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## **Bank of America Invests \$3.15 Million in Portland**

*45-City Neighborhood Excellence Initiative® Strengthens Local Economies, Invests in Leadership, Supports Jobs and Facilitates Volunteerism*

**November 10, 2010** – As part of an ongoing effort to stimulate economic vitality in Portland and in communities across the nation, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation today announced \$450,000 in flexible funding and leadership training to local Portland-area nonprofits through its [Neighborhood Excellence Initiative](#), bringing the bank's total commitment in Portland to \$3.15 million since 2004.

The initiative continues to help hundreds of the nation's most impactful nonprofits improve their long-term viability and bolster leadership strength, retain and hire new staff, and extend the depth and reach of their services – capabilities that are integral to community revitalization and critical in the current economy when nonprofit funding is down and demand for services is up.

Proud Ground, an organization creating more affordable homeownership opportunities in Portland, and Hands On Portland, an organization that facilitates volunteer opportunities in Portland, have been named 2010 Portland **Neighborhood Builders®**, the nonprofit category of the *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative*. Each organization will receive \$200,000 in unrestricted grant funding and participate in Bank of America's Neighborhood Excellence Leadership Program® with other nonprofit leaders from 44 communities across the country and London.

"Through our *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative*, we are helping to generate meaningful and cumulative economic and social impact at the local level where it's needed most," said Roger Hinshaw, Oregon State President, Bank of America. "In Portland and across the country, we are leveraging the combined strength of our philanthropy and lending and investing initiatives to help set opportunity in motion for organizations, families, individuals and entire neighborhoods."

The *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative* honors two other categories of community leaders: **Local Heroes** and **Student Leaders®**.

Local Heroes contribute significantly to the health of their neighborhood through volunteer service and civic engagement. With this recognition, they will each direct a

\$5,000 donation from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation to an eligible nonprofit of their choice. 2010 Portland Local Heroes are:

- Roz Babener, of Portland, will direct her grant to the Community Warehouse.
- Brett Bigham, of Portland, will direct his grant to E2 Foundation.
- Megan Dobson, of Portland, will direct her grant to Levé.
- Dr. Abraham Perlstein, of Vancouver, will direct his grant to Columbia River Mental Health Services.
- Brandi Tuck, of Portland will direct her grant to Portland Homeless Family Solutions.

Student Leaders, who are exemplary teens with a passion for improving their communities, participated in paid, eight-week internships at Portland nonprofits this summer (at the height of the teen unemployment rate) and gathered in Washington, D.C. for a weeklong summit to learn how service creates positive change in communities and to gain tools and resources to help them continue to make a difference in their local communities. 2010 Portland Student Leaders are:

- Gayle Bernstein, of Portland and a senior at Sunset High School, interned at Willamette West Habitat for Humanity in the summer.
- Ambra Brice, of Hillsboro and recent graduate of Liberty High School, interned at Willamette West Habitat for Humanity in the summer.
- Patrick McCarthy, of Washougal and a senior at Washougal High School, interned at Evergreen Habitat for Humanity in the summer.
- Ora Murphy, of Vancouver and a recent graduate of Jefferson High School, interned at Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East in the summer.
- Antoinette Santos, of Damascus and a recent graduate of La Salle Catholic College Preparatory, interned at Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East in the summer.

All 2010 Portland NEI recipients will be honored at an event this fall.

- WHEN:** November 10<sup>th</sup>
- WHERE:** Portland Art Museum
- TIME:** 5:30 - 6:00 pm – Reception  
6:10 pm – Ceremony begins
- SPEAKERS:** Commissioner Nick Fish  
Russ Lewis of KGW-TV

**EDITOR'S NOTES:** *The awards event is open to news media; interviews can be scheduled in advance; photos are available upon request.*

**Application Information for 2011:**

- The application period for the 2011 Student Leaders program opened October 1, 2010 and closes on January 12, 2011.

- For Neighborhood Builders and Local Heroes, the application period runs January 1, 2011 through June 1, 2011.
- To apply, interested individuals should visit <http://www.bankofamerica.com/neighborhoodexcellence>.

### **Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy**

Building on a long-standing tradition of investing in the communities it serves, last year Bank of America embarked on a new, 10-year goal to donate \$2 billion to nonprofit organizations engaged in improving the health and vitality of their neighborhoods. Funded by Bank of America, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation gave more than \$200 million in 2009, making the bank one of the largest corporate cash donors in the United States. Bank of America approaches investing through a national strategy under which it works with local leaders to identify and meet the most pressing needs of individual communities. Reaffirming a commitment to develop and sustain a culture of service, the bank announced the "Million Hour Challenge," a pledge by the company's associates around the world to donate 1 million volunteer hours by the end of 2010. In 2009, bank associate volunteers contributed more than 800,000 hours to enhance the quality of life in their communities nationwide. For more information about Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, please visit [www.bankofamerica.com/foundation](http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation).

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