

## Portland Schools Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: Jeanie-Marie Price (503-234-5404 x12)

10-002

### **Portland Schools Foundation Announces Recipients of 2010-11 PPS School-based Equity Grants: \$580,000 to be Distributed to 25 PPS Schools**

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“In the worst economic conditions the parent community in Portland Public Schools stepped up and raised money at an incredible rate,” said Portland Schools Foundation CEO, Dan Ryan. “Because of these equity funds there are 88 teachers and staff in PPS classrooms this year that would otherwise not be there. What an incredible story of neighbors helping neighbors”

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In 2009, PPS parents raised \$2.72 million, of that one-third was given to the Equity Fund. The Equity Fund is then split, with roughly two-thirds supporting PPS School-based Grants and one-third supporting PPS Community-based Grants. This year, the Equity Fund was increased by \$65,495 due to funds that were released from PPS unexpended funds prior to 2007. The total distributed through the School-based Grants for 2010-11 was \$580,000. The PPS Community-based Grants total \$244,000 and recipients will be announced in May.

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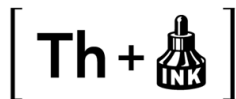
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Since its establishment, the PPS Equity Fund has attracted national attention for its creative and collaborative approach to addressing disparities in school funding and has awarded more than \$7 million in grants to schools in need.

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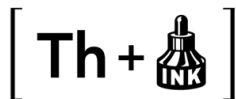
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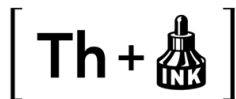
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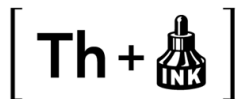
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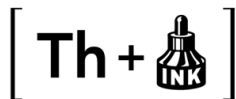
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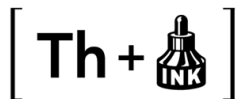
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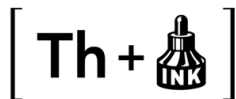
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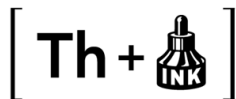
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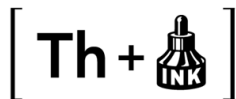
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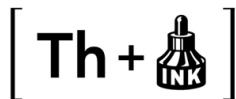
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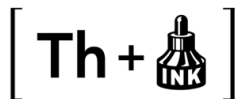
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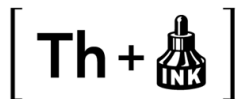
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CONTACT: Jeanie-Marie Price (503-234-5404 x12)

10-002

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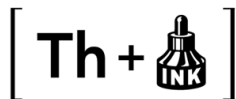
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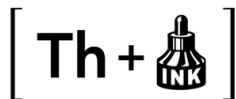
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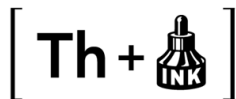
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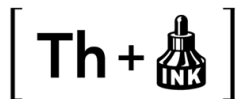
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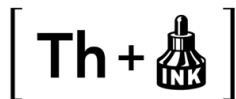
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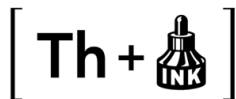
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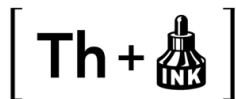
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CONTACT: Jeanie-Marie Price (503-234-5404 x12)

