Planned Parenthood
COLUMBIA WILLAMETTE

3727 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97212

PHONE 503.775.4931
FAX 503.788.7285
www.ppcw.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Liz Delapoer
Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette
503.775.4931 x3321
liz.delapoer@ppcw.org

Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette Celebrates New Regional Service Center

The new facility expands Planned Parenthood's ability to provide health care and education to women, men and teens throughout Oregon and SW Washington

Portland, OR – **February 14, 2010** – Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette (PPCW) today celebrated the grand opening of its new Regional Service Center in NE Portland. The three-story, 42,000 square foot building on NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. is now home to PPCW's administrative staff and a new, state-of-the-art NE Portland health center. The Regional Service Center will enable PPCW to grow and better meet the community's need for affordable, accessible sexual and reproductive health care.

"Our NE Portland health center has grown tremendously over the past several years, and we'd simply run out of room," said David Greenberg, PPCW President and CEO. "Some women were waiting weeks just to get an appointment for a simple annual exam. We expanded our schedule and the number of appointments offered, but we just couldn't keep up with the need for affordable health care in NE Portland."

With twice the exam space as its previous location, PPCW's new NE Portland health center (on the ground floor of the Regional Service Center) will be able to practically double the number of patients seen in NE Portland – capacity sorely needed for awhile now.

"Opening this spacious, modern health center is proof of Planned Parenthood's commitment to ensuring the highest quality affordable care to the people of Portland and surrounding communities," said Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. "Now, more than ever, as large numbers of people are out of work and don't have health insurance, women, men and teens in communities like Portland can count on Planned Parenthood health centers to stay healthy and make ends meet."

Most of the 16,000 visits to PPCW's NE Portland health center each year are for basic, preventative sexual and reproductive health care – services like birth control, annual exams and Pap tests, screening for cervical cancer and breast cancer, and STD testing and treatment. In fact, more than 95% of the 60,000 visits to PPCW health centers each year are for family planning and basic sexual and reproductive health care.

Patients coming to Planned Parenthood for these basic services often have few other options.

"The vast majority of our patients are low-income, and many of them are uninsured," said Kathleen Altman, PPCW Vice President of Clinical Services. "At Planned Parenthood, they can utilize funding programs to help pay for their visit, and many qualify for a significant discount on their services."

The additional space and resources provided by the Regional Service Center will also enable PPCW to grow its education department and community programs, extend public affairs efforts, and expand centralized support systems to sustain organization growth.

PPCW broke ground on the Regional Service Center in October of 2008. The building was completed on time and under budget, using New Market Tax Credits to help fund the project. The environmentally-friendly building has been submitted for LEED Gold certification, and includes 5,000 square feet of retail space on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

For more information on PPCW, visit www.ppcw.org.

###

Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette (PPCW) is the largest non-profit family planning and reproductive rights organization in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Since 1963, PPCW has successfully carried out its mission of providing, promoting and protecting access to quality reproductive and sexual health care. Each year, approximately 60,000 women, men and teens visit one of PPCW's eleven health centers. PPCW provides a wide range of education programs and health care services, including low-cost contraceptives, emergency contraception, annual gynecological check-ups, breast exams, cervical cancer detection and treatment, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy testing and options counseling. Less than five percent of PPCW's services are for first term abortion care. For more information, visit www.ppcw.org.