

Thirty-One Portland Area Non-Profit Organizations receive Grants from U.S. Bank

PORTLAND, Ore. - Central City Concern, Portland Public School Foundation, Open Meadow Learning Center, Human Solutions, Committed Partners for Youth. These are just a few examples of the thirty-one Portland area non-profit organizations that recently received grants from U.S. Bank. More than \$680,000 was contributed to these groups in support of educational and community development programs and services. Several of the educational and community development programs and services. Several of the educational programs funded are designed to enhance classroom curriculum or provide additional educational opportunities outside of the classroom. Oregon Graduate Institute of Science

and Technology received a \$25,000 grant to fund its Saturday Academy's outreach efforts focused on providing science, engineering, math and technology education to under-represented and low-income students. The Oregon Council for Humanities was awarded \$20,000 to enhance the study of humanities in high schools in more than 100 communities throughout the state. A \$30,000 contribution was made to the Oregon Zoo Foundation to fund its ZAP (Zoo Animal Presenters) Team. This program offers underserved high school youth on-the-job training in animal care, public speaking, zoo science and conservation issues. A variety of affordable housing projects were among the community development

efforts funded by U.S. Bank. Portland Habitat for Humanity received \$33,000 to assist with the site development of 11 homes. Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives (PCRI) was provided a \$35,000 grant to rehabilitate a vacant PCRI property into an affordable home developed specifically for a resident operating a family child care business. The Enterprise Foundation was awarded \$40,000 in support of its lending program to community-based organizations that develop affordable housing. "These organizations are providing important services and programs that not only impact Portland, but in some cases, reach across the state," said John Rickman, President, U.S. Bank. "U.S. Bank is proud

to partner with these groups in their efforts to enhance educational and community development opportunities which truly make an important difference in our communities." Minneapolis-based U.S. Bancorp (NYSE: USB), with \$74 billion in assets, is the 14th largest bank holding company in the nation and operates approxi-

mately 1,000 banking offices in 17 Western and Midwestern states. The company provides comprehensive banking, trust, investment and payment systems products and services to consumers, businesses and institutions. It operates a network of 4,800 ATMs and provides 24-hour, seven days a week customer ser-

vice. The company offers full-service at 92 offices in the West and Midwest through Pipe Jaffray Inc. the 11th largest brokerage in the nation. The company is the largest provider of Visa corporate and purchasing cards in the world, and one of the largest providers of corporate trust services in the nation.

Candy Distributor assessed \$9,250 for Child Labor Violations

The owner of an operation that uses children to sell candy door-to-door has been accused of violating child labor laws. Mansoor Alam Mian — doing business as American Teen Sales Project, American Youth Sales, American Team Sales, A.S.D. Northwest, Washington Youth Sales Project, The Candy Zone, A.S.D., Inc., and American West Sales and Marketing in Vancouver, Wash., and Portland, Ore., — was fined \$9,250 by the U.S. Department of Labor, which has also gone to federal court in the state of Washington to prevent Mian from committing further child labor violations. "Too many children are being abused by the youth-peddling industry," said Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman. "Many of these operations present themselves as charitable and civic-minded groups, but they are, in fact, for-profit businesses that prey on a young, vulnerable work force. We will enforce the

law to protect children from being exploited." The department's Wage and Hour Division found that Mian employed four minors between the ages of 12 and 14 in violation of the child labor provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. Investigators located Mian in south Bend, Ind., where they served him with the notice of the fine on Nov. 13. The minors were transported from Vancouver, Wash., to Portland, Ore., to sell candy door to door. They also were required to load and unload merchandise. The wage and hour Division alleged that Mian violated the law by engaging in oppressive child labor in commerce. He must pay the fine or request a hearing to dispute. The federal investigation began after the Wage and hour Division received information about Mian's operation from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries in 1997. The Oregon State Bureau of

Labor and Industries, which has also assessed civil money penalties against Mian, and Washington State Attorney General's Office assisted with the investigation. The Wage and Hour Division is launching an outreach effort in partnership with state departments of labor and the Child Labor Coalition to educate the public about the dangers of this industry and will take steps to improve and coordinate state and federal enforcement efforts. Agency officials emphasize that legitimate charitable sales operations by youth groups, schools or community organizations will not be affected. Child labor regulations control the hours during which children under 16 can work and restrict employment in specific hazardous occupations for all youngsters under 18. For further information about federal child laws visit the Department of Labor's homepage at www.dol.gov and click on the "Teen Safety" icon.

Cable Commission Action Products Customer Refund

"Paragon Cable subscribers to receive a credit and a monthly rate reduction."

Most customers of Paragon Cable in Portland, Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village and Multnomah County will receive a one-time credit and will pay a lower monthly rate as a result of the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission (MHCRC) filing a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission.

Based on the MHCRC's complaint, the FCC ruled that, since January, Paragon has charged customers between \$.53 and \$.57 more per month for NW Favorites service than is allowed under federal rate regulations rules.

The FCC ruling will provide a credit to about 111,000 current NW Favorites subscribers throughout Multnomah County which represents about 90 percent of Paragon's subscriber base.

Under federal law, the FCC regulates rates for the NW Favorites programming services, but will only initiate a rate review based on a complaint from the local regulatory agency.

The MHCRC filed a rate complaint about the NW Favorites rate in April 1998 based on complaints received from subscribers about a rate increase.

Subscribers who live in Portland began seeing their \$5.99 credit on bills in late October. Subscribers who live in Multnomah County and the east County cities should see a credit of about \$6.50 beginning with bills in late December.

"We are pleased that the MHCRC's work has real world impact on subscribers through their pocketbooks," said

Norman D. Thomas, Chair of the MHCRC.

He added, "the MHCRC will continue to closely monitor rates to ensure that the local subscriber's voice is heard at the federal level."

The MHCRC represents the Cities of Portland, Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview and Wood Village, and Multnomah County regarding basic cable rates and other cable regulatory issues.

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