



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Hands On Greater Portland teams with Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar to refurbish Portland school**

**PORTLAND, Ore.** (Thursday, Sept. 13, 2007) -- Hands On Greater Portland is teaming up with Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar to revitalize Portland's Ockley Green Middle School on Sept. 18 and 19.

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar will mobilize restaurant managers, corporate support teams and vendor partners from across the western region for team-building and to revitalize Ockley Green. Employee volunteers will paint, refurbish the playground features, and revitalize the community basketball courts.

"It's companies like Applebee's that are stepping up to fill critical needs in our community," said Andy Nelson, Executive Director of Hands On Greater Portland.

The volunteer project will take place from 9 am to 3 pm on both days. Ockley Green Middle School is located at 6031 N. Montana Street in Portland.

"Applebee's takes an active part in our neighborhoods, and we are proud to be partnering with Hands On Greater Portland to give back to the local community and the students and faculty at Ockley Green Middle School," said Steve Grove, CEO of AppleGrove restaurants.

Applebee's project is part of a Corporate Month of Service that Hands On is organizing in partnership with several area businesses. In all, Hands On Greater Portland will organize volunteer projects for 1,200 volunteers during the month of service.

**About Applebee's**

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar is the largest casual dining concept in the world, with more than 1900 locations nationwide. The Portland area Applebee's are owned and operated by AppleGrove Restaurants, one of the oldest and largest franchisees in the Applebee's system. AppleGrove currently operates more than 100 Applebee's in eight states, including the 13 locations in greater Portland, and two more under construction in the area. AppleGrove embraces the Applebee's neighborhood philosophy through active participation in and support of the local communities served by each Applebee's restaurant. For more information about Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, visit [www.applebees.com](http://www.applebees.com). For more information on the local franchisee, visit [www.applegrove.com](http://www.applegrove.com).

**About Hands On Greater Portland**

Hands On Greater Portland connects individuals, families and businesses with exciting, meaningful service opportunities throughout the Portland metro area. Recognized as the region's volunteer hub, Hands On partners with 300 nonprofits, schools and community organizations to link volunteers with a variety of opportunities that fit their interests and schedules and fill critical community needs. Volunteers feed the hungry, tutor children, and restore the environment. Hands On makes powerful changes in the greater Portland area and in the 14,000 volunteers a year it mobilizes. Founded in 1996, Hands On Greater Portland is a member of both the Points of Light Foundation and Hands On Network, the nation's leading volunteer action organizations. For more information, visit [www.handsonportland.org](http://www.handsonportland.org).

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