

PGE Park and the Portland Beavers Host SMART Appreciation Night



SMART volunteers honored as PGE presents check for \$9,500

Portland, 16 May 2008 – Throwing the first pitch at the Portland Beavers' May 16 game against the Las Vegas 51s will be SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) board member and volunteer, Tom Gilbertson. In addition to reading with two students every week at Whitman Elementary in SE Portland, Tom is a senior vice president with RBC Wealth Management.

"In Portland Metro, more than 3,000 people volunteer to read one-on-one with K-3 students year after year. We can't thank them enough for the difference they make in the lives of the children they read with every week," said Stephanie Stoller, SMART development manager. "We thank PGE Park for the invitation tonight to publicly recognize our wonderful volunteers."

At tonight's game there will be a special check presentation to benefit SMART. Presenting the check on behalf of Portland General Electric will be Behzad Hosseini, general manager of organizational learning and development, and SMART board member.

"This \$9,500 check represents a \$500 contribution on behalf of each of the 19 PGE employees who volunteered with SMART this year," said Hosseini. Since 1998, Portland General Electric and the PGE Foundation have contributed more than \$109,000 to the SMART program.

This is the third annual SMART Appreciate Night hosted by the Portland Beavers. Discounted tickets were made available to SMART volunteers and supporters.

SMART is currently seeking volunteers throughout the state for the 2008-09 school year beginning in September. For more information, visit www.getsmartoregon.org.

About The Portland Beavers/Timbers Community Outreach Program

As part of the Portland Beavers and Portland Timbers Community Outreach Program, players, staff and management make a positive impact on community values and individual lives by lending their time, energy and creativity to a number of philanthropic programs throughout the year, including SMART. The Beavers and Timbers Community Outreach Program creates a special bond between the teams and the people of the Portland area through shared experiences, memories and accomplishments.

About SMART® (Start Making A Reader Today)

SMART is a nonprofit that envisions an Oregon where every child can read and is empowered to succeed. We engage community volunteers to read one-on-one with K-3 children who need literacy support. Participating children also receive new books each month to keep and read with their families. Since 1992, thousands of SMART volunteers have been inspiring little readers through storytelling. Together with support from the community, we are building brighter futures for Oregonians big and small. Volunteer or donate today. Visit www.getsmartoregon.org or call 1-877-598-4633.

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