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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM OREGON
PARTNERSHIP*****

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**OREGON PARTNERSHIP'S "TARGET METH"
RESONATES IN CLATSOP, COLUMBIA AND
TILLAMOOK COUNTIES**

(Portland, Oregon) A community-based methamphetamine prevention program spearheaded by Oregon Partnership has successfully targeted three Oregon counties, thanks to 45-thousand dollars worth of grants from two Oregon Community Foundation funds.

A 20-thousand dollar Oregon Community Foundation grant came from the William Swindells, Sr. Memorial Fund and a 25-thousand dollar grant from the Paul and Sally McCracken Fund.

"Target Meth: Building a Vision for a Drug-Free Community" included trainings and presentations with government officials, county drug prevention coordinators, and community leaders, as well as educators, parents and teens.

"The project educated people in the community about methamphetamine," said Jill Dale, Columbia County Drug Prevention Coordinator. "It empowered the public and private sectors to do their own community work involving prevention."

The 12-month tri-county project was part of Oregon Partnership's multi-media public education and community training program designed to assist communities to combat the methamphetamine epidemic. It also included training on how to successfully work with the media on prevention issues.

“The evaluations from participants in these sessions in Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia counties were extremely high,” said Stephanie Soares Pump, Director, Education and Training for Oregon Partnership.

“Almost 90% of those attending rated the program ‘excellent or very good,’ and that’s a good indication that we’re on the right track in providing needed awareness and education.”

The counties also spearheaded their own community programs, as part of the project.

Tillamook County and Columbia Counties sent speakers out to deliver meth presentations and provided educational materials while Clatsop County conducted parenting classes and mentored Astoria high school students.

“The methamphetamine problem affects communities at the local level with crime, environmental damage and most importantly, children in dangerous and unsafe surroundings,” said Kaleen Deatherage, “Target Meth” author and development director for Oregon Partnership. “Target Meth is designed to give the public tools to push back against the problem and to make communities a safer place for kids and families.”

Key project components include a Target Meth Toolkit that offers a community action guide for meth and other drug prevention; an Oregon specific 150-slide Power-Point slide library; television, radio and print public service announcements; and a Web-based information portal.

Established in 1973, The Oregon Community Foundation has managed charitable funds donated by individuals, families and businesses to enhance and support the quality of life in their communities. The Foundation’s endowment consists of more than a thousand funds with combined assets of 770-million dollars.

About Oregon Partnership:

Oregon Partnership is a statewide nonprofit that has worked to promote healthy kids and communities for well over a decade by raising awareness about drug and alcohol issues, providing prevention education in classrooms, and 24-hour crisis lines for people needing help. To learn more, visit www.orpartnership.org.