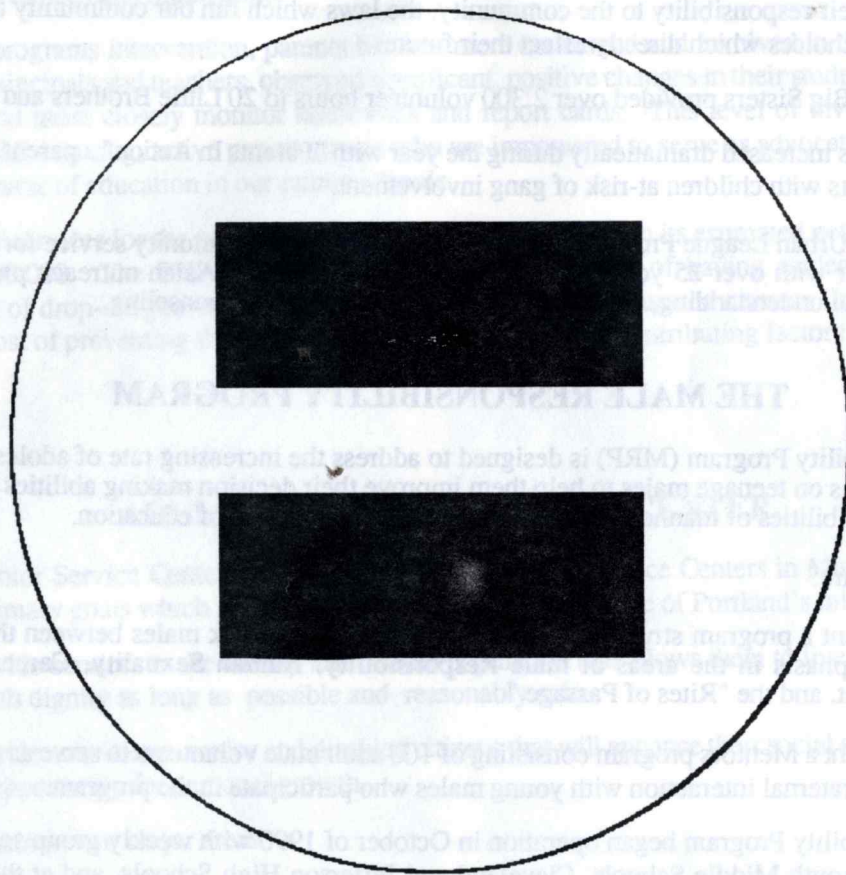


The Urban League of Portland



Update

NORTHEAST YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

The Northeast Youth Service Center is one of six Youth Service Centers in Multnomah County. The final figures are not in yet, but the Center has met or exceeded it's goals for the year, by providing individual and family counseling, gang awareness and prevention programs, parent and teen support groups, education and employment assistance, Big Brother and Big Sister Volunteer involvement, boy's and girl's groups and a Diversion program.

Over 1,000 youth were seen during the year, while providing over 12,000 hours of service. In our Diversion program, over 450 juveniles provided over 3,100 hours of community service with organizations like the Grace Collins Pre-School, the Red Cross, Columbia Boys and Girls Club, Salvation Army and sixteen other groups. This alternative to involvement in the court system helps relieve the stress on our judicial system and also helps many community based organizations and churches in our community. Community service helps the youth understand the direct correlation between their actions and its effect on the community. In the Diversion process the youth come to understand their responsibility to the community, the laws which run our community and they are better able to make positive choices which directly effect their future.

Our Big Brothers and Big Sisters provided over 2,300 volunteer hours to 20 Little Brothers and Sisters.

Parent involvement has increased dramatically during the year with "Parents In Action" a parent support group and groups targeting parents with children at-risk of gang involvement.

NULITES, a National Urban League Program enhancing leadership and community service for African-American youth, started this year with over 25 youth participating weekly. Our SE Asian outreach program works with issues related to cultural understanding, employment and youth and family counseling.

THE MALE RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM

The Male Responsibility Program (MRP) is designed to address the increasing rate of adolescent pregnancy, and to place emphasis on teenage males to help them improve their decision making abilities by making them aware of the responsibilities of manhood, fatherhood, and the importance of education.

The Program goals are:

To implement a program structured in helping at least 200 at risk males between the ages of 13-19, with an emphasis in the areas of male Responsibility, Human Sexuality, Career Planning, Life Management, and the "Rites of Passage."

To implement a Mentors program consisting of 100 adult male volunteers to serve as role models, and to provide fraternal interaction with young males who participate in the program.

The Male Responsibility Program began operation in October of 1990 with weekly group sessions at Harriet Tubman and Portsmouth Middle Schools, Cleveland and Jefferson High Schools, and at the Urban League Plaza. By the end of December, the program had 26 youth in the program and a new program coordinator was hired.

As news of the program grew within the community, the Urban League was designated LEAD agency to begin the African-American Male Connection Program (AAMCP). The AAMCP provides services to African-American males between the ages of 11 and 19 who are known to have gang affiliation, who dropped out of school, or who live in gang affected neighborhoods.

