

SHARING THE FUTURE

Photo by Erin Houlihan

Proud Ground is awarded \$200,000 as a Bank of America Neighborhood Builder

We are thrilled and honored to share the news that Proud Ground is one of two awardees of the 2010 Bank of America Neighborhood Builders grant.

“At Bank of America, one way we strengthen communities is through our *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative*, which is our signature philanthropy program that recognizes, rewards and encourages those who are making a difference in Oregon and SW Washington. This year, I am so pleased that Proud Ground was selected as one of our partners — and that the \$200,000 grant they'll receive will help Proud Ground continue its critical work of removing barriers between families and affordable homeownership.”

Roger Hinshaw,
Bank of America's Market President of Oregon/SW Washington.

Wells Fargo helps end year on high note

More great news: In partnership with Clackamas Community Land Trust and NAYA Youth & Family Center, we've been awarded \$150,000 from the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation to supplement our Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

And there's more: other 2010 grants

We are extremely grateful for all of our other 2010 funding awards: The Collins Foundation, Enterprise Community Partners, JP Morgan Chase, Pacific Power, PGE Foundation, Portland Housing Bureau, PMAR-Home Foundation, Umpqua Bank, US



**PROUD
GROUND**
NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2010

What's Inside

So many homes!

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Two easy ways to
give and get

Coming down the pike: Proud Ground has a wide variety of home buying opportunities

We're fortunate to have more homes available for first-time homebuyers than ever before. In fact, in 2011 and 2012 we will add more homes to our portfolio, and create more new homeowners (an 85% increase over our busiest year to date), than in any other single period in our history. Here's a sneak peek:

Woolsey Corner — for sale now!

Woolsey Corner is a community of 8 homes (flats & townhomes) — plus shared community space — located in a vibrant North Portland neighborhood.

Woolsey Corner is a State of Oregon High Performance Home & Earth Advantage Platinum project—as green and energy-efficient as they come. Plus, it's walking distance to schools and retail and is right next door to a community garden.



One of our upcoming homes for sale sits on a half acre; we are excited at the possibility of dedicating a portion of the lot to urban farming or a community garden.

Newly renovated, single-family detached homes for \$130,000

No, it's not a dream. Located in the Hazelwood, Mill Park, Parkrose, and Powellhurst-Gilbert neighborhoods, these homes will have a dreamy median sales price of \$130,000.

Thanks to the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Portland Housing Bureau and project partner Native American Youth & Family Center for helping to make these homes available to low/moderate-income, first-time homebuyers.

Adding to the dream: In mid-2011 we will have an additional 10-11 single family, detached homes for sale in North Portland and Lents, along with a number of other home buying opportunities.

Visit www.proudground.org/homes for more information about these and other homes for sale.

And check back often — opportunities pop up regularly!

Proud Ground Board of Directors election and annual membership meeting to take place at December 1 board meeting

Because of the timing of many events this year, Proud Ground is not hosting an annual meeting & celebration in 2010. Instead, we invite interested Proud Ground members (all Proud Ground homeowners and current Portland-area donors of \$15+) to attend the December 1 Membership Meeting, at which time we will elect 2011 board members and provide an organizational update. **RSVPs are required by Nov. 29.**

For more information and a candidate slate visit www.proudground.org/2010-membership-meeting

Homeownership is happiness



“When I walked in the front door for the first time as a homeowner I felt very happy.” Gladis.

When Gladis and her family — husband Luis and children Luis Jr., Aileen and Charlie — became homeowners they had a slightly different experience than most new homeowners: with the help of Proud Ground and the Housing Authority of Portland, they were able to buy the home they had been renting — and had come to love.

“I remember that my daughter was very emotionally moved when she found out we would be buying the home where she was growing up and having wonderful childhood memories,” Gladis explains.

Gladis goes on to point out a major difference between owning their own home and renting it, “The tranquility of knowing I don’t have to move.”

And about Proud Ground’s program that helped Gladis and her family get to this point? “It’s a great opportunity to buy and own a house of your own — it’s an opportunity of a lifetime.”

“It’s because of our children that we worked so hard to buy our own home—so that they could have a stable roof over their heads and a home they could call their own.”

-Gladis, homeowner

‘Tis the reason

“Your money’s in Joe’s house... And in the Kennedy house, and Mrs. Macklin’s house, and a hundred others.”

-George Bailey

I admit that I did not grow up watching *It’s a Wonderful Life* every year around the holidays. (For me it was all about the only-once-aired-but-thankfully-recorded-on-VHS Motown Merry Christmas 1987—but that’s a story for another time.)



When I finally did see it, I was moved by the scene when customers storm George’s bank, demanding their money—but then reminded that their money went on to do good things for their neighbors.

Many liken the scene as a metaphor to our current mortgage crisis. I think it’s bigger than that. For me, it comes down to an acknowledgement that it truly takes our broad community to make us successful as individuals. From the public structures we invest in like schools, parks and roads to the way we treat each other when passing on the street—we shape each other in sometimes intangible ways.

As George says, “we’ve got to have faith in each other.” While that may be in short supply these days, it is an honor to be part of an organization committed to doing just that.





PROUD GROUND

5288 N INTERSTATE AVE.
PORTLAND, OREGON 97217
www.proudground.org
503.493.0293

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Get your laugh on!

Proud Ground fundraiser at
Curious Comedy Theater

Please join us
Saturday, December 11

8:00—9:30 pm | \$10 in advance | 5225 NE MLK Jr. Blvd.

Enjoy the crazy, fun holiday show at Curious Comedy Theater on December 11—and half of your ticket price is donated to Proud Ground.

Come on out, have some laughs, support Proud Ground. It doesn't get much more fun & painless! Thank you to our friends at Curious Comedy Theater for this generous opportunity.

more information: www.curiouscomedy.org
www.proudground.org/laughs

What people are saying about Curious Comedy Theater:

wonderful surprise!

seriously hilarious!

wild night of laughter

very off-the-wall, we loved it!

I have never laughed so hard
in my life!

Know someone who's thinking about buying/selling their home?

(A non-Proud Ground home, that is). Did you know your sale can benefit Proud Ground and not cost you a penny?

Here's how it works: With licensed real estate brokers on staff, we can provide a referral to many of the Realtor partners we've come to know. If they're the right fit for you, s/he will give us a referral fee, which is standard practice among real estate brokers — except in this case it becomes a donation to Proud Ground! The referral fee would not add to any commission you'd normally pay.

Interested? Want to learn more? Contact Steve Whitson at 503-493-0393, x14 or steve@proudground.org. Steve will provide a list of Realtors who we like and trust — and who are happy to contribute to our goal of affordable homeownership.