



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IMPACT NW HONORS NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS & HUNGER WEEK

Portland – This week Impact NW joins with the National Coalition for Homelessness to honor National Hunger & Homelessness Week (Nov. 13-19), a national endeavor to promote education, action and awareness about hunger and homelessness.

Last year during this week more than 500 high schools, colleges, community groups and faith based groups from cities across the United States came together to bring awareness to the issues of hunger and homelessness by holding local and regional homelessness and hunger week events. Impact NW provides support and services to help the homeless in our community every day of the year.

Impact NW provides support to the thousands of homeless living in the Portland Metro area, with programs that promote self-sufficiency by helping individuals and families pay their rent and utility bills, put food on the table, get jobs, and create meaningful connections within their communities. Every year Impact NW helps over 60,000 low-income children, youth, families, seniors, and adults with disabilities receive the skills and resources necessary to achieve success and to advocate for themselves and their communities.

According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2010 annual report to Congress, each night there are approximately 770,000 people in the United States who are homeless. The US Department of Education reports that there are an additional 700,000 children without a place to call home and who go to bed hungry nightly.

Participating in *National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week* raises awareness and promotes ending hunger and homelessness in our community, strengthening the national endeavor to end these social ills.

One in six American families lives below their respective poverty thresholds. Three out of four states saw an increase in both the number and percentage of people living in poverty. Fifty-million Americans live in food insecure households, with millions of

children going to bed hungry each night. Three and a half million Americans will experience homelessness this year, including many United States military veterans.

People interested in supporting Impact NW's hunger and homelessness initiatives can make a donation of non-perishable foods, clothing, blankets or other items. Visit <http://www.impactnw.org/holiday-drive> for more information.

*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.*

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