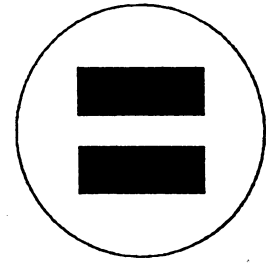


# Update



February 1993

## THE URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND

The Urban League of Portland has worked to promote equal opportunity for all Oregonians since 1945. The League was originally formed to advocate for African Americans who came to Portland to build ships during World War II. When Blacks were denied access to jobs and housing after the war, the League supported legislation and policies which promoted equal treatment in employment, housing and education. Today the League's stated mission is: "To help African Americans and others achieve parity and economic self-sufficiency through advocacy, community problem-solving, partnerships and by conducting programs designed to strengthen the growth and development of individuals, families and communities."

The League continues to advocate for those who have experienced discrimination and often acts as a mediator in disputes. The League also operates programs that directly serve the needs of its constituents. These programs are described below.

### ADULT & SENIOR SERVICES

The Adult and Senior Service Center is one of eight district Senior Service Centers in Multnomah County. The Center has two primary goals:

- 1) To provide services to the elderly and disabled population that allow them to live independently in their homes with dignity as long as it is possible and reasonably safe.*
- 2) To provide activities to senior and disabled citizens that will enhance their social skills and provide them with opportunities for personal growth.*

Case management services are provided for individuals who are experiencing problems that jeopardize their independent living and diminish their lifestyle. During the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1992 the Center has enrolled 88 new clients. The current active case load exceeds 800 clients. In addition to case management, the Center provides transportation to approximately 450 clients.

The Urban League is the lead agency for the **Multicultural Senior Center** at the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and N.E. Killingsworth in Northeast Portland. The Senior Services staff is co-located with Loaves and Fishes' Northeast Meal Site and Multnomah County's Aging Services' Northeast Branch, offering a "single point of entry" for senior and disabled services, with a focus on cultural diversity.

Social activities are provided for senior and disabled citizens to develop leadership skills and establish community involvement. These activities help seniors maintain or build self-esteem, which makes for a healthy and enjoyable lifestyle. About 150 seniors attend the Center daily for activities and meals. Programs at the Center include:

**Grandparents Education and Support Group:** 48 "parenting" grandparents are working together to improve their parenting skills and gain better access to services important to them and their grandchildren. A Grandparents Support Group meets every other Thursday and other activities help increase public awareness and community involvement in grandparent issues.

**Living with Alzheimer's or normal forgetfulness:** Caregivers meet in groups to share strategies, ideas, and laughter, while clients with Alzheimer's or normal forgetfulness gather to sing, reminisce, and be involved in art and music. Ten caregivers are currently enrolled.

**Literacy and English as a Second Language Classes:** These classes have helped 12 seniors improve their speaking/understanding of English and reading/writing skills.

## **ADVOCACY**

The Urban League advocates on a broad range of issues to improve the quality of life for African Americans and other disenfranchised groups and individuals. The **goals** of the program are to:

- (1) **Empower** constituents to understand and protect their rights and help agencies provide accessible and accountable service so that clients can become more self-sufficient;
- (2) **Educate and inform** organizations and the public about issues that negatively impact our constituents;
- (3) **Effect change** in attitudes, policies, systems, institutions and social conditions through problem solving and creating new alternatives and solutions.

Program components include:

**Research and Education** -- Conduct research and develop concept papers, positions and testimonies on issues pertinent to constituents; educate African Americans and others about existing and emerging issues negatively impacting their quality of life and empower them to effect change.

**Legislative** -- Create and influence legislation; educate elected officials. Examples include the League's support for a fair state tax structure and discussions with Oregon's congressmen about the National Urban League's Marshall Plan for America.

**Mediation and Conflict Resolution** -- Examples include the League's role as mediator after the Rodney King verdict and numerous job discrimination cases.

## **EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT**

The League's Employment Department helps minorities, women and others find suitable employment in the Portland metro area. Twenty local companies and organizations have become "Employer Partners" with the Urban League. The goal of the **Employer Partnership Program** is to help African Americans and other people of color achieve economic parity through employment. The original partners included: First Interstate Bank, Mentor Graphics, Nike, Standard Insurance, and U.S. Bancorp. Since then ARCO, Bank of America, Boeing, Cellular One, City of Gresham, Halton Co., McDonald's, Meier & Frank, Nationwide Insurance, Saif Corp., Tektronix, U.S. Navy, Wacker Siltronic and Zellerbach Industries have joined.

Partners send staff to work in the League's Employment Department periodically as volunteers, performing similar duties as the League's staff: interviewing, referring clients to job openings, counseling and pre-screening. The addition of these volunteers has allowed the League to provide more and better services to its clients. It also helps employers become more sensitive and aware of cultural diversity issues in the work place.

During the fiscal year ending June 1992, the Employment Department placed 280 people in jobs, an increase of almost 100% over the previous year. Recruitment focuses on all protected class job seekers. The department has also introduced monthly resume writing and interview preparation workshops.

On March 5-6, 1993 the Department will host its first annual "**Career Connections '93**", a job fair for job seekers and employers from throughout the Pacific Northwest.

## NORTHEAST YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

The Northeast Youth Service Center is one of six Youth Service Centers in Multnomah County. The Center met or exceeded its goals for the first six months of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1993. Goals were met by providing services to more than 300 youth in the areas of 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, boys and girls groups, Southeast Asian outreach, and a diversion program.

