

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Senator Merkley honors Clackamas social service agency

Clackamas, OR – February 25, 2016

Senator Jeff Merkley will honor the nonprofit agency Clackamas Service Center (CSC) – a social services nonprofit noted for their work addressing hunger, poverty and homelessness in Clackamas County. During his town hall meeting on Saturday, February 27, 2016, Merkley will present a flag to CSC's founder, Anna Jones, and Executive Director, Debra Mason.

Clackamas Service Center started its work in 1971, when Anna Jones and two of her friends pooled their bingo winnings (\$1000) to provide food and basic necessities to community members in need. At age 91, Jones still runs CSC's clothing room, serving hundreds of families each month.

Today, CSC serves thousands of people each month, providing meals six days a week and over 5,000 food boxes a year. CSC is also a programming hub for partner agencies, like Outside In and Medical Teams International, to better serve individuals and families outside of downtown Portland.

Debra Mason, CSC's Executive Director, said, "On behalf of the entire CSC community, it's an incredible honor to receive this award. We are a small but mighty grassroots organization, committed to building trust with clients and providing a hand-up on the path to self-sufficiency."

Sen. Merkley's town hall, where the flag will be presented to Jones and Mason, is at 2:30 that afternoon at Milwaukie High School Commons, 11300 SE 23rd Ave. Milwaukie, OR, and is also open to the public.

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