

**For Immediate Release**

Cascade AIDS Project



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## **Cascade AIDS Project Receives Spirit Mountain Community Fund Grant**

### *Grant Funds HIV/STD Prevention and Education Among Migrant Workers*

June 5, 2009 - Portland, ORE – Spirit Mountain Community Fund awarded Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) a matching grant of \$25,000 for the Latinos Unidos Enfrentando el SIDA or Latinos United Confronting AIDS (LUES) project. The project will reach 1,600 people directly, primarily in Washington County, and 14,000 through social marketing campaigns.

The Latino population is the fastest growing ethnic community in the Pacific Northwest, doubling in recent years. In Washington and Yamhill Counties, where many migrant and seasonal farm workers reside, the Latino residents average 14% of the population. Rates of new HIV infections disproportionately affect the Latino community and the migrant worker population in particular. Some research estimates as many as 5% of Latino migrant and seasonal workers are HIV positive--nearly ten times the national average.

CAP's LUES project reduces HIV infection among migrant and seasonal farm workers and their family members through training migrant camp-based community health workers. These health workers bridge language difficulties, cultural misunderstandings, and practical matters such as transportation. They use peer education techniques to share information about HIV testing and preventing HIV infection, as well as engaging Latino youth, many of whom are descendants of migrant and seasonal farm workers.

Youth are the bridge between the migrant community and more mainstream culture. Working with youth empowers them to take action in educating others in their community, including their parents. In collaboration with the target community, developing and disseminating research-proven, culturally-specific social marketing materials, such as *radio novellas*, to educate about HIV. Campaigns include radio, TV, and print. Holding highly visible community events to increase awareness of HIV, combat the stigma of talking about HIV and STDs, encourage dialogue, and test for HIV.

### **About Cascade AIDS Project (CAP)**

CAP's mission is to lead efforts to **prevent** new HIV infections; to **care** for people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS; to **educate** communities to eliminate stigma and shame; and to **advocate** for immediate action in combating the pandemic.

In the last year CAP delivered HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to 18,307 people; coordinated wrap-around support services for 3,253 men, women, and children affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS; and provided direct housing and housing-related services to 575 individuals and families with HIV/AIDS. CAP has an annual budget of \$4.2 million, relying on individual donors, foundations, corporations, government contracts, and the proceeds from our two annual events: *AIDS Walk Portland*

*(October 4, 2009) & Annual Art Evening & Auction (May 1, 2010).* For more information, visit [www.cascadeaids.org](http://www.cascadeaids.org).

**About The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde & Spirit Mountain Community Fund**

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is committed to honoring its tribal traditions of sharing and giving back to the community. Initiated in 1997, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund dedicates 6% of the profits from Spirit Mountain Casino to the Spirit Mountain Community Fund, which in turn goes to organizations in Western Oregon. The money is then gifted to non-profit organizations in an 11-county area of Western Oregon: Clackamas; Multnomah; Washington; Tillamook; Lincoln; Yamhill; Polk; Marion; Benton; Linn and Lane.

Since the fund was established in 1997 the fund has targeted special needs in public safety, health, education, culture, environment, problem gaming and historic preservation. To date the Spirit Mountain Community Fund has given over \$40 million to Oregon non-profits. For more information about recent giving, please go to [www.thecommunityfund.com](http://www.thecommunityfund.com).

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