



Metropolitan Family Service

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metropolitan Family Service Wins Award for Ground Breaking Ways to Work Loan Program

Low interest auto loans to working parents get results.

Portland, OR—October 2, 2008—Metropolitan Family Service provides an alternative for working parents to receive low-interest auto loans. The local Ways to Work program is part of a national program that allows qualified working parents who are unable to get funds elsewhere, to receive loans up to \$4,000 to purchase or refinance a car and up to \$500 for a repair.

Metropolitan Family Service, a member of the Alliance for Children and Families, was approved to host the Ways to Work program in Oregon in 2006 to provide low-interest auto loans as part of a network of Alliance organizations throughout the country. Currently more than 40 Alliance member organizations participate.

The 2008 Ways to Work Institute Performance Awards recognized 17 of these organizations for implementing a Ways to Work program and achieving national benchmarks set by Ways to Work Inc. Metropolitan Family Service received a cash award for \$3,000 for exceptional performance based on volume and default rate. The award will be used to support the Ways to Work program's operating costs.

Ways to Work has had exceptional results. In a national survey, participants who received financial training and were able to purchase a car through the program showed a 41% increase in income, improved credit rating and increased attendance at work.

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Background Information

For more than half a century, **Metropolitan Family Service** has played a vital role in the lives of children, families, and older adults. We provide services at more than 160 sites. Metropolitan Family Service makes connections that strengthen the lives of 33,000 individuals and families each year.

The **Ways to Work** program provides qualified working parents with loans to purchase, repair, or refinance a car for work, childcare, and school related transportation.. The first program of its kind in Oregon, Ways to Work is operated locally by Metropolitan Family Service.

For more information contact Pat Kaczmarek, Marketing and Communications Manager, at 503.232.0007 ext.170.

You can visit our website at www.metfamily.org.

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