

# The ODS Companies

When The ODS Companies, an Oregon-based dental and medical insurer, ran up against space limitations at its ODS Tower in Portland in the late 1990s, the company began to search for additional office space in the surrounding area. A key factor in its search was locating an adequate facility within 15 minutes of downtown Portland.

"Initially, we didn't consider Milwaukie a potential location due to its perceived distance from downtown," says Andrew Franklin, ODS Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "However, it turned out that Milwaukie met our requirements and offered some surprising benefits."

Among those, "the Milwaukie location has expanded our potential labor pool to a greater degree than we had initially expected," Franklin notes. "A number of our employees prefer working at the ODS Plaza (10505 SE 17th Ave) to working in downtown Portland due to parking and commuting issues. The location has proven to be a selling point for many prospective employees."

Access to public transportation and major freeways are among the advantages appreciated by the company's Milwaukie work force. "This system allows for a reasonably quick and easy commute for those employees who reside in the Portland area," Franklin says.

ODS purchased the former Pendleton Woolen Mills shirt factory in 1999 and completed an extensive renovation by mid-2001. "Milwaukie officials were very helpful during our renovation and flexible on various zoning issues," Franklin says. "The city of Milwaukie has been particularly good at developing an overall spirit of cooperation and partnership with ODS. And city services have been dependable and up to the standards we require for operations at the site."

About 240 employees now occupy the 57,000-square-foot ODS Plaza, which also houses two ODS subsidiary companies (BenefitHelp Solutions and DAISY – see box at right). ODS printing and mailing operations are also based at this location.



## At a Glance: The ODS Companies

Founded in 1955, The ODS Companies is not only Oregon's oldest dental insurer but a fast-growing medical insurer, serving more than 600,000 Oregonians. It employs more than 700 workers at three Oregon locations: Milwaukie, Portland and La Grande.

ODS products include a variety of Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) and Point-of-Service (POS) plans. It offers both group and individual plans, as well as Medicare supplemental coverage. But it is the support behind these products that has earned the company its reputation for excellence. In 2004, ODS was named "Carrier of the Year" by the Oregon Association of Health Underwriters for its industry leadership, excellence in broker and agent communications and consistent education on products and services.

Subsidiaries include BenefitHelp Solutions, a third-party administration service for employers; DAISY, a dental practice software company; and Dentists Benefits Insurance Company (DBIC), a property and casualty insurance provider serving dentists.

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