



"In here there are no strangers..."

Sisters Of The Road

...just friends we've never met."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SISTERS OF THE ROAD AWARDED LARGEST GRANT FOR SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS

Portland, Oregon (January 18, 2008) – In December, Sisters Of The Road was awarded a \$225,000, three-year grant through the Kaiser Permanente Community Fund at the Northwest Health Foundation. The grant will be used to help end homelessness in Portland and the nearby region by addressing the social policies and attitudes that impact homelessness. This award is by far the biggest award received in Sisters' 28 year history.

Sisters Of The Road will use the grant over the next three years for projects within its Systemic Change Program. These projects will address social exclusion, which goes hand-in-hand with homelessness and contributes to poor health, substance abuse and crime, and problems securing stable employment.

Specifically, Sisters will tackle the social exclusion of very low-income people by partnering with other advocacy and social justice organizations working to end homelessness, by educating and involving the public, and by empowering men and women experiencing poverty and homelessness to advocate for policies that support their human rights and address the root causes of homelessness in our community.

Sisters' Executive Director Monica Beemer says the grant is important to Sisters' growing regional and national leadership in the struggle to end homelessness: "This generous grant provides the resources needed to maximize the impact of Sisters' research and unique model. And that can help people work together to create a community where everyone has a safe, warm home, and ensure that the basic human rights of thousands of men, women, and children are not betrayed daily simply because they are poor."

The grant was one of 14 new grants awarded by The Northwest Health Foundation for the third grant cycle of the Kaiser Permanente Community Fund. Each grant addresses the root causes of health disparities: the policies and social and environmental conditions that contribute to how healthy we are.

David Rebanal is a program officer at the Foundation. Rebanal asserts that, "Supporting projects that address these 'social determinants of health' is about taking a systemic approach, not simply placing a band-aid over complex problems that require collaboration, creativity and sustained attention to solve."

ABOUT SISTERS OF THE ROAD: Founded in 1979, Sisters Of The Road uses non-violence to support community driven solutions to the calamities of homelessness and poverty. Sisters' café is open to everyone, serving low cost, hot, nutritious meals. Sisters also provides job training, support to parents and children, and innovative solutions to the issues surrounding poverty and homelessness through self and community advocacy.

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