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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Vaune Albanese at [valbanese@friendlyhouseinc.org](mailto:valbanese@friendlyhouseinc.org) or (503) 228-4391.

### **Friendly House Receives Grant from PCC's Students4Giving Class**

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, the Portland Community College (PCC) [Students4Giving](#) class awarded a \$5,000 grant to Friendly House Inc. Friendly House was chosen as a finalist in the education of homeless children category. The money will be used to purchase iPads and laptops for their [Project Return](#) program. Project Return provides after-school programming, safety-net-services and a wide range of educational and recreational opportunities for Chapman Elementary School students whose families are experiencing homelessness.

Cynthia Killingsworth, the lead Business Instructor at PCC for the program, explains the history: "Students4Giving was created six years ago through a [Campus Compact](#) and [Fidelity® Charitable Gift Fund](#) initiative. Portland Community College was one of only five academic institutions in the nation, and the only community college, selected to create a donor advised fund to offer grants to non-profit organizations within their communities."

Ms. Killingsworth explains how the program works: "Students4Giving participants learn about the non-profit world from a regular course curriculum and identify specific community needs for that term's project. The class then identifies several nonprofits in the Portland Metro area that serve these community needs and invites these nonprofits to submit a grant application. The students evaluate the grant applications using criteria learned in class, conduct site visits to the non-profit organizations and finally select the grant recipients after extensive research and discussion. Our students bring their own perspective into the class; some have a personal connection as previous recipients of social services, others are interested in careers in non-profits and some are adult students seeking "enclave careers" to get involved in their local communities. The student directed process allows them to feel empowered in helping their own communities."

From Megan Jolly, Development Director for Friendly House, "We lack the technology students require in order to complete homework and explore enrichment opportunities provided on the Internet. Our After School Program currently has three older model desktop computers with limited software and no Internet access. The three computers are shared daily between approximately 100 children. As more and more of the student's homework is expected to be done online or can require online research, it becomes harder to keep the children who do not have alternative access to a computer at the same pace academically as those children that do have access to the technology at home. The iPads and laptops provided by the grant directly respond to this educational need in Project Return."

#### **About Friendly House**

[Friendly House](#) is a non-profit neighborhood center located in Northwest Portland, founded in 1930. Its programs and services are provided at no charge or on a sliding fee scale to ensure access to all members of the community. Friendly House provides a continuum of services in three program areas: Children's Programs, Community Recreation and Education, and Social Services.

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