

Cultural Enrichment Available to Community Youth

by Becky Robinson

The Cultural Enrichment Program, provided last summer by Highland Community Services, will again be available this summer to children ages 8 to 17 years old.

Registration will begin Monday, July 13th, and continue until Wednesday, July 15, 1987. The program will begin Monday, July 13th and is located at the Salvation Army Moore Street Community Center, 5335 N. Williams Ave., Portland, OR 97217; just south of Killingsworth.

The program runs Mondays through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with lunch and a snack provided by Portland Public Schools' nutrition program.

Highland Community Services originally pursued the United Way funding for this program after its first successful summer session was held last year. Fundamental to the final awarding of monies to support this cultural enrichment program for the benefit of community children were Connie Carley, Highland Project Director; Gina Woods, Director; Kay Harvey, Acting Interim Director; Karen Powell, Chairman of the Highland Board of Directors; and Highland Board of Directors member Ella Powell.

The allocation of \$10,000 was eventually awarded to Sojourner Truth Theater to implement its Cultural Enrichment Program, which was started in 1983. The program was first featured at Marshall High School and, since that time, has been seen by approximately 30,000 elementary, middle- and high school students.

The program has also been featured at Lewis and Clark College, Lane Community College, Portland Community College, Portland State University, Oregon State University, and the University of Oregon.

Nyewusi Askari, artistic director of Sojourner Truth Theater; and Ruby Reuben, business manager and actress/cultural presenter with the theater, were both inducted into Jefferson High School's Hall of Fame, which honors performers, educators, and local and national figures who have contributed to the cultural and educational enrichment of the students.

Askari and Reuben will again direct the program this summer. In the Cultural Enrichment Program, children will learn African American games, folk lore, history, science and music under a structure which develops creativity, mutual respect and self respect.

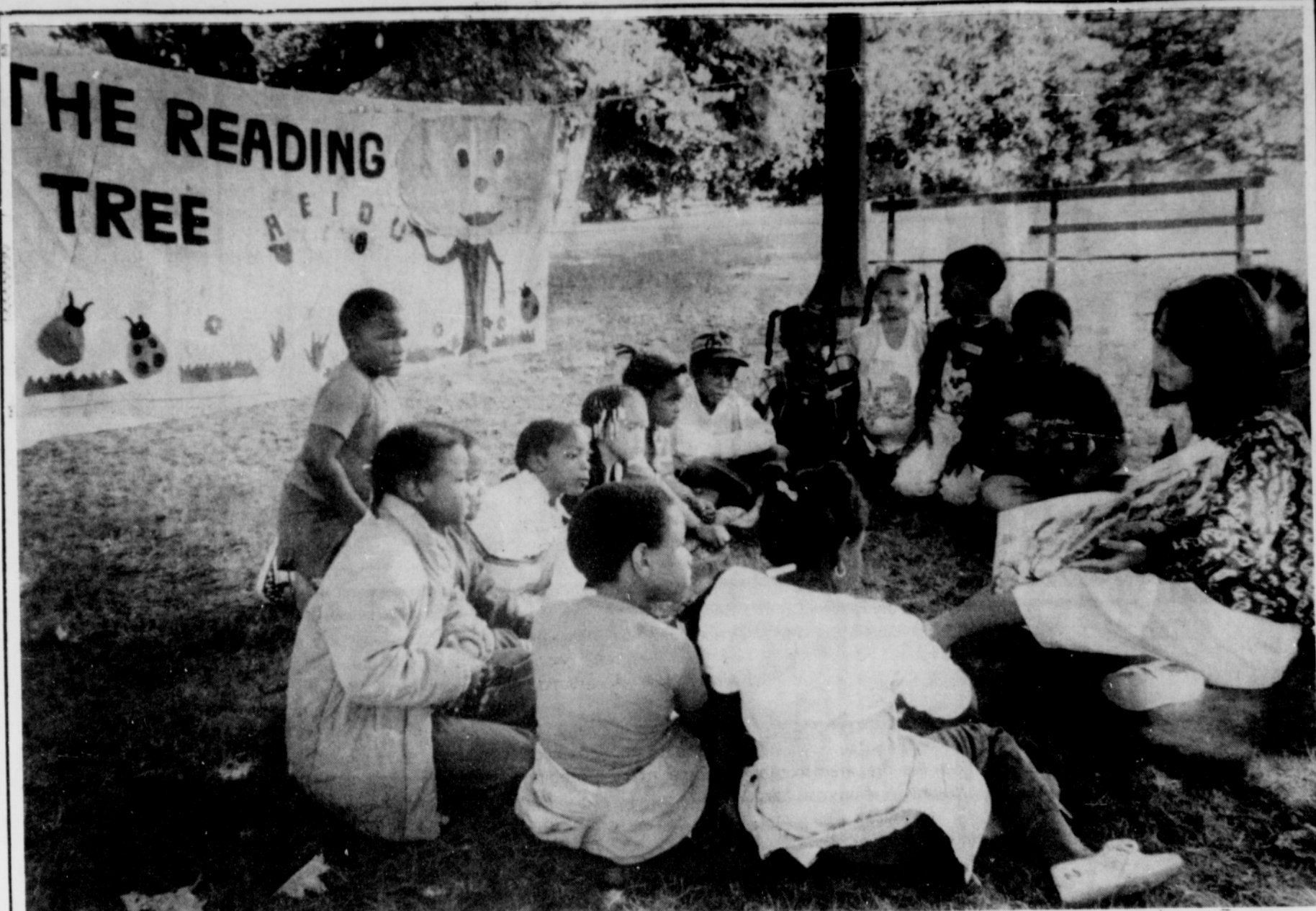
Parents who wish their children to learn self respect, self discipline, creativity, respect for their community and their African American heritage, are encouraged to register their children. The program can take up to 50 children.

