

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

families in Southwest Washington. Last year it helped 61 households, but the number of folks served has increased more than 25 percent since then.

The pantry is signing up sponsors through Nov. 26. People may donate food, gifts, time or money.

Sponsors are asked to purchase a laundry basket and fill it with holiday fixings (stuffing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie), canned goods (soup, vegetables, milk) and cooking products (oil, sugar, flour). Turkey already is provided. Suggested nonfood items include bathroom products, laundry detergent and aluminum foil.

Sponsors also may provide one to three gifts for each family member. Participants will receive a list of helpful suggestions once they sign up with the pantry.

Baskets need to be delivered Dec. 18 or 19 to Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd, which is located in Suites E and F at 2200 Broadway in Vancouver. Households will receive them Dec. 20 and 21.

For more information or to volunteer call 360-695-1480 or e-mail rdeplin@msn.com. Send contributions to MCC Holiday Baskets, P.O. Box 5094, Vancouver, WA 98668.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOMO

Dorothy, hold on to the dog! There's an announcement in the air. The board of Pride Northwest has picked the theme for Portland Pride 2003—and the winner is "Lions and Tigers and Queers, Oh My!"

Here a few other salient facts you'll need for your summer planning purposes. The festivities will be held the second weekend in June rather than the traditional third. Although the schedule is a long way from being finalized, it safely can be noted that the waterfront festival will be June 14 and 15, with the big Judy Garland love-fest parade marching through the streets of downtown June 15.

Once again the parade falls on Father's Day, so your best bet is to take Dad to breakfast, then plop the family down on Broadway and wait for the PFLAG contingent to come along. And if Daddy already happens to be marching with the Portland Leather Alliance, well, then, all the better.

Pride Northwest has many new faces on the board this year. Returning to lead the pack offi-

cially as board chairman is Jack Keegan. Joining him are James Arrington, Patricia Muhlbauer, Sunsong Firedancer, Andru Johnson, Norm Costa, Brian Robinson and Rich Kibbons.

Pride Northwest is ready for the public to start thinking about nominations for the Spirit of Pride Awards. These honors are given each year to recognize individuals or organizations and their outstanding contributions. Consideration for the award includes visibility, years of voluntary service and leadership in the sexual minorities community as well as the community at large.

All are invited to join the board for its meetings, which are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center, 1825 S.W. Broadway. Bring your ideas, energy and enthusiasm along with your ruby slippers.

For more information on the nominating process visit www.pridenw.org.

CANFIELD HONORED

James Canfield, Oregon Ballet Theatre artistic director, was presented with a Spirit of Portland Award during a special ceremony Nov. 14 at City Hall. The honors are given annually to residents who have made outstanding contributions to the community during the past year.

Canfield has hypnotized audiences with his daring and inventive choreography for more than a decade. OBT's breathtaking ballet performances are credited for infusing Oregon with a love of dance.

Canfield also has been honored for his outstanding service to children. In 1995 he introduced "OBT Exposed!"—a free annual outdoor rehearsal workshop held in Portland's downtown park blocks. This year he will retire after 13 years of service.

"I love the Spirit of Portland Awards," Mayor Vera Katz said. "It's the day each year we come together and celebrate the contributions these citizens have made to the Portland community. Their hard work and dedication have strengthened our neighborhoods and enriched the lives of their fellow Portlanders. My congratulations to all of this year's recipients who help make and keep Portland the most livable city in America." □

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA, NATALIE SHAPIRO, KAT WILSON and MARTY DAVIS



Jack Keegan (front) introduces Pride Northwest board members (clockwise from center) Patricia Muhlbauer, James Arrington, Norm Costa, Brian Robinson, Rich Kibbons, Sunsong Firedancer and Andru Johnson

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