



# REACH

Community Development, Inc.

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### REACH Partners with IBEW and Irvington Covenant CDC to “Construct Hope”

March 10, 2010 (Portland, Oregon) – During the month of March, REACH is partnering with two local workforce training programs to provide free home repairs for senior and disabled homeowners, while building skills among youth to promote economic development and work force equity. Fifty volunteers, several local businesses, and community partners will supply over 75 free home repairs for seniors living along the MLK corridor. Partners include IBEW Local 48 Candidate Assistance Program, Irvington Covenant CDC Constructing Hope Program, the Urban League of Portland, and the Portland Housing Bureau. Business partners include Freeman Electric, Racine Property Services, and Tilley Enterprises.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, thirty students from Irvington Covenant CDC’s Constructing Hope Program will partner with REACH in making repairs. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, pre-apprenticeship candidates from the IBEW Local 48 electrical union will work alongside trades’ professionals to make repairs. Students are currently enrolled in the IBEW Candidate Assistance Program, which is designed to improve scores for women and minority candidates waiting to enter the IBEW.

These workdays complement REACH’s successful Community Builders Program (CBP), a neighborhood-based free home repair program for senior and/or disabled homeowners living on a low income. Typical repairs include electrical inspections, repairs to ensure safety and proper lighting, and installation of safety devices. The CBP provides a critical “aging in place” service for seniors. It improves the quality of each recipient’s life, helps avoid displacement due to gentrification and poverty, addresses a significant public health concern, all while bringing neighbors and area businesses together in the spirit of volunteerism.

For 27 years, REACH has been building innovative and affordable housing for low-income families and individuals in the Portland metropolitan area. REACH develops and manages affordable housing and provides supportive services to our residents, as well as free home repairs to senior homeowners. Today, our portfolio includes single family homes, apartment buildings and mixed-use developments located across the City of Portland. REACH owns over 1,300 units of housing. REACH has won numerous state and national awards for our creative approach to building healthy communities and our innovative housing projects. Please visit [www.reachcdc.org](http://www.reachcdc.org) to learn more.

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#### Media interested in learning more:

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