10-002

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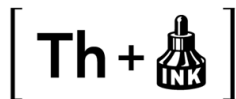
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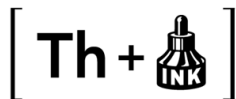
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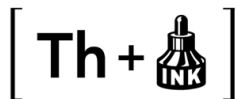
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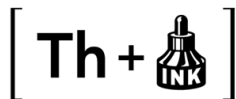
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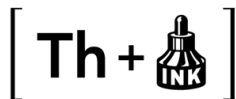
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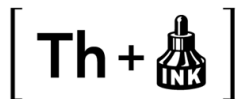
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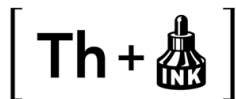
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In 1994/95 , on the heels of Measure 5's cuts to public education, parents who desired to raise private dollars for their school to fill the gap received approval from the Portland School Board to create "local school foundations" at all of Portland's public schools. Knowing that not all of the schools had a parent community that was able to raise significant funds, the School Board required that one-third of all funds raised (after the first \$10,000) by these foundations be set aside in a fund that is stewarded and distributed to high-need schools by the Portland Schools Foundation. The other two-thirds is used by the school for instructional staff, educational enhancements, extended day activities, and contracts.

Since its establishment, the PPS Equity Fund has attracted national attention for its creative and collaborative approach to addressing disparities in school funding and has awarded more than \$7 million in grants to schools in need.

The Portland Schools Foundation is an independent, community-based organization that mobilizes the public, private and political will and resources needed to guarantee a world-class public education for all Portland children. To learn more visit [www.thinkschools.org](http://www.thinkschools.org).

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## Portland Schools Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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10-002

### **Portland Schools Foundation Announces Recipients of 2010-11 PPS School-based Equity Grants: \$580,000 to be Distributed to 25 PPS Schools**

Portland, Ore. (April 5, 2010) – At tonight’s Portland Public Schools Board meeting, the Portland Schools Foundation will announce the schools that will receive the 2010-11 Portland Schools Foundation PPS Equity Grants, which are aimed at creating excellence and equity in our schools. Equity Grant funds are generated from the 33 active local school foundations (LSFs) in Portland Public Schools, whose dedicated parents, teachers, and principals give one-third of what they raise (over the first \$10,000) through their fundraising activities to the PPS Equity Fund.

“In the worst economic conditions the parent community in Portland Public Schools stepped up and raised money at an incredible rate,” said Portland Schools Foundation CEO, Dan Ryan. “Because of these equity funds there are 88 teachers and staff in PPS classrooms this year that would otherwise not be there. What an incredible story of neighbors helping neighbors”

The 25 schools receiving Equity Grants includes Humboldt PK-8 School, which plans to use the \$25,000 grant it received to develop the “Tell Me Your Story” program to enhance writing and school pride, while also supporting teachers in developing culturally responsive teaching practices. Willie B. Poinsette, Humboldt Principal said of receiving the grant, “This equity grant is going to bring resources to the school that would otherwise not be available. And will provide an opportunity to engage our students in a different way to become better communicators, while at the same time exposing them to the wisdom of elders.”

In 2009, PPS parents raised \$2.72 million, of that one-third was given to the Equity Fund. The Equity Fund is then split, with roughly two-thirds supporting PPS School-based Grants and one-third supporting PPS Community-based Grants. This year, the Equity Fund was increased by \$65,495 due to funds that were released from PPS unexpended funds prior to 2007. The total distributed through the School-based Grants for 2010-11 was \$580,000. The PPS Community-based Grants total \$244,000 and recipients will be announced in May.

Last year, the Portland Schools Foundation introduced reforms to the Equity Fund distribution model. The new data-driven formula directs funds to schools with the greatest needs. Based on feedback from the 2009-10 grant cycle, additional changes were made to the formula this year include counting kindergartners as a whole student and placing greater weight on the number of students on free and reduced lunch.

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To receive an award, schools were required to submit their most recent school improvement plans and make a case for how they would spend the awarded funds to boost student achievement with sign off from area directors. Schools must also submit dollars raised through their PTAs to be eligible for a grant. Schools receiving the awards are also asked to submit a report at the close of the school year indicating how the funds were spent and the impact they had. The schools who received Equity Grants for 2010-11 are on the attached spreadsheet, also attached is the formula used to make the awards. To access a full-listing of the rankings please visit [www.thinkschools.org/equitygrants](http://www.thinkschools.org/equitygrants).

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