

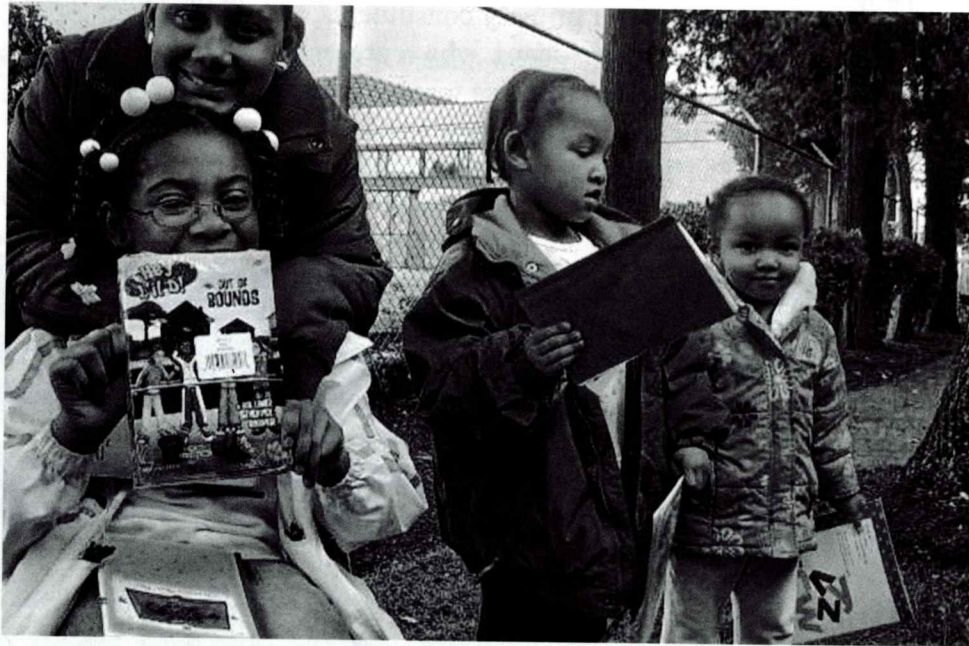
The URBAN EXPRESS

Vol. 2, No. 2

Urban League of Portland

Fall 2005

Children's Book Fair Spotlights Reading



The Annual Children's Book Fair was held at the North Portland Library on October 8, 2005 from 11am to 2pm under tents and cloudy skies. This entertaining and educational event positions books and reading as rewards for achievement with the goal of promoting literacy.

Pre-school through 5th grade

children complete a pre-determined number of crafts and activities and are given a free book as a reward. Activities include crafts such as making raffia dolls, book-, button-, and jewelry making, and reading or listening to stories in the multilingual "People Who Read" area.

The book fair featured wonderful entertainment including children's

theatre and dancing, drummers and storytellers. Official superhero mascots "Bookman" and "Bookwoman" were also present to read stories and help with activities.

Every year, the League teams up with the North Portland branch of the Multnomah County Library to hold the event. This year, the

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From the Desk of Vanessa Gaston

These are exciting times for the Urban League of Portland. The League has been working with Portland Public Schools and some of our business members to address the achievement gap for black youth. We're working to develop a program that will build on our current educational efforts by providing intensive academic support and one-on-one mentoring. We are excited about our new program and plan to start in November at Roosevelt High School. In the future, we will add a work-readiness component that includes workshops, job shadowing and internship opportunities. Our future goal is to make this a district-wide program.

2005 marks the Urban League of Portland's 60th year of deliver-

ing services and advocacy to the Portland community. In 1945, the League was founded to assist African Americans as they migrated from the South to find jobs, housing and education. It is ironic that during our 60th anniversary, Hurricane Katrina has once again thrust the Urban League into that same posture.

The National Urban League and its 100+ affiliates have extensive experience and a proven track record in helping people find employment, education and housing. Most of all, we have a commitment to our primary constituents, African Americans, who represent the majority of those who've been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The Urban League will assist in the

effort to help our fellow citizens rebuild their lives and transition into various communities.

The Urban League encourages everyone to work together and not be fearful of the unknown or blame each other for what's not happening. Right now, what's needed most is compassion, support, committed leadership, and a willingness to help and do the right thing for people displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

We thank everyone who has helped the League maintain its presence in the community over the past 60 years, and we look forward to your continued support.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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National Urban League 2005 Annual Conference “Celebrating 95 Years of Empowering Communities and Changing Lives”

The National Urban League celebrated 95 years of outstanding achievements at its 2005 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. For 95 years, the National Urban League has served the needs of African Americans in the most vital areas of daily life: economic empowerment, education, advocacy, housing and social and civil justice.

