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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Entrepreneurs Foundation of the Northwest and Oregon Entrepreneurs Network Merge**

**Portland, Oregon—August 25, 2010** — Oregon Entrepreneurs Network (OEN) and Entrepreneurs Foundation of the Northwest (EFNW) announced today that they will merge to create a single organization devoted to developing businesses and communities around the Northwest. In addition to connecting emerging businesses to expertise and valuable resources, OEN will now incorporate EFNW's expertise in helping companies develop and implement strategies for community involvement.

"Becoming a part of OEN will allow EFNW to build on its strengths and to continue implementing community involvement programs that match the corporate culture and philanthropic interests of Oregon companies with the many needs in the local community," said EFNW founding board chair, Hugh Mackworth.

EFNW brings a long history of corporate development and community involvement to the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network. Lisa Sloan, president of EFNW, reports that collectively, EFNW and its member companies have returned \$4.5 million to the Portland community since its inception in 1991. EFNW is affiliated with 11 other Entrepreneurs Foundations worldwide and currently has 54 member companies in the northwest.

"We are pleased to welcome EFNW to the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network," said Linda Weston, president and executive director of OEN. "Economic and job growth depend on a company's ability to thrive on all levels, including giving back to the community."

Recent EFNW success stories include a group of start-up companies who raised more than \$27,000 to sponsor Portland elementary schools, and a downtown PR firm who donated office space to Community of Writers (COW), a non-profit teacher support program dedicated to improving the quality of writing instruction.

"EFNW and OEN both do great work for entrepreneurs, so the merger is completely natural. It creates a one-stop shop for the nurturing we need to get to the point where we can give back... and now helps us do the giving back, too!" said Ray King, CEO of AboutUs.org and OEN Advisory Board member.

The merger will benefit both organizations and coming at a time when small businesses are both searching for funding and recognizing the need to give back to the community. Since its founding in 1991, EFNW has partnered with companies who recognize that corporate philanthropy is not limited to big budgets or large volunteer forces. Using the same entrepreneurial thinking that makes businesses successful, EFNW will grow within OEN to better serve the community and expose its members to beneficial partnerships in the business and non-profit sectors across Oregon and Southwest Washington.

### **About Entrepreneurs Foundation of the Northwest**

Entrepreneurs Foundation of the Northwest (EFNW) helps small and mid-sized companies develop and implement strategies for community involvement that jointly meet the goals of the company, the passions of the employees and the needs of the community. EFNW is affiliated with 11 other Entrepreneurs Foundations worldwide and currently has 54 member companies in the northwest. For more information, visit [www.efnw.org](http://www.efnw.org).

### **About Oregon Entrepreneurs Network**

Founded in 1991, the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to providing opportunities for Oregon entrepreneurs and to improving the business climate for emerging companies statewide. The organization has members throughout Oregon and southwest Washington. For more information about OEN, visit [www.oen.org](http://www.oen.org).