



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IMPACT NW RECEIVES GRANT FROM JPMORGAN CHASE FOUNDATION FOR MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION

\$40,000 Grant Supports At-Risk Youth and Lents Community Asset

Portland – The JP Morgan Chase Foundation recently awarded a grant of \$40,000 to Impact NW to help transition Marshall High School’s campus into a community asset, and support its students as they transfer to Franklin High School.

Marshall, a high-poverty, high-diversity high school, closed at the end of the 2010-11 school year. Most students transferred to Franklin High School, along with Impact NW’s Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) program, which has supported at-risk Marshall students since 2002.

At Franklin, students who were previously in groups of 150-275 students must adjust to a 1,500-person student body. Franklin’s location also poses logistical challenges for many students. Impact NW will use grant funds to help youth navigate this difficult transition by connecting them to summer school programs, hosting welcome sessions at Franklin, offering home visits to transitioning students’ families, and creating a transportation plan with each student.

Impact NW Executive Director Susan Stoltenberg will also work closely with Portland Public Schools and community partners to conduct a regional planning and needs assessment for transforming Marshall’s facilities, and develop a plan that retains the campus’s value to the Lent neighborhood community. Current suggestions include hosting evening and summer classes for community colleges and turning athletic fields into a soccer campus for at-risk youth.

“We are honored to be selected for one of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation’s highly competitive grants,” said Impact NW Executive Director Susan Stoltenberg. “Their partnership will help us be a catalyst for meaningful, positive and sustainable change within our community—a top priority for both Chase and Impact NW.”

More than 400 Marshall students were enrolled in Impact NW's on-site SUN Community School program last year, with 82% of them identified as being at risk of academic failure. As they transition to Franklin High School, Chase funds will support Impact NW in promoting retention and academic success through one-on-one support, parent engagement, and extended-day enrichment opportunities.

Impact NW's role in the Marshall High School transition ensures that Portland's most vulnerable students have the support they need to succeed upon transferring to Franklin High School, and that the challenged Lents neighborhood gains a valuable community asset.

*Impact NW is a premier provider of educational and social services in the greater Portland metro area. **The organization's mission is to help people achieve and maintain self-sufficiency and to prevent and alleviate the effects of poverty.** Throughout its 45-year history, Impact NW has been a leader in providing individuals of all ages with the skills and resources necessary to achieve success and to advocate for themselves and their communities. Annually, over 60,000 low-income children, youth, families, seniors, and adults with disabilities participate in Impact NW's comprehensive anti-poverty programs.*

Photo (left to right): Amber McGill, Impact NW Community Schools Site Manager; Mayor Sam Adams; and Sierra Bramdila, a former Marshall student on the first day of school at Franklin High School.