

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Santa Lands at Bridgeway House on December 12<sup>th</sup>!

**Eugene, Ore**. – On December 12<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2pm, Bridgeway House is hosting their annual Photos with Santa event at Wesley United Methodist Church in Eugene. The event gives children with autism a chance to visit with Santa and have their photo taken in a low-stimulus, sensory-friendly environment. Photos by Chris Pietsch are only \$5 each and every child receives a gift from Santa. Appointments for private times with Santa from 10am to noon are available by appointment only by calling 541.345.0805.

From noon to 2pm there will also be a Holiday Fair and potluck so children with autism and their families can enjoy some community time and get to know other families. There will be games, crafts, cookie decorating, and more.

"We've been hosting Photos with Santa for several years and it's one of our most popular events," said Bridgeway House's Executive Director, Patricia Wigney. "Many children with autism can't handle the stress of visiting Santa at the mall and our event provides an alternative so they can still enjoy this part of the season. In addition, it's so helpful for their families to have a place to celebrate the holiday with other families who understand the stresses and the joys of raising children on the autism spectrum."

## About Bridgeway House

Bridgeway House (www.bridgewayhouse.org) is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 2002 to offer developmental therapies, enrichment courses, and support to children and families of all income levels with autism and related disabilities. Bridgeway House's therapeutic programs are designed to help this diverse and ever-increasing group of children meet the challenges of autism and help their families with the emotional, financial, and social challenges they face. Services include therapies, social skills groups, summer camps, parent skills groups, family social events, an annual theatre production, and a private school for children with autism. Bridgeway House offers scholarships for all their programs so they are affordable to families from all walks of life. For more information, contact Patricia Wigney at patricia@bridgewayhouse.org or 541.345.0805 or visit www.bridgewayhouse.org.