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## **People's Stimulus Portland business owners give money to boost local economy**

Portland, OR – August 14, 2009 - Bill Hornocker gets to hand out money on his job. Tom Skinner is a sales rep giving money from his own pocket and Tim Doolittle can't wait until his employees open their mail this week. All three businessmen are taking part in the People's Stimulus – giving employees packets of \$2.00 bills as part of a grassroots effort to stimulate the local economy. Also known as the "\$2.00 cure for the economy", the People's Stimulus was inspired by Danny Cottrell the Alabama Pharmacist who gave his employees \$16,000 in \$2.00 bills to spend in the local community. Like others across the country, these Portland businessmen were encouraged to act after hearing Danny's story.

Hornocker's company Oregon Commercial Painters and its parent company Turman Commercial Painters handed their employees \$150.00 in \$2.00 bills over a three month period. "We went to each job site and gave the employees \$2.00 bills with the only direction they spend them at local businesses. They were really surprised about getting the money and excited about helping the community," says Hornocker. In addition to giving the stimulus money, Hornocker's company has also created a website, [www.PeoplesStimulus.org](http://www.PeoplesStimulus.org) to encourage others to join. "It is great to be able to change the discussion about the economy to one of hope and action, and with the People's Stimulus you go to the bank, get the \$2.00 bills and they are circulating in the economy the next day. I sort of got on a mission about this and started calling everyone I know," says Hornocker. One of those calls was to Tim Doolittle, Regional Manager of Miller Paint Company. Doolittle right away saw the appeal. "We thought it was a great idea. We have been giving back to the community in the Northwest since 1890, so this was right up our alley," says Doolittle. His company sent a letter home to each of their 265 employees with packets of \$2.00 bills last week. Included was a letter from company CEO Steve Dearborn that said in part "O.K. so it is not \$787 billion but we are trying to do our part as a small business to stimulate the economy." The letter further encouraged the employees to spend the money locally and "spread the word".

Hornocker also called Tom Skinner a sales rep for Sherwin Williams. Tom decided to give \$100 of his own money to do his part. "I liked that this is one of those things that is attainable for 'everyman'," says Skinner. "The news about the economy has just been so negative you start thinking what can I do? This empowers you because anyone can do it – it's really simple and nice to be a part of something special." Skinner split his stimulus money between a family struggling in this economy – a woman who lives with her Dad and her two small children, and an employee at one of their stores who is a single Dad. "I told the single Dad to go out with his son and do something fun. It felt good. It wasn't a fortune, but his eyes lit up when I gave it to him," says Skinner. He was delighted to hear the single Dad used the money to take his young son to a local outdoor attraction and treat him to pizza – a great afternoon for them both. Proving that the People's Stimulus can be good for both the local economy, and benefit those involved.

What has been Bill Hornocker's best experience? Shopping at a local store, Bill paid the clerk with a \$2.00 bill. The clerk having seen other \$2.00 bills said, "Wow, I'd like to know what company is nice enough to hand out those bills." "I got to tell him all about the People's Stimulus that our company is doing. Handing out money to help others" says Bill, "what a great job."

For more information see: <http://www.PeoplesStimulus.org>