

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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already have established relationships with street kids.

A committee was assigned to determine concrete aspects of this idea and given the task of finding a person of color to serve on the roundtable. All are welcome to share their ideas during the next meeting from noon to 1:30 p.m. Jan. 14 at 1132 S.W. 13th Ave.

For more information contact roundtable co-chairman Christopher Webster at pdxprouduwolf@hotmail.com.

LEATHER ALLIANCE GIVES UNTIL IT HURTS

The Portland Leather Alliance held a holiday party Dec. 8 at Hobo's to benefit Esther's Pantry, Outside In and Todd's Corner.

About 70 people brought bags and boxes filled with personal hygiene items, phone cards, clothing, food, household items and cash contributions. In addition, PLA donated \$500 to each of the three nonprofits.

"It is important to the members of the Portland Leather Alliance to give to other organizations all year long, not just at the holidays," president Ruth Thomas said. "We believe that while we are having fun, we should be helping people who aren't as fortunate as we are."

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Greater Seattle Business Association and the Pride Foundation recently announced that applications are available for their 2003 scholarship programs, which build leadership and promote diversity in the Pacific Northwest gay, lesbian, bi and trans community.

The awards of up to \$5,000 each support college, creative or vocational training and are open to residents of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska who demonstrate commitment to human and civil rights for all people. Applications are due Feb. 3.

The business association's program has awarded 125 scholarships totaling more than \$200,000 since its inception in 1990. The foundation has given about \$300,000 to more than 200 recipients.

For more information call 206-363-9188, 206-323-3318 or 800-735-7287 or visit the Internet sites www.thegsba.org or www.pridefoundation.org.

ANN SHEPHERD'S CONDITION DETERIORATES

Portland PFLAG pioneer Ann Shepherd has been placed on in-home hospice care, according to her daughter Susie. A nurse said Shepherd's body had deteriorated to the point that it no longer could use all of the medications being pumped into it to return her to a regular heart rhythm.

Susie predicted that once her mother's lungs are relaxed by the hospice medications,



From left, Ron Rasmussen of Esther's Pantry, "Rutha Claus" Thomas of Portland Leather Alliance and John Coomler of Outside In celebrate the season of giving Dec. 8 at Hobo's

she still will "be with us for some time to come." A hospital bed has been placed in Shepherd's dining room so she "can look outside and watch her beloved squirrels and birds and see both the inside and outdoor Christmas trees!"

Susie wrote in an e-mail to friends Dec. 11: "Please continue to call, visit, bring your dogs or a friend's dog, send cards, express your love for her any way you feel comfortable—she loves reading the e-mail messages you send that I print up for her. Thank you all again for your continuing prayers."

Well-wishers can send e-mail to Traskgirl@aol.com.

GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS IN ASHLAND

A new gay bar has opened in Ashland, according to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Political Caucus of Southern Oregon. Abajo, which is owned by Pat and Mike South, is located at 76 N. Pioneer St., directly below Tabu, a "Nuevo Latino" restaurant.

A grand opening celebration will be held starting at 9 p.m. Jan. 3. There is no cover charge.

While the gay bar is a sign of progress in the relatively conservative region, Ashland recently received some bad news from Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. According to the nonprofit organization's December newsletter, the Rogue Valley chapter was disbanded when the outgoing president received no response to her pleas for new leadership.

For more information about Abajo call 541-482-3900.

KBOO SEEKS PROPOSALS

KBOO-FM is taking proposals for a weekly, 30-minute, locally produced gay, lesbian, bi, and trans news and public affairs show. The community radio station especially is seeking

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