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Four elegant women, Gwen Allen, Dorothy Butler, Jay Chauncey and Nedra Thatcher opened the Realty Group in the little white house on Northwest 20th and Everett Aug. 17, 1973. Commitment and service toward enhanced livability of neighborhoods are the foundation of this company. The elegant Abbot Mills residance is a fitting and proper headquarters to carry on our neighborhood business begun 17 years ago by these four dedicated women.

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Street kids

Catherine Stauffer talked with youth who live on the streets of Portland

Photos and copy by CatherineStauffer

Kris, 16

For Kris, a runaway from Washington State, "sleeping on the sidewalk is better than sleeping at home. I couldn't go into the youth shelter because there was a runner report out on me. "I was taught to believe that being gay was wrong," she says. "I've always thought about girls, but if my mother knew she would have me locked up."

Nathan, 18
Phoebe, 19

Nathan and Phoebe are best friends. They sleep in hotel rooms and hang out at the Green House, where they eat and get their mail. "Being gay at the Green House is OK," says Phoebe. "A lot of the people out here you'd think would beat your ass–but they turn out to be pretty cool."

Loreli, 18
Arrow, 18

Loreli and Arrow have been sleeping in the Portland Youth Shelter for a year while selling bracelets on the street for spending money. Arrow has been on the street since she was fifteen. She is now three and a half months pregnant. "There are a lot of us out here," says Loreli. "Three quarters of the kids I hang out with are gay or bisexual."

Dakota, 17

"The town I'm from in Montana was too small to be gay in," says Dakota, who came to Portland 10 months ago. "I lived on the streets for 5 months before I got a place to live. Now I share a place with 3 roommates in a nice area...It's been hard but that's what it's like when you're gay and you have to get out of where you're from."

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