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For Immediate Release

Meyer Memorial Trust Makes \$200,000 Grant to Open Meadow Alternative Schools

Portland, Oregon — November 8, 2006 — Open Meadow Alternative Schools has received a \$200,000 grant from Meyer Memorial Trust. The grant recognizes the good work that Open Meadow is doing in re-engaging youth in education. Grant funds will assist in further strengthening the organization over the next three years by building administrative capacity to match recent significant growth in Open Meadow's educational programs for high-risk youth.

Since 1998, Open Meadow has grown from two high school programs in one location to seven programs in six locations, with the addition of a middle school, several programs transitioning youth to college and careers, and summer programming and after-school services on-site at Roosevelt High School and feeder middle schools.

Now in its 35th year, Open Meadow successfully re-engages youth at risk of disconnecting from school and those who have already dropped out. Open Meadow students have the highest achievement levels and lowest drop-out rate of Portland area alternative schools. They are exceeding test scores of several public high schools. Fifty-two percent of 2006 graduates passed a college class prior to graduation.

Open Meadow Corporate Connections program is raising the assets of low income youth with average starting salaries of \$23,627 in corporate employment. Students involved in Open Meadow STEP UP program in North Portland public schools are achieving phenomenal results. In spite of being identified as most at risk of dropping out, all 351 students who participated in STEP UP during 2005-06 were still in school at the end of the school year. Their average grades and test scores were significantly higher than their non-STEP UP classmates.

A nonprofit, in 2005-06, Open Meadow served more than 600 youth ages 10–24. Open Meadow's mission is to educate youth in small, relationship-based programs that emphasize personal responsibility, academics, and service to the community.

The Meyer Memorial Trust makes grants to qualified tax-exempt applicants in Oregon and Clark County, Washington. The Meyer Trust is not connected in any way with Fred Meyer Inc., the retail enterprise.

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