



For Immediate Release:

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News Release

Volunteers of America Oregon wins grant from Major League Baseball for program addressing teen dating violence

Washington, DC – Last week, Volunteers of America Oregon received a grant of \$25,000 from the Major League Baseball Players Trust to fund the Teen Program of its groundbreaking domestic violence intervention program, Home Free. The award was presented by the Major League Players Trust on June 8 at Volunteers of America’s National Conference in Washington, DC. Grants were also made to Volunteers of America affiliates in Illinois, Minnesota, Texas, and Wisconsin.

“We’re thankful that the Major League Baseball Players Trust will be partnering with us on this crucial program,” said Volunteers of America Oregon’s President and CEO, Kay D. Toran. The grant was awarded during the same week a report from the Family Violence Prevention Fund found that teen dating violence and abuse has increased during the economic downturn. “This grant has come at a time when teens need our services more than ever,” Toran said. “It is vitally important to teach teens about healthy relationships and give them a safe place to access information and ask questions about domestic and teen dating violence.”

Targeting middle and high school students, the Home Free Teen Program helps to prevent violence and supports teens who have previously experienced, or are currently experiencing, violence. Through monthly meetings, support groups, one-on-one advocacy services, a mentor program and a teen specific Web site, this innovative program will help to create an improved community where teens know how to communicate, treat each other with respect and understand healthy relationship dynamics. The grant is anticipated to reach more than 8,200 teens in middle and high schools over the next two years.

Last year, Volunteers of America Oregon served nearly 19,000 people across the Portland metropolitan area. Volunteers of America has partnered with the Major League Baseball Players Trust since 2002. A total of \$580,000 has been provided by the Players Trust to dozens of Volunteers of America programs across the U.S. since 2003.

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VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA OREGON

For 113 years, Volunteers of America Oregon has been there for those who need us most. From at-risk youth to victims of domestic violence, from the recovering addicts to the frail elderly, we provide a range of supportive and empowering services to our area's most vulnerable populations - and work with them to rebuild their lives and reach their full potential. For more information about Volunteers of America Oregon, visit www.voao.org

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS TRUST

The Major League Baseball Players Trust partnered with Volunteers of America in 2002 to promote the nurturing and well-being of America's children and their families. The partnership features the personal involvement of Major League baseball players and their families with a variety of programs conducted by Volunteers of America throughout the United States. Also, together they administer the Action Team, a national youth volunteer program currently inspiring the next generation of volunteers in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Maui, Minneapolis, Mobile, New York City, Oakland, Philadelphia, Portland (ME), San Francisco, San Juan, Santa Fe, Seattle, Tampa and Washington D.C.. For more information about the Major League Baseball Players Trust, visit www.MLBPLAYERS.com and visit the Players Trust Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/MLBPlayersTrust> on You Tube.