



**Project Access NOW**  
*Connecting people to health care. Today.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### OREGON'S UNINSURED GAIN MAJOR SUPPORTER

Oregon Community Foundation and Project Access NOW partner to improve access to care

Portland, Oregon, 10/26/2008 — The Oregon Community Foundation has partnered with Project Access NOW, a local nonprofit, to improve access to health care for the qualified low-income uninsured in the Portland metropolitan area. The \$30,000 grant from the Evelyn L. Jones Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation and the Martha Cake Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation will support the nonprofit's efforts to coordinate a network of volunteer physicians and other health care providers.

"We see Project Access Now gaining momentum in its mission to help uninsured Oregonians secure timely health care," said Jeff Anderson, Senior Program Officer with the Oregon Community Foundation. "This effort is part of a significant movement across Oregon's medical community to get something concrete done about the crisis in health care access and costs, regardless of any future policy solutions. OCF congratulates the project's leadership and the health professionals who have stepped up to collaborate in offering care, and we're pleased to be a partner."

The service is a response to the growing health care crisis. "Research shows that lack of coverage decreases access to timely, affordable and appropriate medical care. An uninsured person is almost four times more likely to delay seeking care, often resulting in the need for more acute, more expensive treatment," said Project Access NOW Executive Director Linda Nilsen-Solares. "We believe that we have tremendous resources already available to us and that we can do more by working together than working independently. We are extremely grateful to the Oregon Community Foundation for the support."

More than 1,700 volunteer physicians have already joined Project Access NOW, which has streamlined access to hospital-based donated care and coordinated referrals from safety net clinics. "Project Access allows me to do what I trained to do: take care of patients," said Dr. Katherine Morris, surgical oncologist and Project Access volunteer physician. "Together we're helping fellow Oregonians in a caring and efficient manner. Many patients need help today, and Project Access is providing it."

Project Access NOW started accepting patients in March 2008. "It's a great program," said Kerrie Hubbard, a patient. "I don't know where I'd be without it."

The mission of The Oregon Community Foundation is to improve life in Oregon and promote effective philanthropy. To achieve this, the Foundation:

- Builds a permanent endowment for the community through the support of Oregonians
- Sets high professional standards for the management of charitable gifts
- Provides a broad range of giving opportunities to meet donor interests
- Assesses conditions throughout the state and responds with leadership to improve these conditions
- Assists and cooperates with others in the effective application of charitable resources
- Shares information about its activities and philanthropic achievements with the community

For additional information, contact Linda Nilsen-Solares, Project Access NOW Executive Director, at 503.222.6541.

*About Project Access NOW:* Project Access NOW is a regional nonprofit organization that facilitates collaboration for local Project Access programs in Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington counties. The primary goal is to expand health care access and improve health outcomes for low-income uninsured people through recruitment and organization of volunteer physicians, securing stable funding, and wise stewardship of existing community health resources. By helping the low-income uninsured navigate the health care system, Project Access NOW can get people the care they need. Today.

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