This year's conference included speakers such as Rev. Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Senator Hillary Clinton, Representative Harold Ford Jr., Donna Brazile, Dick Gregory, and Hon. Andrew Young.

The conference consisted of a black business expo, career fair and workshops that dealt with issues impacting black males, the educational system, black entrepre-



Vanessa Gaston (center) and other affiliate CEOs at 2005 Annual Conference

neurship, health issues, homeownership, etc.

The conference also featured the first annual Urban Influencer Summit. The summit, geared toward African American professionals under the age of 40, focused pri-

marily on wealth-building and civil rights issues.

Entertainment during the conference was excellent, with concerts featuring such artists as India Arie, Brian McKnight, Sin Miedo, Doug E. Fresh and Chuck Brown.

NULITES Program Focuses on Roosevelt High School

In 2003, the Urban League of Portland reestablished a local chapter of the National Urban League's Incentives to Excel and Succeed (NULITES) program. NULITES is designed to promote academic achievement, leadership development and career awareness among African American high school students who are not achieving to their full potential.

Over the next few years, the League will add academic support, mentoring, job shadowing, internship and parental involvement components (weekly contact with parents via telephone or home visits, quarterly parent/family events, and connection to other community

resources) into the program. These new components, coupled with existing activities (educational and career awareness workshops and leadership development activities), will form a comprehensive youth development model.

During the 2005/2006 school year, the League will focus its recruitment on freshman in Roosevelt High School, with the goal of serving a total of 15 underachieving students. In the second and third years, a total of 25 (freshman and sophomores) and 35 students (freshman, sophomores and juniors) will be served, respectively. The League also will seek opportunities to expand its reach to other

high schools in Portland.

In May 2005, the League was awarded a three-year grant of \$115,621 from the City of Portland's Children's Investment Fund to help support the NULITES program. Funding for fiscal year 2005/2006 also has been received from the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, Nike Factory Store Grant Program, and the Janet Spencer Weekes Foundation.

For more information about the NULITES program, or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer mentor, please call Howard Moriah at (503) 280-2642.

2005 Equal Opportunity Day Dinner a Tremendous Success



From left: Charles Wilhoite (Chair of the Board of Directors), Vanessa Gaston (President and CEO) and Fred Hansen (2005 Equal Opportunity Award recipient)

photo by Haleah Photography

The Urban League of Portland's 2005 Equal Opportunity Day Dinner, held on October 11 at the Portland Hilton Hotel, was a tremendous success. More than 750 people attended the event and approximately \$171,000 in gross revenue was raised to support the League's programs and services.

This year's dinner celebrated the League's 60 years of service to the community. During the dinner, Fred Hansen, General Manager of TriMet, was presented with the 2005 Equal Opportunity Award in recognition of his important contributions to equality and economic advancement for all people. New head coach of the Portland Trail Blazers, Nate McMillan, delivered the keynote address. McMillan spoke about his upbringing and the contributions he hopes to make within the Trail Blazers and in the broader community.

Matt Hennessee, President and CEO of Quiktrak, Inc. and Senior Pastor at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, served as the emcee. The dinner's honorary co-chairs were Peggy Fowler, CEO and President of Portland General Electric, and Dr. Preston Pulliams, President of Portland Community College.

The dinner was sponsored by:

- Intel
- Kaiser Permanente
- New Seasons Market
- Nike
- NW Natural
- Oregon Health & Science University
- Portland General Electric
- Portland Trail Blazers
- Providence Health System
- Wells Fargo
- Willamette Management Associates

Senior Services Program Update

The Urban League of Portland Adult & Senior Services Program enjoyed many positive outcomes over the past few months.

A three-day energy forum was held October 17-19 and more than 500 seniors signed up for energy assistance, which will be extremely helpful since energy costs are expected to rise dramatically this winter. We also hosted winterization classes, and 200 seniors were given tips on how to keep their homes well-lit and warm during the winter season. They were also given kits for their windows, energy-saving light bulbs and many other useful tools.

The Senior Center began offering computer classes with a new

instructor in September. Given the high demand for the classes, the activities coordinator has arranged the classes in 8-week segments so more seniors have a chance to learn this new technology. Senior Center clients also can practice in the computer lab during the afternoons when no class is scheduled. To add capacity, four more computers will be donated to the computer lab by Sabin Community Development Corporation.

Case management continues to increase and, so far this fiscal year, 167 seniors have been served.

We've had some staff changes in the Senior Services Program recently. During the summer, we hired David Kraft as our new

driver. We're also recruiting for an information and assistance specialist since long-time Urban League employee, LaToya Govan, resigned from her position in July. Laretta Slaughter (formerly a part-time case manager with the League) is filling that role until a replacement is hired and trained.

