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May 4, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pacific Power Foundation grants help feed the hungry

ALBANY, Ore. — The Pacific Power Foundation has awarded \$3,500 in grants to three organizations that help fill empty stomachs in the central Willamette Valley. **Helping Hands Gleaners** received \$1,500, and **Harrisburg Harvesters Gleaners** and **North Santiam Gleaners** each received \$1,000 to purchase additional food weekly from local food banks. Each organization feeds between 100 and 150 low-income families, elderly and disabled citizens in their communities.

“The demand for food from these organizations keeps growing,” said Doris Johnston, Pacific Power regional community manager. “The economy in these communities is stressed due to plant closings and massive layoffs. The Gleaners are resourceful in collecting food, but they also depend on financial support to fill the gaps. The Pacific Power Foundation is pleased to help.”

“There are many families that depend on this food and without it there is a real chance that they could go hungry,” said Teresa Haley, coordinator, Helping Hands Gleaners. “Support from organizations like the Pacific Power Foundation is essential especially given that the number of people needing food assistance climbs on a regular basis.”

“The Pacific Power Foundation supports the growth and vitality of communities through its charitable investments,” said Lilisa Hall, executive director of the Pacific Power Foundation. “These organizations help people deal with and manage difficult situations they may be facing in their lives, and there is no greater benefit to the community than helping people in need.”

All three organizations are nonemergency food providers, distributing weekly food boxes that help prevent low- to no-income families and individuals from going hungry. Helping Hands reports that their recipients range from 2-week-old infants to 96 year olds. The groups glean leftover crops from area farmers and gardeners and recover food from grocery stores and bakery outlets that would otherwise go into the landfill. Even with established gleaning partners, the groups need to buy additional food to meet the demand.

About Helping Hands Gleaners

Helping Hands Gleaners distributes food weekly to 100 low-income, elderly and disabled citizens in the Albany community.

About Harrisburg Harvesters Gleaners

Harrisburg Harvesters Gleaners distributes food weekly to 150 low-income, elderly and disabled families and individuals in the Harrisburg community.

About North Santiam Gleaners

North Santiam Gleaners distributes food weekly to low income/no income families in the Scio community.

About the Pacific Power Foundation

The Pacific Power Foundation is part of the PacifiCorp Foundation, one of the largest utility-endowed foundations in the United States. The foundation was created in 1988 by PacifiCorp, an electric utility serving 1.7 million customers in six Western states as Pacific Power (Oregon, Washington and California) and Rocky Mountain Power (Utah, Wyoming and Idaho). The foundation's mission, through charitable investments, is to support the growth and vitality of the communities served by Pacific Power and Rocky Mountain Power. For more information, visit www.pacificpower.net/ppfoundation.