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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information:

Woman-owned construction firm in Washington County grows by tackling concrete work on new hospital

Businesses owned by women perform 26.6 percent of construction work on new Kaiser Permanente hospital in Hillsboro

(May 29, 2012 – Hillsboro, OR) — As the finishing touches are put on Kaiser Permanente Westside Medical Center at Tanasbourne, one young and growing concrete finishing firm is challenged to do some of its most complicated work yet.

North Plains-based Star Construction Services poured roughly 2,000 cubic yards of concrete to create surfaces for walking and driving on the 15-acre campus. The project, with its 1.5-mile winding walking path, steep loading zone, and a multi-level, two-toned courtyard, has put Star through its paces. The work on the 126-bed hospital, however, not only has provided employment for Star's workers since late 2010, but also has provided the company with valuable experience.

"Until this project, my crew hadn't had a chance to see their work as something closer to art," says Tayna Wylder, owner of five-year-old Star Construction.

"I've told them, the plaza in particular is a place many people will look out onto from their rooms. It will be a place for contemplation, grieving, being joyful. This is a hospital we're doing—actually it is a monument," Wylder says.

Meeting high standards

Even though Star Construction has performed jobs for big league clients such as Port of Portland, U.S. Postal Service, and others, Wylder says the bar is highest at Kaiser Permanente.

"We learned where our strengths are. We learned more about communicating with a general contractor," she says.

The experience at Westside caused Star to diversify. "It led us to add 'excavation' to our list of capabilities," says Wylder.

Wylder grew up around construction, and worked in the industry during college as a flagger through

the Laborer's Union, and later as administrative support for the Carpenter's Union. After a varied career that included stints in marketing, telecommunications, education, and social services, Wylder launched Star in 2007.

"Because the downturn followed fairly soon thereafter, I've had to be very strategic. And this project gave us a chance to get through the downturn," she says. The general contractor let Wylder's company prove itself on the large hospital project by forming and pouring a 600-foot-long, 10-foot by 10-foot tunnel for utilities, which led to additional work.

Given Kaiser Permanente's history, Wylder is not all that surprised by the company's high standards. One of Kaiser Permanente's founders, Henry J. Kaiser, got his start 100 years ago building roads, and earned acclaim for his dams. The Hoover, Bonneville, and Coulee dams involved pouring and finishing massive amounts of concrete. The Coulee dam was the largest man-made structure ever constructed at the time. A 1942 edition of *Mechanics Illustrated* wrote that Henry J. "accomplished roughly five times as much building in one lifetime as did the four Pharaohs of Egypt. He built three dams in a decade each one larger than the tomb of Cheops."

"I would love to hear what Henry would have to say. I think our work would meet even his expectations," she says.

Wylder's is one of 12 woman-owned firms with contracts representing \$33.7 million in work on the project. From a budget perspective, woman-owned firms are doing nearly 27 percent of construction on Westside, far outpacing Kaiser Permanente's goal.

Minority-owned firms are performing \$7.5 million worth of work at Westside – about 6.5 percent, also above Kaiser Permanente's target.

Although Wylder already had connections with the general contractor on the hospital, Kaiser Permanente connects with many other woman- and minority-owned suppliers and vendors via a web-based supplier diversity portal.

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About Kaiser Permanente Northwest

Kaiser Permanente Northwest is part of America's leading integrated health care organization. Founded in 1945, the organization serves the health needs of more than 8.9 million people in nine states and the District of Columbia. More than 480,000 people in Oregon and Southwest Washington receive their medical care from Kaiser Permanente, and 197,000 people receive dental care. A nonprofit health plan, Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care. For more information, go to www.kp.org/nw/hospitals. Follow us on Twitter at [@kpnorthwest](https://twitter.com/kpnorthwest).

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