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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metropolitan Family Service receives \$35,000 Faith in Action grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help seniors in need

A coalition of faith based groups will volunteer to serve the needs of seniors and disabled people.

Portland, OR –The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded a *Faith in Action* grant to Project Linkage, a program of Metropolitan Family Service. This \$35,000 grant was awarded as a part of the Foundation’s commitment to expand its national interfaith volunteer care giving program to 3,000 sites by 2007. Currently, the *Faith in Action* network consists of more than 1,100 programs nationwide.

For more than 50 years Metropolitan Family Service (MFS) has been providing resources and services through community and strength-based programs for children, families, older adults and people with disabilities. The mission of MFS is to strengthen families and individuals while enhancing their participation in community life. Since 1980, Project Linkage has been serving this mission by helping older adults and people with disabilities live independently.

Faith in Action grants are awarded to local groups, like Project Linkage that represent many faith-based groups and community organizations who volunteer to work together to care for seniors and people with disabilities. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has committed \$100 million to the *Faith in Action* national

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movement. *Faith in Action* volunteers come from churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship, as well as the community at large.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, based in Princeton, NJ, is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care. It concentrates its grant making in four goal areas: to assure that all Americans have access to basic health care at reasonable cost; to improve care and support for people with chronic health conditions; to promote healthy communities and lifestyles; and to reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse — tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs.

For additional information, or if you are interested in joining the coalition, please contact Jennifer Mangieri, Program Coordinator for Project Linkage, at jenniferm@metfamily.org or 500.249.0471. To learn more about *Faith in Action* visit the web site at www.fiavolunteers.org.

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