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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Columbia Credit Union Partners with Nonprofits to Raise Over \$2.9 Million

Vancouver, WA– Columbia Credit Union is dedicated to making life better in Southwest Washington. The credit union worked with numerous local nonprofit organizations to log over 1,200 hours of service and raise over \$2.9 million to benefit the community in 2011.

“Columbia’s philanthropy serves a wide span of needs including health, the hungry, education, business and animal welfare,” said Columbia Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility, Laurie Kusch. “In 2011, we strengthened our commitment with increased financial contributions and staff volunteering.”

As a result, members of Columbia’s management team average over 100 volunteer hours per month serving for a variety of causes. In recognition of these efforts, Columbia was awarded the 2011 Nonprofit Excellence Award for Corporate Community Support by the Nonprofit Network of Southwest Washington.

“We were impressed with Columbia Credit Union’s significant reach across the community, touching many organizations with a commitment of time and financial resources,” said Jeanne Kojis, Executive Director of the Nonprofit Network Southwest Washington.

In addition to community support, financial education comprises a large portion of Columbia’s commitment. Financial workshops are free and open to the public on topics such as Budgeting, Basic Retirement, Estate Planning, Home Buying, Identity Theft and more. And Columbia is the only financial

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institution in the area offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, teaching people how to get out of debt and build wealth.

Columbia has been striving to "Make Life Better" for members, families and the community since 1952. More than a motto, it is our core purpose and guides our approach to everything we do. For more information, please visit www.columbiacu.org.

About Columbia Credit Union: Established in 1952, Columbia Credit Union has \$794 million in assets and 12 Clark County, WA locations. Columbia serves more than 70,000 members with a 2011 satisfaction rating of 95.8 percent - an industry benchmark. Columbia is nationally recognized by PBS Companies for Workplace Excellence and was voted Clark County's "Best Financial Institution" in 2009, 2010, and 2011, and "Best Overall Customer Service" in 2010. Columbia is a top local lender for auto and home loans, and was named the SBA "Credit Union Lender of the Year" for 2009 and 2010 in the Portland, Oregon district. Committed to sustainability, Columbia built Clark County's first financial institution branches to strict LEED standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council. Individuals and businesses in Washington State are eligible for membership. For more information, visit www.columbiacu.org.

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