Children will be asked to abide by a set of prescribed rules which will include respect for self, for others, for their teachers, and for the children at the center.

They will be taught creative thinking and problem solving through theater, including story telling, poetry, and reading. Relaxation time will include access to the facility's swimming pool, weight room and gym.

The Salvation Army has agreed to provide complete administrative oversight and resources for the Cultural Enrichment Program which will include all bookkeeping and all Salvation Army resources as needed. This arrangement has created a very compatible relationship between the two organizations in providing learning experiences for the children.

The Salvation Army has been providing youth-related services in Northeast Portland for almost 100 years in their commitment to and tradition of serving the Black community.

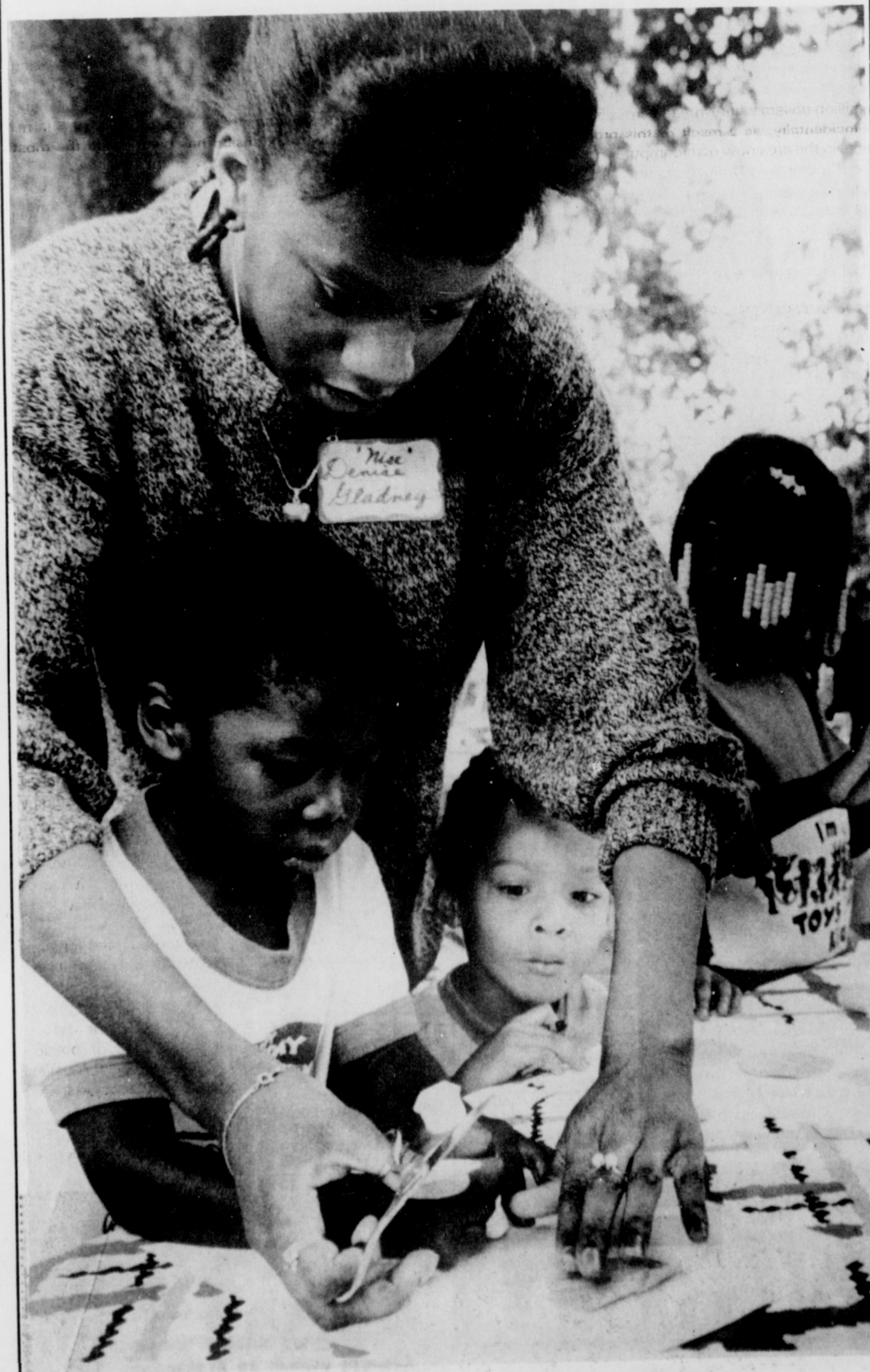


Trang Hoang reads stories to a group of kids at Irving Park.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

The Reading Tree

Following a sixteen-year tradition, "The Reading Tree" program is held Mondays through Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Irving Park, N.E. 7th and Fremont, where children are welcome to join the fun and games. With students and adults as tutors, children of all ages participate in games to enhance their reading and spelling skills. The



Denise Gladney helps youngsters with a paper craft project for "The Reading Tree" program. Photo by Richard J. Brown

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