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SMYRC

For more than seven years, the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center has been *the* safe haven for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people who ask for no more than a nonthreatening and welcoming place to be themselves.

SMYRC is far more than just a comfortable place for young people to kick back and feel accepted. Professional staff and more than 100 community volunteers provide vital mental health and related support services for more than 1,000 queer youth in the Portland metropolitan area every year.

SMYRC's mission is to create safety and support for youth through empowerment, community building and education.

At SMYRC queer youth participate in meaningful, affirming activities. They enrich their talents in the visual arts and in music; gain real-world experience in community organizing; learn to cope with and succeed in our public education system; find peer support; join mental health support groups; enroll in case management, counseling and job readiness services; and much more.

SMYRC is the sole drop-in resource center for sexual minority youth in Oregon.

SMYRC Youth Leaders,

its latest program, fosters leadership abilities through training and community organizing. Experience shows that by developing these skills, youth become more confident of themselves and more involved in their communities and inspire others to do the same.

To donate to SMYRC, visit www.cascadiabhc.org and select the "give" link.

Pet Photos with Santa

Family Dogs New Life Shelter is a small nonprofit, no-kill dog rescue at 9101 S.E. Stanley Ave.

This unique shelter specializes in canine adoptions. Family Dogs has no concrete or kennels; it offers a warm, home-type environment for both canine residents and potential adopters.

Family Dogs will have its first Santa Portraits from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 3. Just \$12 will get you a photo session and two 4x6 prints. All profits support Family

Dogs New Life Shelter.

For more information, call 503-771-5596 or go to www.familydogsnewlife.org.

Bear Hug for the Community

The Oregon Bears' Annual Teddy Bear Drive and Show will take place from 7 to 10 p.m. Dec. 11. The event will happen at Darcelle XV Showplace, 208 N.W. Third Ave., at a cost of \$5 or one clean stuffed animal for a needy kid.

Entertainer tips will be donated to the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation. Some unique items will be auctioned off as well. Credit cards will be accepted.

The show will feature numerous entertainers from the Oregon Bears and their infamous dance numbers as well as drag entertainers from Portland.

This is the fourth year of this event, which has been heralded and awarded as the fund-raising event of the year more than once.

All proceeds raised and toys donated go directly to the foundation's holiday drive for kids.

No advance tickets or reservations are needed. Cocktails and snacks will be available for purchase.

LifeLine: Mid-Valley Support for People with AIDS

LifeLine AIDS Project was founded in October 1996 as a means of supplying holiday food baskets and gifts to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families in the mid-Willamette Valley. LifeLine has grown into a full-service organization that provides education and prevention information and

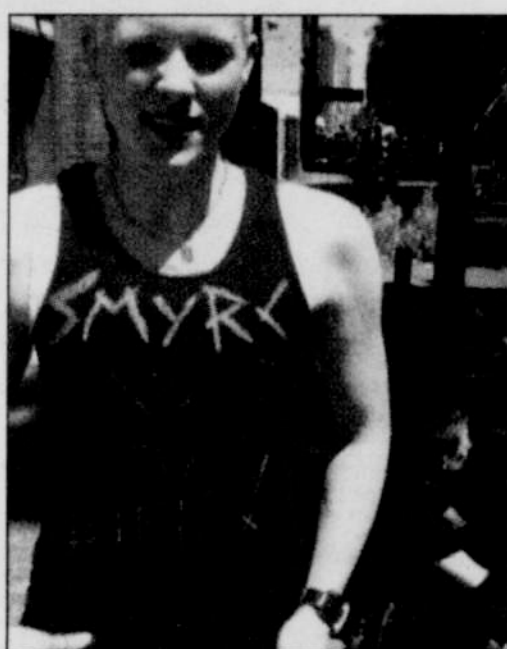


All the glamour, glitz and stuffed animals you can take: The Oregon Bears promise a stunning evening Dec. 11 at Darcelle's.

community outreach to at-risk men, women and young adults; client services; and assistance for items that may be ineligible through federal Ryan White CARE Act funding.

Each December, LifeLine provides holiday food boxes and gifts to approximately 70 clients. LifeLine welcomes contributions of nonperishable food, toiletry supplies, cleaning supplies, pet food, Safeway and Fred Meyer gift cards and unwrapped gifts for men, women and children.

LifeLine is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and can be contacted at 2350 State St., P.O. Box 12513, Salem OR 97309-0513. For more information, call 503-371-4455 or e-mail lifeline@lifelineproject.org. 10

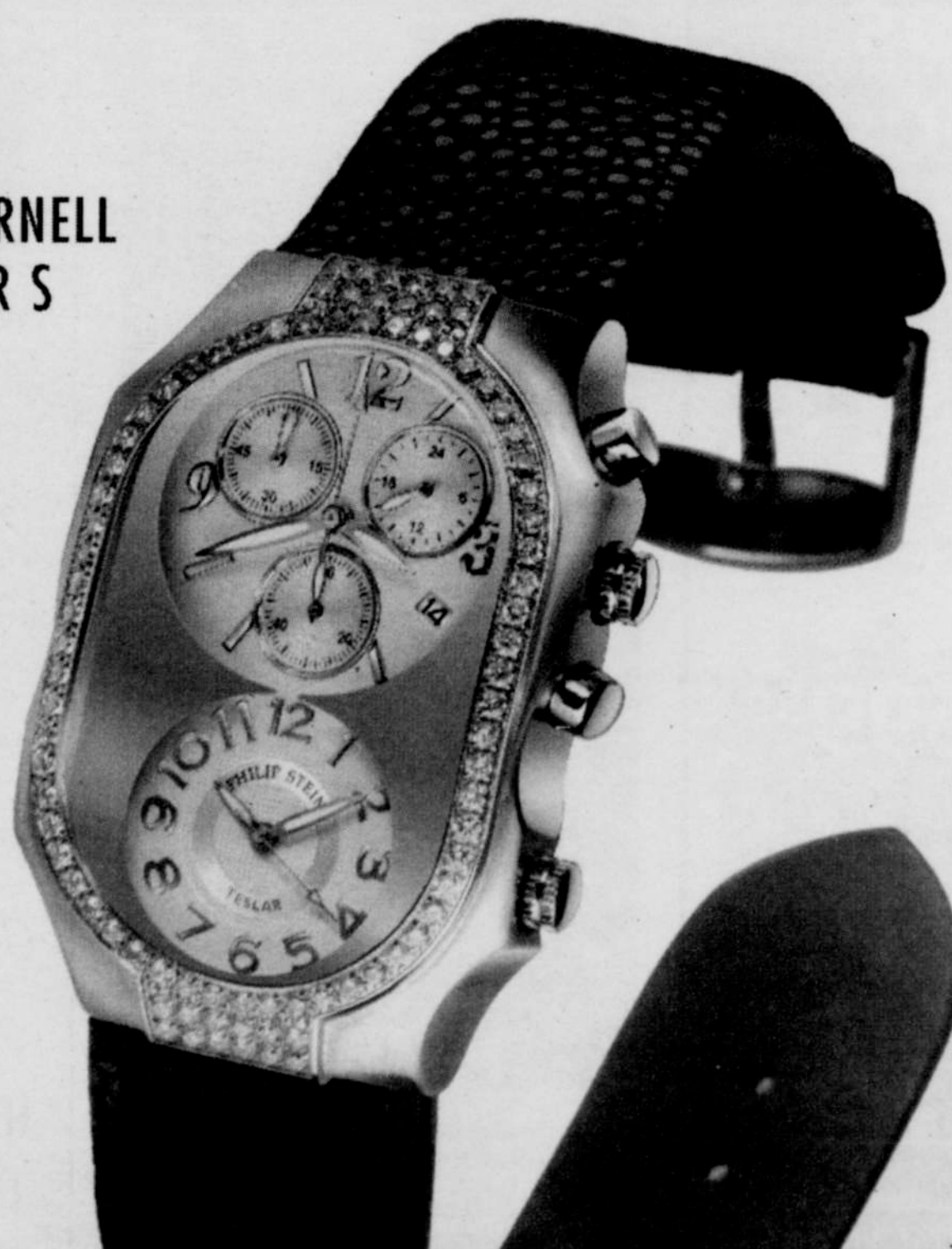


Sparks poses in a handmade T-shirt.



Get your best friend's photo taken with Santa and benefit a great no-kill shelter.

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