In the **Diversion Program** juveniles referred by the courts provided 770 community service hours to organizations like the Grace Collins Pre-School, Red Cross, Columbia Boys and Girls Club, and 17 other groups. This alternative to the juvenile court system helps relieve stress on our judicial system and helps the youth understand the direct correlation between their actions and the community they live in.

The **Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program** provided over 1,750 volunteer hours to 36 Little Brothers and Sisters. There were 12 new matches during the period, double our contracted amount.

The **Counseling** program grew as counselors began support groups for rape victims and youth with anger management difficulties. A new focus will be on support groups that build skills.

During the period more than 40 youth found entry-level jobs through the department's **Youth Employment Program** and the Youth Empowerment and Employment Program based at the Center.

**NULITES** is a National Urban League program of leadership development and community service for African-American youth. Last summer the program sent four youth to the National Urban League Youth Conference in San Diego.

The department is grateful for its many volunteers -- including AARP workers, student interns, advisory committee members and others. Together they provided 2,600 hours of service in the last six months.

## WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR. EDUCATION & CULTURAL CENTER

The Whitney M. Young Jr. Education & Cultural Center is an after-school homework/tutorial assistance program for students who could not otherwise afford supplemental academic assistance. During the school year the Center is open from 3 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Last year the Center offered its first summer program, emphasizing reading, math, writing and SAT test preparation.

Center features include a multicultural library, computers, guest speakers, cultural events, scholarship incentives, one-on-one tutorial assistance, and a parent enrichment program for adults. Most of the Center's students live in North/Northeast Portland. During the 1991-92 school year the Center served 303 students from grades 5 through college, an increase of 17% over 1990-91. These students represented a variety of cultures and ethnic backgrounds and came from 45 schools throughout the Portland metro area. As of February 1, 1993, the Center has 154 students enrolled. Along with community volunteers, 19 students from the School of Education at Portland State University did their field placement work at the Center this school year.

## THE MALE RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM

The goal of the Male Responsibility Program is to reduce the high rate of adolescent pregnancy by helping teenage males improve their decision-making abilities. The program emphasizes the responsibilities of manhood and fatherhood, and the importance of education. Program objectives are:

- 1) To implement a program structured to help at least 200 at-risk males between the ages of 11-19, with an emphasis on Male Responsibility, Human Sexuality, Career Planning, Life Management and the "Rites of Passage."

2) To implement a Mentors Program consisting of 100 adult male volunteers to act as role models and provide fraternal interaction with young males in the program.

The Male Responsibility Program began in October of 1990. Weekly group sessions are held at Harri Tubman, Whitaker and Beaumont middle schools, Jefferson High School, and at the Urban League. There are 117 youth currently enrolled. The Urban League is also the lead agency for 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, have dropped out of school, or who live in gang-affected neighborhoods. The two programs served 466 youth during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1992.

In 1992 the League introduced its **"Rites of Passage Program,"** a 12-month initiation into the responsibilities of manhood for young males ages 11 to 13. Three youth successfully graduated from the program at a community ceremony during the December Kwanzaa Festival.

Overall, the annual cost of preventive services provided by the Male Responsibility Program is approximately \$132,131. The estimated cost to the public to provide corrective services (which includes the cost of police, courts, juvenile facilities, counseling personnel, etc.) would have been \$1,947,234. For every dollar the Urban League expended for the Male Responsibility Program, \$14.74 in additional public expenditure is saved.

## **URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND STAFF**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Darryl Tukufu.....President and Chief Executive Officer  
 Michael Pullen.....Director of Marketing  
 Gloria James..... Administrative Assistant  
 Lovell Jones.....Building Supervisor

### **FINANCE**

Cletus Moore, Jr..... Vice President, Finance/Administration  
 Linda Long.....Employment Verification  
 Carla Prevost .....Membership Information

### **EDUCATION & CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

Herman L. Lessard, Jr. ....Director  
 Curtis Scott.....Coordinator, Male Responsibility Program  
 Joann Rosevear.....Asst. Coordinator, MRP

### **WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR. EDUCATION CENTER**

Gloria Phillips.....Program Assistant  
 Lemil Speed ..... Tutor  
 Yaw Osei-Boye ..... Tutor

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Brenda Sherman-Sanders ..... Employment Coordinator  
 Luong Vu ..... Employment Specialist  
 Donna Mackey ..... Volunteer Employment Staff

### **NORTHEAST YOUTH SERVICE CENTER**

Larry Foltz..... Director  
 Larry Clayton ..... Assistant Director  
 Carl Casanova ..... Diversion Coordinator  
 Pamela Davis..... Lead Counselor  
 Cheryl Johnson ..... Volunteer Coordinator  
 Shala Moaydie..... Counselor  
 Tony Ross ..... Youth Employment Coordinator  
 Katy Isa ..... Assistant Youth Employment Coordinator

Chiem-Seng Yaangh ..... Southeast Asian Outreach  
 Nova Hill ..... Receptionist  
 Donald Chalmers ..... Office Manager  
 Herbert Hager ..... Management/Information Specialist

### **ADULT AND SENIOR SERVICE CENTER**

Barbara Cotton..... Director  
 Pauline Reed ..... Activities Coordinator  
 Josephine Brown ..... Lead Case Manager  
 Daisylin Oten ..... Case Manager  
 Esther Hinson ..... Case Manager  
 Seng Fo Chein ..... Case Manager  
 LaVonne Freeman ..... Secretary

**For more information, contact: Urban League of Portland, 10 N. Russell St., Portland, OR 97227 (503) 280-2600**

