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### **TOMPKINS BENEFIT GROUP DONATES \$10,000 TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE** How companies maintain charitable focus in tough economic times

Portland, Oregon, 6/22/2009 — The philosophy behind Tompkins Benefit Group's recent donation of \$10,000 to Project Access NOW is simple. According to owner Debbie Tompkins, "We have been blessed as a company with the long term support of our clients, so we share our success to make sure everyone gets the care they need, even if that isn't through the traditional health plans that our clients have."

Tompkins, who has been in employee benefits consulting for 28 years, is a long-time giver. For years, she and her company have supported the North by Northeast Community Health Center in North Portland. According to Tompkins, there are limits to what safety net clinics can provide. "As impressive as they are in providing care," Tompkins said, "community safety net clinics are geographically focused and can't address every health issue, particularly more complicated ones like cancer or surgery."

When Dr. Jill Ginsberg, Medical Director for the North by Northeast Community Health Center, introduced Tompkins to Project Access NOW and its Executive Director Linda Nilsen-Solares, Tompkins was impressed by the large network of health providers Project Access NOW was building to enable access to all necessary healthcare services in the Portland area.

"When we donate, we look at how organizations are run, at the people doing the work, at their passion for what they do," Tompkins said about her decision-making process. "I'm amazed how much Project Access NOW can do for patients on such a small budget, not to mention the passion they bring to their work."

Asked about her motivation for donating in tough economic times, Tompkins said, "It is critical in challenging economic times to help others, and it is incumbent upon all of us to find ways to do that. As a company, we want to be a part of the healthcare solution, so we are always looking for ways to support the community and its healthcare needs."

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

*About Project Access NOW:* Project Access NOW (Northwest Oregon and Washington) maintains and expands a community-based network of physicians and other health care providers in order to increase access to healthcare services for low-income, uninsured patients in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. Project Access makes the very best use of already existing resources, secures stable funding, and recruits volunteers while we, as a community, develop a broader health care solution.

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