



For Immediate Release: 10/1/10  
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## **Portland Ranks High in New National Study on Civic Life In America**

*Portland, Ore.*— \$1,293,311 recouped for those who have experienced fraud, outstanding medical bills, or wrongful billing; Nearly 1,500 victims of elder abuse given aid; 51 people assisted who are dealing with foreclosure; 1,301 individuals helped with digital TV conversion issues; 503 given aid with health care dilemmas. Elders in Action's Personal Advocate Program, in Portland, has restored their clients' quality of life to a higher standard. They serve as a voice to those who have been silenced—a helping hand to those in need.

It's by a powerful spirit of community and civic engagement, like that of Elders in Action, that Portland has achieved a #1 and two #2 rankings in a recent national study on civic life in America.

"Portland's greatest asset is its people, Portlanders from every neighborhood and walk of life who find ways each and every day to give back to their community," said Portland Mayor Sam Adams. "Portlanders value this special place, and they show it by engaging in everything from our civic process to our arts, business and education communities. I'm incredibly proud of Portland, and our neighbors across Oregon, for this distinction."

"The Civic Life in America: Data on the Civic Health of the Nation" is made available through a partnership between the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC). The CNCS and NCoC define civic life (or civic health or civic engagement) as the common thread of participation in and building of one's community. The study is meant to assess the healthiness of America's communities based on how often residents engage in a variety of civic activities. In the study, civic life is measured by considering five key areas: service, participating in a group, connecting to information and current events, social connectedness and political action. The findings reveal:

- Portland ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among the 51 largest metropolitan areas in participating in a group
- Portland ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> among the 51 largest metropolitan areas in adult volunteerism with an organization
- Portland ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> among the 51 largest metropolitan areas in working with neighbors to solve a community problem.
- Oregon ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the rate of those 18+ who say that they eat dinner with their family at least a few times per week
- Oregon ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in working with neighbors to solve community problems in 2009
- Oregon ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the percentage of those 18+ who engage in at least one type of political act
- Oregon ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the rate of those 18+ who talk about politics with friends and family at least a few times per week
- Oregon ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the rate of people 18+ who belong to religious, neighborhood, school or sports groups in their communities
- Oregon ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation for volunteering among residents ages sixteen and older in 2009
- Oregon ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in voter-turnout among 18+ citizens for the November 2008 election
- Oregon ranks 24<sup>th</sup> among all states in voter-registration rate
- Oregon ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the rate of people 18+ who exchange favors with their neighbors

"Oregonians should be incredibly proud of themselves," said Emily Gilliland, chair of Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service. "Their passion for strengthening their communities is shown true by Oregon's high rankings in this new report. We should all feel incredibly inspired to know we are forging the right path and there are even greater accomplishments ahead."

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The civic life report features trends, statistics, tools, resources, and information on civic participation for the nation, U.S. regions, states and major cities. For the complete report, visit [www.civic.serve.gov](http://www.civic.serve.gov)

The CNCS also distributes its Volunteering in America report which focuses more specifically on volunteerism in the United States. The 2010 report finds that 63.4 million Americans volunteered to help their communities in 2009, up an impressive 1.6 million from last year. More information on the Volunteering in America report can be found at [www.volunteeringinamerica.gov](http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov)

*Oregon Volunteers is the Commission for Voluntary Action and Service promoting and supporting AmeriCorps, volunteerism and civic engagement to strengthen Oregon communities. For more information about Oregon Volunteers, please visit [www.oregonvolunteers.org](http://www.oregonvolunteers.org)*

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