

Press Release

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Sarge's Place Receives \$50,000 Gift from First Federal's Community Dividend Program

Forks, WA (October 3, 2008) – First Federal has selected Sarge's Place in Forks as the recipient of a \$50,000 gift from the bank's Community Dividend Program.

Sarge's Place is a veterans housing and referral project scheduled to begin operation in Fall of 2009. The two story facility will house up to 12 qualified veterans who can stay from one night up to two years in the transitional housing portion. The project will also house three Veteran families in permanent supportive housing units as well as an on-site building caretaker unit.

"Sarge's Place is an important addition to the West End," said Karen McCormick, President and CEO of First Federal. "Supporting our veterans is critical and we are happy to play a role in this vital service."

The aim of the facility is to provide safe and stable housing for homeless veterans (both men and women) who are committed to returning to employment and/or independent living. With the use of a full time case manager, Vets will receive help to meet a wide range of needs including obtaining their Veterans Administration benefits, finding housing and work and obtaining medical and dental benefits. The facility will also provide referrals for counseling for mental health and chemical dependency.

“This gift will make it possible for us to positively impact many veterans who have honorably served our country and now need our assistance,” said Cheri Fleck, Housing Coordinator & Veterans Advocate at West End Outreach Services. “Our mission is to help heal the wounds, to restore dignity, hope and self-sufficiency to all veterans in need, and to significantly reduce homelessness and poverty.”

More information about First Federal’s Community Dividend Program can be found at www.doinggoodfeelsgood.com.

First Federal has been serving North Olympic Peninsula families and businesses for more than 85 years. A mutual bank, First Federal is the only locally owned and managed savings and loan institution on the peninsula. It operates branches in Port Angeles, Sequim, Port Townsend and Forks. Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender.