



meaningful gifts and community sharing

Charities and events on the *Just Out* list
by Sarah Dougher

This holiday season, it is more imperative than ever to support events and organizations that make the queer community in Oregon and Southwest Washington as strong and sustainable as it can be.

Just Out urges our readers to educate themselves about the organizations listed here and to give generously to those that resonate with you.

On the Wing of White Bird

White Bird's innovative program NEST (No Empty Seats Today) has served hundreds of local people with an opportunity to see contemporary dance at its best.

A quick call to White Bird can get the seats from season ticketholders who cannot attend redirected to a local school or charity.

In addition, White Bird's education outreach program gives community members a chance to see dance in their neighborhoods.

Catch Alonzo King's *LINES* Ballet from Dec. 8 to 10 and Nuevo Ballet Español's radical flamenco Feb. 8. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, founded by an out gay man, comes to town March 14 and 15; NEST tickets for this performance would be an excellent gift for a young queer person involved with Outside In, the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center or p:ear.

For more information visit the White Bird Web site at www.whitebird.org.

Sisters Gather Toys for Kids Affected by AIDS

The Order of Benevolent Bliss, Missionary Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Portland launched their toy donation drive Nov. 17. Toy donation barrels have been set-up at several participating clubs downtown: C.C. Slaughters, Scandals, Boxxes, the Red Cap Garage and Silverado.

The Toy Barrels will stay out until Dec. 4 so people can continue to donate. Toys will be distributed by the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation later this month.

Mindful Gifts

The Mindful Gifts Bazaar will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 10 at Bridgeport United Church of Christ, 621 N.E. 76th Ave.

The Mindful Gifts Bazaar is a group fund-raiser, a shopping mall and an experience in community building. Shoppers will find meaningful, unique and affordable gifts representing the services or projects of dozens of local nonprofits. About 45 of the region's small nonprofit organizations will participate this year. At the bazaar, you will find not only creative products, but an opportunity to creatively support the organizations you feel strongly about.

For more information, call 503-258-0992 or visit www.bridgeportucc.org.

Friends of People with AIDS Hold Kids Holiday Party

Instead of delivering the toys to individual families this year, the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation is going to have a holiday party for the children it serves.

At this event, the families will be able to pick up their gifts, enjoy a nice meal, mingle with other families and their health providers, participate in arts and crafts activities, and enjoy some fabulous entertainment.

The hope of the organization is to provide an atmosphere where the families can put aside their challenges for one afternoon and have some fun.

The foundation serves a wide range of ages, from newborn to 18 years old, and asks for donations such as educational toys, dolls, games, clothing, coats and shoes.

Donations can be made online at www.friendspwa.org or mailed to P.O. Box 4014, Portland, OR 97208. If you choose to mail your donation, please go to the Web site and print the donation form.

p:ear—Life Is More Than Surviving, It Is Thriving

p:ear builds positive relationships with homeless and transitional youth through education, art and



Sister Miso Honey, prioress and mistress of ceremonies of the Order of Benevolent Bliss, works with her sisters and community members to get toys for all the good children.

recreation to affirm personal worth and create more meaningful and healthy lives. It is estimated that between 30 percent and 40 percent of young people on the streets are there as a result of conflicts with their family of origin because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. p:ear provides mentorship, nourishing food, educational opportunities and artistic tools to address the needs of this resilient population of young people. Through partnerships with local businesses and individuals, p:ear youth are integrated into our community at a time when most other structures ostracize them. Support for flexible responses to these youth comes from donations of time, cash and resources. To make a donation, call 503-228-6677 or visit the Web site www.pearmentor.org.

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Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of many internationally known dance companies brought to Portland by White Bird.



Darcelle poses with Kevin Friends (left) and his partner, Dave Connor. Both work with the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation.



p:ear youth participate in an encaustic workshop.

Pet Astrology

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