



PHOTO BY JOE GLODE

Children making Christmas ornaments at the Family Preservation Project reunion and holiday party at YWCA in downtown Portland, Dec. 20.

Mimi Clinton, currently living in Lake Oswego, and her son Jack, 4, at the Family Preservation Project reunion and holiday party at the YWCA. Mimi participated in the Family Preservation Project while incarcerated at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. "Jack was really stressed out while I was gone, and he was really anxious, obviously, about not understanding what was going on," she said. "He was two when I went in. Through FPP, I was able to really learn how to talk to him about it and be open. It made it something that was less scary and just life."



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When its funding was on the line, the women in the program organized to convince state lawmakers of FPP's value and role in breaking the cycle of incarceration and poverty. All but one of the women profiled in the film are now free, and FPP continues to operate.

After the ballet, the women and their children gathered for a celebration at the YWCA. The reunion was the first time in many years the families were able to celebrate the holidays together.



Katrina Going, 30, from Corvallis with her daughter Kayvana, 11, at the Family Preservation Project reunion and holiday party.

Katrina participated in FPP during the last two years of her six year sentence.

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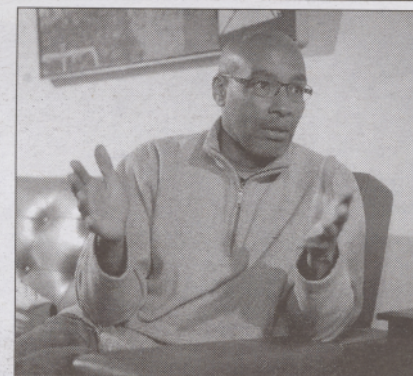


PHOTO BY JOE GLODE

Perry Gruber has developed Copiosis, an economic system he believes can replace capitalism.

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Amanda Brohman said capitalism works. "I think that with everything, there's the pros and the cons, and I think one of the cons with capitalism is the greed and the polarization, but in general, I'm pro capitalism."

Brohman grew up in the Portland metro area and lives near Kenton with her husband, who works in the tech industry, and two sons, who attend B's Preschool.

She offers organic chicken eggs from her backyard coop, along with babysitting and photography. She said she likes the idea of Copiosis because it brings her closer to her community.

"I think about emergency preparedness," she said, "and that aspect of knowing your neighbor and being helpful toward one another drew me in."

With a background in accounting, she said she questions how the algorithm captures everything, but she said she believes in the idea, so she'd rather not worry about the logistics, which can be figured out later if it catches on.

"For me," said Brohman, "it feels very much like a help your neighbor out, or a pay it forward."

Copiosis is in the early stages, and nowhere near the magnitude its founder intends for it to reach.

There are a lot of challenges in growing Copiosis, said Gruber, "but they're not insurmountable."

For one, he said, the momentum of living in a society where people have to earn a living doesn't leave a lot of extra time for participating in something like Copiosis.

"Our system has destroyed community in a lot of ways," he said, noting that a participant in Chico is having a hard time rallying others to help with the cleaning of someone's house.

"When it comes to the nitty gritty of taking the action and weighing that against time that they could be watching TV or relaxing or being with their kids, it's a difficult choice to make," Gruber said.

He also said opposition from people who think "it's a dumb idea" and technological challenges are also standing in the way, but he remains optimistic.

"I personally believe this is the wave of the future, and no one else has produced what we've produced so far in such a short amount of time."

He hopes other Portland neighborhoods will want to launch their own demonstration projects, which he is ready to initiate.