As of June 1991, MRP has enrolled a total of 87 young males in the program. AAMCP has served a total of 29 teenage males.

The annual cost of preventive services provided by the Male Responsibility Program is approximately \$132,131. The estimated cost to the public for corrective services (which includes the cost of police, courts, juvenile facilities, counseling personnel, etc.) is \$1,947,234. For every dollar the Urban League expended for the Male Responsibility Program, \$14.74 in additional public expenditure is saved. The Urban League of Portland is committed to instilling RESPONSIBILITY in teen males and the Portland community benefit greatly when these young men become productive citizens as a result of their participation in THE MALE RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM.

WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR. LEARNING CENTER

The Whitney M. Young, Jr. Learning Center is an after-school homework/tutorial assistance program for students who live predominantly in North/Northeast Portland and who could not otherwise afford supplemental academic assistance. Last year, 1989-90, the Center worked with 187 students from grades 7 through 12. This year, 1990-91, in keeping with the philosophy of The New Whitney Young Learning Center, which is to provide assistance in developing skills for the entire family, we had an enrollment of 257 students from grades 3 through college. These students represented a variety of cultures and ethnic backgrounds such as: African American, European, Asian and Hispanic. Those enrolled were from various schools within the Portland Metropolitan area. We served students from 11 different high schools, 7 middle schools and 11 elementary schools. In addition to this, students from 2 colleges, 7 private schools and 7 alternative education programs also benefitted from the Whitney Young Learning Center. Along with various parents helping out, we had 5 students from the School of Education at Portland State University to do their field placement work at the Center along with an additional 19 volunteer tutors. The parent enrichment program at the Center conducted 17 workshops.

In an effort to assist parents in becoming more effective advocates for their children, 97 parents participated in the bi-weekly workshops throughout the year. The sessions focused on building confidence, self-esteem, parenting skills, parents as advocates and much more.

As a result of the programs intervention, parents became more concerned and involved in the education process. They, along with principals and teachers, observed significant, positive changes in their students. Parents began to visit classrooms and more closely monitor homework and report cards. This level of involvement presents an opportunity to establish strong, active parent groups who are empowered to serve as advocates for monitoring and determining the course of education in our public schools.

The annual cost of services for the program is approximately \$94,000 with its estimated net public value (ENPV) of services at \$200,000. The ENPV includes such factors as the cost of having students repeat grade level requirements, cost of drop-out prevention, the benefit of having better educated citizens (including parents), and the approximate cost of preventing the likelihood of students becoming contributing factors to the rise in negative city statistics.

ADULT AND SENIOR SERVICE CENTER

The Adult and Senior Service Center is one of eight district Senior Service Centers in Multnomah County. The Center has two primary goals which are concurrent with the Urban League of Portland's mission statement:

- * To provide services to the elderly and disable population that allows them to live independently in their homes with dignity as long as possible and reasonably safe.
- * To provide activities to senior and disabled citizens that will enhance their social skills and provide them with the opportunity for personal growth.

The program focuses in two major areas:

- * Case management for individuals who are experiencing problems that jeopardize their independent living and diminishes their lifestyle.
- * Social activities to develop leadership skills, maintain or build self-esteem, establish community involvement for a healthy and enjoyable lifestyle.

Today the Urban League of Portland is the lead agency for the NEW Multicultural Senior Center in Northeast Portland. The Senior Services staff is now co-located with Loaves & Fishes Northeast Meal Site, and Aging Services' Northeast Branch Division. This new center offers a "single point of entry" for services for seniors and disable persons.

During 1990-91 fiscal year we have served over 500 clients. The current active case load is in excess of 240 clients. In addition to the case management activities we provided transportation to approximately 100 clients.

With the new center opened in the heart of the community, our Activities Director now on staff, and with the help of the many volunteers, the coming year will not only be exciting, but promises to fulfill the ongoing needs of our constituents.

EMPLOYMENT

The Employment Department has increased the number of "Employer Partners" working at the League in the "Partnership Employment Program" from 5 employers to 9 employers. The goal of the Partnership Program is to assist African-Americans and other people of color to achieve economic parity through employment. The original partners included: Nike, U.S. Bancorp, First Interstate Bank, Standard Insurance and Mentor Graphics. Since then McDonald's, Cellular One, Frito-Lay and Tektronix have joined the partnership. One of the partners, Nike, has funded a full time position at the League for one year. In addition, each partner provides a staff person to come and work at the League 1/2 day each week.

The employer volunteers perform essentially the same duties as rest of the League's employment staff (interviewing, referring clients to job openings, counseling, etc.). The addition of these employer volunteers has the impact of allowing the League to provide more and better services to our clients. It also provides greater sensitivity to, and an awareness of, cultural diversity on the part of the employers.

The Employment Department has placed 62 people in jobs during the year. During the first four months of 1991 the number of placements averaged just under 3 per month. With the addition of the recruiter position (funded by Nike) and the employer volunteers, the monthly average has increased to 13 per month.

Thanks to Our Portland Friends:

