

Pixie Project Serves Pet Lovers

Nate, a 1 1/2-year-old black domestic short-hair cat, was abandoned by his owner and taken to a shelter. Now, Nate hangs out in the cat room at the Pixie Project, 510 N.E. Martin Luther King

MARTY DAVIS



Karli Covington (left, with Malcolm) and Amy Sacks (right, with Sadie) are helping animals get fixed and adopted through the Pixie Project.

Jr. Blvd. Like Nate, many other cats and dogs at the Pixie Project are ready to go home with loving families.

The Pixie Project is a nonprofit, no-kill adoption agency that raises awareness about spaying and neutering pets. With profits from its pet supply store, the Pixie Project puts animals into the inner-city spotlight. Anyone passing the Oregon Convention Center can see the cat room in the front window, complete with ladders, scratching posts and several cats waiting for permanent homes.

Amy Sacks, founder and executive director of the Pixie Project, said: "I've always been an animal lover, and so has my family. I saw the unbelievable need for education and resources—people buy dogs and cats at pet shops when there are hundreds of great family animals waiting at shelters."

The organization has taken temperament-tested rescued dogs into high school classrooms to teach students about "choosing the adoption option" and spaying or neutering pets.

The Pixie Project works in partnership with Outside In, a nonprofit organization providing low-cost health care for homeless and at-risk youth, of which many are queer-identified. Virginia Woof Dog Daycare, Outside In's employment training program, helps at-risk youth gain job skills and training while caring for and playing with dogs.

At-risk youth benefit from the partnership with the Pixie Project's job training component, including four weeks of animal training and eight weeks of direct retail experience.

"We have three employees, and one identifies as gay. Same-sex couples are wonderful adopters; they have a great, nurturing focus on family, and the animals get so much love and attention," said Sacks. "We get excited when same-sex couples adopt!"

Anyone can help by buying pet supplies from the Pixie Project store, signing up to foster a dog for one to two weeks (food and supplies provided by the Pixie Project) and volunteering to walk a dog clad in an "Adopt Me" vest along the Eastbank Esplanade.

For more information e-mail info@pixie-project.org or visit the store and adoption center at 510 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Frontrunners Makes Splash at Pride

The Portland Frontrunners gay running team springs to mind around Pride season because of the group's annual Fun Run.

With more than 100 members, Portland Frontrunners has become a healthy staple in the sexual minorities community.

Since 2001, when the organization became a nonprofit division of International Frontrunners, the club has continued to grow. Its mission is to promote good health and provide positive social interaction through running, walking and events in a supportive queer running community.

"I absolutely love this organization because it is great for runners at any level. When I started with Frontrunners I was out of shape and had never been a runner, but people were so supportive and stayed with my pace to motivate and support me," said CM Hall, spokeswoman for the organization.

The organization's weekly runs have gained popularity. Monday night's Ladies Run has had a major impact for runners' bodies and minds. "Not only did I meet my partner of over three years during the ladies run, but I also have been able to serve as a mentor to younger female runners and have developed great relationships in the process," said Frontrunners member Liz Kellogg.

Like many local groups, Portland Frontrunners is gearing up for Pride weekend. Frontrunners is



Clockwise from left, Portland Frontrunners Denise Bredezen, Kamm Prongay, Gary Chappel, Kathy Chang, Ken Brashier and CM Hall participate in the 2005 Red-Nosed Runderer.

helping sponsor *Just Out's* Gay Skate Night from 7 to 9 p.m. May 19 at Oaks Park, 1 S.E. Spokane St. "We plan on offering special membership deals during Gay Skate and through Pride weekend for anyone who would like to come and see what Frontrunners is all about," said Hall.

The Pride Fun Run starts at 11 a.m. June 14.

"Not only does Frontrunners allow members

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