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## **Charitable groups benefit from Northwest trust funds**

By Sheila Allen

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Anticipation hangs in the air around Northwest Baptist Foundation staff each February as a favorite time approaches. Employees look forward to the annual rite of mailing beneficiary checks to causes as varied as the passions of those who have contributed to the efforts dear to them.

“This is a little slice of heaven on earth,” said Karla Inman, administrative assistant of the Northwest Baptist Foundation as she prepared the checks for mailing. “It represents a year’s worth of work by others on our staff, but I get the pleasure of doing this final piece.”

The funds distributed are generated by interest earned from trust accounts managed by the Foundation, which holds the principle amount in perpetuity, never to be touched. The recipients cover a broad range of interests such as campgrounds, hospitals, mission organizations and churches. New church starts receive a boost, retired pastors in need are helped and college and seminary students are given assistance with tuition or expenses. Various associations, the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board all receive funds as directed by the holders of the trusts. The Northwest Baptist Convention received nearly \$40,000 to be used for various causes for leadership and church development, church site development and other concerns.

“It takes all of us,” Inman said. “Steve Brock and Robin Smith handle this all year, and there is a lot of integrity here at the Foundation. They look at the money every day and invest it wisely.”

The Foundation has over \$390,000 in earned interest from the trusts, which has recently been disbursed or is awaiting further action by the Northwest Baptist Foundation board. In addition, approximately \$46,000 is given to Pacific Northwest Campus students of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary or college students from the Northwest to further their education.

“I write the checks, print them and say a little prayer for those receiving the funds as I send them,” Inman said.

Throughout the course of 2009, nearly \$500,000 was distributed, with 50 percent supporting local churches and associations.