



Investing in our future
**portland
children's
levy**

Portland Children's Levy joins with PSU to help homeless moms, families
Oct. 12, 2010

The Portland Children's Levy awarded its first Leverage Fund Collaboration Grant to Portland State University's Regional Research Institute in partnership with Impact NW and Catholic Charities. The \$100,000 three-year investment, along with \$225,000 from the Gates Foundation, will pilot trauma recovery services for high-need families and build capacity for trauma-informed service delivery.

The project will provide therapy and case management services annually for three years to 30 chronically homeless mothers who have a history of trauma that has hindered their ability to provide for and parent their children.

The program goals are to increase coping skills for the mothers, stabilize housing for their families and reduce the risk of abuse/neglect for their children. The families reside in two low-income housing sites in East Portland: Esperanza Court and Richmond Place. Meyer Memorial Trust will consider in November funding the project with an additional \$225,000.

The Portland Children's Levy Collaboration Grants are supported with \$500,000 from the Levy's Leverage Fund and are funder-initiated partnerships on projects in any of the Levy's five funding areas: early childhood, after school, mentoring, child abuse prevention/intervention and foster care. Levy staff expects to announce more Collaboration Grant projects in the coming months. The Leverage Fund matches public dollars with private ones to maximize community impact and make more resources available for Portland's children; last spring \$2.5 million in Leverage Fund Challenge Grants was invested with nine Portland organizations.

The Portland Children's Levy, formerly the Children's Investment Fund, was created by city voters in 2002 and overwhelmingly renewed by the electorate in Fall 2008.

The Levy is supported through a five-year property tax projected to generate more than \$12 million annually toward proven programs across the city serving 16,000 children and their families. The Levy is annually audited and administrative costs do not exceed 5 percent. For more information, go to www.portlandchildrenslevy.org

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