

# Families seek emergency shelter

by Nathaniel Scott

Shelter. Shelter. Shelter. A place to escape the rain and cold. A place that affords stability while one picks up the pieces. A haven in an emergency situation.

Multnomah and Washington Counties—funded by United Way, private donations and a percentage of marriage license fees—can accommodate, on an emergency basis, up to 35 battered women and/or children: Multnomah can accommodate 15, and Washington, 20. Both counties operate on a sliding scale and will not turn the needy Emergency shelter for families can be found at a number of locations:

St. Vincent DePaul, 2740 SE Powell Blvd., has two rooms at a hotel—one family and one single; and space for seven, a combination of women and children, in a battered situation. There is no charge for their services.

The Salvation Army Family Services, 1620 SE Hawthorne, has a total of four rooms: two single and two family (two bed) rooms. The Salvation Army does not charge for their services.

Finally, the Northwest Pilot Project is a clearing house for 61 agencies. The pilot project operates a voucher system to keep money flowing into the 61 agencies that make up an emergency umbrella coalition. Through the coalition, shelter is found for those in an emergency situation. The emergency shelter program began December 15, 1982, at the request of the city, through Commissioner Margaret Strachan's office.

Funding for the program, \$65,000 per year, runs through December 15th. The same amount has been allocated for 1984.

Peter Paulson, executive director of the Northwest Pilot Project, said, "We—the city of Portland—don't have adequate emergency shelters; particularly for two parent families."

For June, July, August and September, Paulson said a total of 1,789 people were given emergency assistance through the emergency umbrella coalition: 705 families, 235 chronically ill individuals, 87 displaced youths, 242 disabled people, 179 battered women, 124 displaced single women, and 217 displaced single men.

Paulson added, "Winter is already here, unemployment is going up, and it's going to be difficult."

Commissioner Strachan said it makes her feel good to know that there are some accommodations for the shelterless. Pointing out that "It doesn't mean we have met all the needs," she added, "Government can't do it all. I would make a plea," she said, "that people in the community give."

The commissioner said she realized the magnitude of the problem and that, "We, (the Council), have been working on it."

However, John Curry, director of Catholic Emergency Assistance,

which helps people when it is financially able to, echoed the sentiment, but took it one step further.

According to Curry, "There should be more shelter money.... Sometimes we get more requests than we can take care of." As an example, he cited the Greyhound bus strike. And in addition to that, he said, some contributions have restrictions placed on them. "United Way money," he said, in reference to his agency, "can only be used for people living on Burnside." Curry maintained that "there is not ade-

quate emergency shelter for the number of people who need them."

Moreover, he said, the economy affects what people give to churches. The economy also affects the purse string of governmental agencies.

In addition to Portland's \$65,000 contribution to the pilot project, the City Council mustered an additional \$16,000 for the Burnside Consortium, and an unspecified \$3,000, bringing their total shelter money to \$84,000. Multnomah County, thus far, has allocated \$3,000 towards

the plight of the shelterless.

Peter Paulson said the emergency shelter situation is critical. "We need to have done a lot more work this past year. We should have started yesterday," he said. "It's important. We need to start right now; even people in the community (who have spare rooms) can open up their homes."

Three hundred and forty available emergency shelter spaces, and \$87,000 in City and County money, adds up to an emergency.

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## School Menu

Monday, Nov. 28: Soft shell burrito w/salsa, whole kernel corn, pineapple chunks, nibbles, milk.

Tuesday, Nov. 29: Spaghetti & meatballs, tossed salad, cheese-onion roll, tangerine, milk.

Wednesday, Nov. 30: Wiener wrap, hash browns, celery chunks w/dip, applesauce, milk.

Thursday, Dec. 1: Oven-baked chicken, whipped potatoes/gravy, carrot coins/ranch dip, carrot-raisin bread, banana half, milk.

Friday, Dec. 2: Hamburger on bun, lettuce, tomato, pickle, tater triangle, peach slices, milk.

## School Breakfast

Monday, Nov. 28: Orange juice, hot wheat cereal, milk.

Tuesday, Nov. 29: Pineapple chunks, french toast, milk.

Wednesday, Nov. 30: Tangerine, cheesy breakfast roll, milk.

Thursday, December 1: Apple-sauce, maple glazed breakfast bar, milk.

Friday, December 2: Banana half, carrot-raisin bread, scrambled egg, milk.

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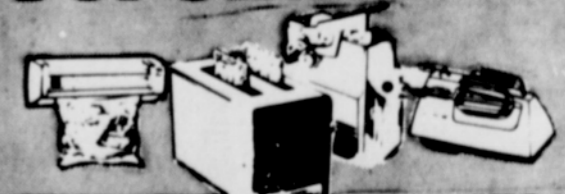
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