and

foundations including the Gates Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, Collins Foundation, PGE, Oregon Community Foundation, Providence Health Systems, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, HEDCO, Swindells Foundation and numerous others.

The 47 new units of affordable housing will increase Human Solutions' investment in mid and East Multnomah County to 587 units of affordable housing providing homes to more than 2500 people. The new building will include 15 units for homeless families and 32 for low-income families earning at or below 60% of area median income, and will preserve all of the units as affordable housing in this location for at least the next sixty years.

The Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held from 1:00 to 2:00 pm on Tuesday, August 24th on site at 124 NE 181st, Gresham. Community members, interested residents, funders, and staff from partner agencies will be in attendance. The program presentation will include a Welcome from Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis, with comments by Victor Merced, Director of Oregon Housing and Community Services, Oregon State Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Jan Laskey of Bank of America, Margaret Van Vliet, Director of Portland Housing Bureau, and Jean DeMaster, Executive Director of Human Solutions, as well as Carla Piluso, Human Solutions' Board President and former Chief of Police for Gresham.

On site and street parking are limited. Attendees are encouraged to use MAX, which stops one-half block away at NE 181st Avenue and Burnside. Walk north to Couch to find our location at 124 NE 181st (just past Sterling Bank and across from the Super 8 Motel).

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