



# VENTUREPORTLAND

Growing Business. Connecting Neighborhoods.

## For Immediate Release

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## Neighborhood Business Associations Give Back to Portlanders in Big Ways

PORTLAND, Ore. – December 5, 2012 – Amidst the bright lights, festive events and hustle and bustle of the holiday retail season, Portland’s neighborhood business associations continue to support neighborhood causes and give back to the Portlanders who keep them in business. Between December 1, 2011 and November 30, 2012 Portland’s neighborhood business associations contributed more than \$105,000 to local charities city wide.

“In the last 13 years the Parkrose Business Association funded an incredible \$47,000 in college scholarships for Parkrose High School students, including \$7,000 in 2012,” said Alison Stoll, Venture Portland Board Member and Parkrose Business Association Delegate. “I am so proud of the tremendous work the business association does to support higher education in Parkrose and can’t wait to see the contributions these amazing students will make in the business community and as future members of the Parkrose Business Association.”

A majority of neighborhood business association charitable contributions are made during the holiday giving season, which is also a critical time of year for the health and stability of many businesses. Even though the importance of this key season is often heightened in Portland’s neighborhood business districts, where 76 percent of businesses have 10 or fewer employees, neighborhood business associations make giving back a priority all year long.

“Thriving neighborhood business districts rely on community involvement and great partnerships,” said Hilda Stevens, Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association President. “The Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association has a long history of giving back to the local organizations that support our neighborhood during the holidays and throughout the entire year.”

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Neighborhood business districts use large scale annual events to encourage Portlanders and business owners to give back. Whether it's donating a percentage of sales or asking event attendees to contribute spare change, it adds up to make a huge difference for area charities.

“As a business owner and resident in the Mississippi Ave. District, it is important for me to be a part of the business association,” said Trevin Miller, Historic Mississippi Business Association President. “The work the association does, from charitable contributions to neighborhood economic development, impacts the entire community and keeps our area healthy and connected for all to enjoy.”

Portland's neighborhood business associations are non-profit organizations led by incredibly dedicated volunteers, who are also business owners, operators and entrepreneurs. In fact, Portland's neighborhood business districts contain approximately 16,000 businesses and nearly 200,000 jobs.

Last year, Venture Portland's Board of Directors, comprised of business district leaders, contributed 1,100 volunteer hours. These hours are in addition to the time and energy board members spent in their business district and running their business. Devoted business district volunteers and key monetary contributions bring communities together and strengthen Portland's neighborhood business districts city wide. In neighborhoods, the business of Portland is about more than just business.

### **About Venture Portland**

Venture Portland means business. Through grants, trainings and technical assistance the organization invests in the smart, strategic growth of Portland's unique neighborhood business districts. Portland's neighborhood business districts comprise approximately 16,000 businesses and nearly 200,000 jobs. Venture Portland's board leadership comes from diverse business district associations city wide that collectively represent local, regional, national and international demand for goods and services. For more information visit [ventureportland.org](http://ventureportland.org).

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