

## Title: Portneuf Donates to Idaho Meth Project

(Pocatello, ID) The Portneuf Healthcare Foundation uses funds raised from the 2007 Festival of Trees to provide grants that serve the healthcare needs of our community's children. **Portneuf announced the grant recipients earlier this week, and one of Foundation's most significant grants was \$7,000 to the Idaho Meth Project.** The Idaho Meth Project is a large-scale prevention program aimed at significantly reducing first-time meth use through public service messaging, public policy, and community outreach.

**Children of meth-addicted parents are often left to fend for themselves, causing intense emotional harm that can lay the foundation for behavioral problems, depression, and future substance abuse.** Children of users are frequently exposed to many hazards such as second-hand smoke, risk of accidental drug ingestion, and HIV exposure from dirty needle usage. Other potential hazards include the presence of weapons, possibility of violence, and sexual or physical abuse.

(<http://www.idahomethproject.org/>)

**Creighton Hardin, MD, a pediatrician** with Pocatello Children's Clinic sees the effects of meth on children first-hand. **"Meth is devastating to children - from the risk of abuse and neglect to the complications of newborns addicted to the drug. It is critical that we work to decrease the amount of exposure children have to meth."**

For coverage, call the media cell phone at 251-2768.

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