On October 1, the League's Senior Services Program relocated its administrative offices from the Multicultural Senior Center at 5325 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the Urban League headquarters at 10 N. Russell Street. The activities coordinator will continue to work out of the Multicultural Senior Center and all activities will remain there. Other staff members have scheduled a few hours each week to spend at the Center so they can be accessible to clients and our colleagues from partnering organizations (Multnomah County ADS and Loaves and Fishes).

The Senior Services Program staff continues to recruit volunteers and develop new activities so that all seniors remain involved and active. We want the program to be educational and fun, so that our very special clients have what they need to live as comfortably and safely as possible.

Seeking Volunteers!!!

The League is always looking for volunteers to share their time and talents. Our education department and Senior Center have ongoing opportunities to get involved with League programs. If you can't make a monthly commitment, but still want to help out, you can volunteer at one of the League's special events or outreach activities which take place throughout the year.

Please contact Rachael Barry at 503.280.2600 for more information.

Steven Shane Elected to Board

In May 2005, the Urban League of Portland elected Steven Shane to the Board of Directors. Steven manages Nike's Factory Store in Northeast Portland. Prior to his arrival in Portland, he managed Nike's Factory Stores in Orlando, Florida and San Marcos, Texas.

Steven studied business management at Southwest Texas State University (San Marcos, Texas) and Hill College (Hillsboro, Texas).

Steven's commitment to inspire and develop today's youth into tomorrow's leaders is evident in

his wealth of community service activities.

The League is very pleased to have Steven's talent, enthusiasm and expertise on the Board.

Book Fair

(continued from page 1)

League helped contribute books to the event, thanks to a National Urban League grant program that awarded our affiliate with a supply of Scholastic books.

By the end of the day, there were big smiles and amazing craft creations, and every child went home with a book in hand. The 230 attendees had a great time, as did the 35 staff and volunteers.



Urban League of Portland Young Professionals

Urban League of Portland Young Professionals (ULPYP) aims to provide leadership development, economic empowerment and community volunteer opportunities for young professionals across the Portland metropolitan area.

ULPYP supports the goals and

mission of the Urban League by serving the community and developing members through mentoring, economic empowerment, political engagement and leadership development programs.

ULPYP also works to strengthen its members by encouraging them to

achieve balance in their lives even as they work to strengthen their communities. To this end, ULPYP strives to develop programs that encourage individual members' personal and professional development. For more information on ULPYP, please call 503.280.2630.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 16, 2005

Senior Center Holiday Party
5325 NE MLK Jr. Boulevard

March 9, 2006

Annual Career Connections Job Fair
Doubletree Hotel, Lloyd Center

May 9, 2006

Urban League of Portland Annual Membership Meeting
Location TBA

October 3, 2006

Annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner
Portland Hilton Hotel (921 SW 6th Ave)

Support the Urban League of Portland and Become Part of the Movement

Join the Urban League of Portland and make positive changes in the community!

For 60 years, the Urban League of Portland has helped empower African Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment and economic security. Your tax-deductible contribution will directly support the League's much-needed programs, outreach and advocacy.

In addition to individual memberships, the League also has membership programs for businesses and community partners (nonprofit organizations, professional associations, and faith-based organizations).

To learn more about the Urban League's membership programs or other charitable giving options, please call the League's Development Department at (503) 280-2611.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

To become an individual member, please complete this application and return it to the Urban League of Portland at 10 N. Russell Street, Portland, OR 97227.

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

MEMBER TYPE	CONTRIBUTION	BENEFITS
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+) or Student	\$10	membership card, newsletter, notification about League events
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$35 - \$99	membership card, newsletter, notification about League events
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$100 - \$499	all of the above, plus recognition in the League's annual report and copy of annual report
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer	\$500	all of the above, plus invitation to yearly reception with the League's President/CEO
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1,000	all of the above, plus recognition at the League's Annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$2,500 & over	all of the above, plus 2 complimentary tickets to the League's Annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner and recognition on the League's website

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Check enclosed for \$ _____ *Please make check payable to the Urban League of Portland.*

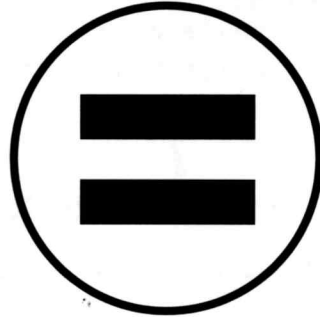
Credit Card Visa MasterCard Credit Card # _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

*All memberships are ANNUAL from the date when application/payment is received in the League office.

MISSION

The Urban League of Portland helps empower African Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment and economic security.



Administrative Offices
10 N. Russell Street, Portland, OR 97227
(503) 280-2600

www.ulpdx.org

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