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For Immediate Release

The Standard's Employees Raise More Than \$25,000 for Open Meadow Schools

Portland, Oregon — October 3, 2006 — Open Meadow Schools received an economic boost of more than \$25,000 from Standard Insurance Company's 2006 Employee Giving Campaign. Open Meadow Alternative Schools, which is The Standard's partner through the City of Portland's School Partnership Program, was chosen by The Standard as this year's recipient for the funds raised through campaign events and activities.

"Our partnership with The Standard is truly amazing," said Andrew Mason, Open Meadow Executive Director. "Our nearly five year partnership has grown organically over the years and is rooted heavily in relationships between employees of The Standard and the students and staff of Open Meadow. The partnership is based on people getting to know people, and matching resources with needs. The Standard has helped Open Meadow in so many ways including updating Open Meadow's technology infrastructure, donating needed computers, providing bus passes for students, and much more. They also offer internships to Open Meadow students and entry-level, career-track jobs for our graduates through Open Meadow's Corporate Connections program," continued Mason.

The funds will be used to provide relationship-based, support services for Open Meadow students through Open Meadow's Advocate Program.

Now in its 35th year, Open Meadow successfully re-engages youth at risk of disconnecting from school and those who have already dropped out. A nonprofit, in 2005-06 Open Meadow served more than 600 youth ages 10–24 in two high school programs, a middle school, and several programs that transition youth from middle to high school and from high school to college and career. Open Meadow's mission is to educate youth in small, relationship-based programs that emphasize personal responsibility, academics, and service to the community.

2006 marks The Standard's 100-year anniversary. The Standard is celebrating by giving back to the communities in which its employees live and work. During the year-long celebration that honors its founder's community involvement, The Standard is partnering with local and national nonprofits to provide at least 10,000 hours of volunteer service.

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