

# MEDIA RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Mt. Angel Community Building project gains momentum despite street issues**

**Mt. Angel, OR, August 25, 2010** – The Mt. Angel Community Foundation was notified last week that the City of Mt. Angel will be unable to seek state sponsored grant funds for planned Cleveland Street improvements which would have connected the new Mt. Angel Community Building with the downtown business district and improved livability for local residents.

Dave Kohler, chairman of the Mt. Angel Community Foundation's Fundraising Committee, was notified by Mt. Angel City Administrator Susan Muir last week that the City's request for an Oregon Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the street improvements could not proceed, under a decision from the Infrastructure Finance Authority of 'Business Oregon', the Oregon Business Development Department.

Kohler said "Though Ms. Muir diligently pursued this grant, the State determined that no street improvement projects in Mount Angel were eligible for CDBG funding at this time, due to the City's previous use of a CDBG grant for the downtown improvement project. This issue had not been raised as a concern previously. We strongly feel the new Community Building should be well connected to the City's downtown business district, to improve access for our local residents and also encourage visitors to our shops, restaurants and services. We are still working with the City and we are currently looking at all options to provide street access to the new building."

Despite the new challenges stemming from the State's decision, Kohler emphasized that the Community Foundation's outlook remains optimistic. "The Community Building project has momentum now, with the City, Chamber of Commerce, and community members all getting behind it. We're over halfway to our fundraising goal, and we're picking up supporters each week who want to join us to help build Mount Angel's future. We continue to receive major grants and donations from foundations and longtime supporters." Kohler added "We have grant applications pending with a number of large foundations around the state and will continue to pursue funding opportunities and fundraising events to support our new Community Building."

The Building's next fundraising event will be during Mt. Angel's upcoming Oktoberfest, September 16-19. The Mt. Angel Community Foundation booth will be centrally located in front of City Hall, offering project information, accepting donations and selling custom engraved paver bricks for the new Community Building's entrance plaza.

The Mt. Angel Community Foundation has raised approximately \$1.2 million so far towards the estimated \$2 million building project. Major donations have been received from organizations including The Slayden Community Fund, The Ford Family Foundation, and the Mt. Angel Oktoberfest, with significant contributions from local community groups and individuals.

When completed, the new Mt. Angel Community Building will feature a Bavarian-style design and improved facilities to host a wider variety of year-round community events, including Oktoberfest. Construction on the new Community Building is planned to begin in early to mid-2011, depending on completion of funding. Organizers want the new Community Building ready to host its first Oktoberfest by September 2011.

Meanwhile, the existing Oktoberfest Building at 500 S. Wilco Highway is still actively serving the community. It will serve again as the Biergarten at this year's Oktoberfest, and reservations are still being accepted for building use through Dec. 31, 2010. Plans are in progress to make another venue available during the construction period. For building reservations, contact the booking officer at 503-939-9264.

The Mt. Angel Community Foundation welcomes support for the building project. Contact the Foundation at 503-845-6835, by email at [mtangelcommfnd@gmail.com](mailto:mtangelcommfnd@gmail.com), or visit [www.mtangelcommfnd.org](http://www.mtangelcommfnd.org).

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#### **ABOUT THE MOUNT ANGEL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:**

The Mount Angel Community Foundation is a community-based not-for-profit organization that facilitates funding and development of enduring projects that serve, enhance and enrich the greater community of Mt. Angel, Oregon. Since its inception in 1995, the Foundation has provided higher education scholarships for Mt. Angel high school graduates, furnished and equipped the Mt. Angel Public Library, helped build and maintain Mt. Angel's Glockenspiel, and helps annually to beautify Mt. Angel's downtown core. The Foundation's primary current project is the funding and construction of a new Mt. Angel Community Building to serve the expanding needs of the community. The Foundation's history, current projects and past accomplishments may be found online at [http://www.mtangelcommfnd.org/home/about\\_us](http://www.mtangelcommfnd.org/home/about_us).

The Mount Angel Community Foundation formed the Mt. Angel Community Building Fundraising Committee in the summer of 2009 and established a capital campaign to raise approximately \$2 million for construction of a new Community Building. The Foundation's two-year capital campaign plan includes applying for private grants, organizing local fundraising events and soliciting personal donations from community members.

#### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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