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WASHINGTON WOMEN'S FOUNDATION AWARDS \$500,000 IN GRANTS
Largest Pooled Fund Distribution in Foundation's 12-Year History

SEATTLE—(June 18, 2008)—The Washington Women's Foundation today announced grants to five local nonprofit organizations totaling \$500,000 – the largest pooled fund distribution in the foundation's 12-year history.

The grantees include Artist Trust; Friends of the Children; PCC Farmland Trust; First Place; and Girl Scouts of Western Washington.

The awards will be presented this evening at a gala celebration honoring the five organizations and paying tribute to retiring Washington Women's Foundation president and founder Colleen Willoughby. Former Microsoft executive Carla Lewis has been named the foundation's new president.

“It is a great pleasure to award these large grants to five worthy organizations doing such important work in our community,” said Carla Lewis, incoming president of the Washington Women's Foundation. “Being able to make grants totaling a half million dollars this year is both a milestone and a wonderful tribute to our founder, Colleen Willoughby.”

The award winners were selected through a rigorous review process and voted on by the entire membership of the Washington Women's Foundation. Large impact grants of \$100,000 were awarded in each of the foundation's five giving areas: arts and culture, education, environment, health, and human services.

Artist Trust supports and encourages individual artists for their professional development. The \$100,000 Washington Women's Foundation grant will provide funds for fellowships and grants directly to qualifying artists. Artist Trust grants have launched the careers of many Northwest artists.

Friends of the Children, an early intervention educational program, provides a paid mentorship for a child's 13 years of schooling. The \$100,000 grant will enhance the lives of 32 additional vulnerable children, generating positive effects in their families, classrooms and communities.

PCC Farmland Trust, the only land trust in the country dedicated to organic farmland, works to preserve local farmland to ensure safe, sustainable, organic food supplies for the benefit of farmers, consumers, communities, the economy and the environment. The

\$100,000 grant will go toward purchasing conservation easements for organic farmland in Pierce or Thurston counties.

First Place nurtures children in grades K-6, whose families are homeless or at risk of being homeless. The \$100,000 grant will fund the expansion of First Place's on-site mental health programs to help break the cycles of violence, poverty and educational failure in these young people's lives.

Girl Scouts of Western Washington serves more than 27,000 girls between the ages of 5 and 17. The \$100,000 grant will support the expansion of the Fostering a Future program, which is designed to meet the special needs of girls in foster care. The program builds skills and encourages community service and education through connectedness.

About the Washington Women's Foundation

The mission of the Washington Women's Foundation is to educate and expand the number of women engaged in philanthropy and to build and strengthen community through individual and large impact grants. The foundation's members, now almost 500 strong, have invested nearly \$9 million of their own resources to nonprofit organizations across Washington state since 1995. Membership is open to any woman interested in philanthropy. For more information, visit www.wawomensfoundation.org.

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