

# Observing



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## A New Community Organization Is Taking One-Step To Help At-Risk Youth

BY DONITA LINCOLN

"We want to effectively and consistently help at-risk youth change their outlook on life," said Michael Warren, executive vice president and co-founder of One-Step incorporated. One-Step incorporated is a non-profit organization founded by Tyrone White and Michael Warren last year. The purpose of the organization is to participate in the research, public education, and critical analysis of current and future problems confronting youth and their families in the North/Northeast community. "We want parents to self-evaluate and ask themselves, what can they do to be better role models for their children. What can parents do to be more instrumental in their children's lives?" asked Warren. One-Step will work primarily with youth, ages 13-17 and their families. Warren said One-Step will offer every youth that comes through their doors counseling and courses that

will provide them with tools for creating positive lifestyles. One-Step believes that youth can change if they gain self-dedication, self-worth and positive frame of minds. One-Step will work closely with Donald E. Long, Yaun Youth Care, House of Umoja, Self-Enhancement, and other community-based organizations to effectively assist youth in the community. "We wanted to design a program that could create positive change in our community," said White, co-founder and executive president of One-Step. "We wanted to use our experience with at-risk youth to give something back to the community we were raised in," he said. White has worked with youth for the last six years. He is a former youth counselor for Self-Enhancement, Donald E. Long and McCoy Academy, an alternative school for youth in the community. White now teaches One-Step courses at the Yaun Youth

Care Center and also works as a gang employment specialist for Yaun. Warren is a former employee of McCoy Academy. There, he taught One-Step's Positive Frame of Mind course. Warren and White said One-Step's courses are constructed and tailored around specific needs of at-risk youth. The youth will evaluate their past experiences of both success and failure, and learn how to make better decisions. They will be involved in classroom activities, field trips, listening to guest speakers, examining gang behavior, participating in job application and resume workshops and learning how to improve their study skills through workshops. The course titles are: positive frame of mind, lifestyles, gang rapport building, job preparation and high school completion assistance. Warren and White believe the lifestyles portion of One-Step is part of the treatment program and is what sets them apart from all other community-servicing agencies. One-Step takes at-risk youth's current lifestyle and frame of mind and helps to understand what is wrong. The goal is to help youth understand that they are completely responsible for their actions and how they should be treated by society. The treatment is done before any other activities or services are rendered. Jeddy Beasley, a board member of One-Step, said the organization is necessary mainly for families. "Our goal is to instill pride back into the single-parent family as a support piece for the community," he said. One-Step has eight staff members and four directors. One-Step staff and director's will work together to make decisions for the daily operations of the organization.

## Portland's Blanton House To Serve Medically Fragile

Blanton Street Group Home opened its new doors to medically fragile individuals who have severe and multiple disabilities. Diagnoses include cerebral palsy, seizure disorders, brain tumor, spina bifida and severe osteoporosis. Prior to moving into Blanton House, these people had been receiving services in large, congregate care nursing home facilities. Blanton House will offer these individuals the opportunity to live with dignity in a smaller, more personalized setting in the community while also receiving highly specialized nursing services

under the direction of a 30-year nursing veteran -- an option which presents the best of both worlds! The recently constructed Blanton House was built with its purpose in mind (as is especially apparent upon a visit to the home). The funding for this program comes from the Clackamas County Mental Health Department. Blanton House is Albertina Kerr Centers' newest program. Albertina Kerr Centers welcomes the opportunity to meet the even greater and more specialized needs of those individuals with disabilities who are also medically fragile.

## Vancouver To Lace Up Mother's Day Fun Run/Walk

All Abilities Encouraged for May 7 events

People of all abilities are encouraged to lace-up their sneakers and take part in a 5K (3.1 mile) fun run or walk along the newly-opened Columbia River Trail. The event, which honors mothers, is set for Saturday, May 7 at 10 a.m. The scenic course starts at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay back park-

ing lot, heads east along the trail past Columbia Shores condos and circles back to the Quay. Awards go to the top three men and women and for the top mom. Moms are eligible for a post-race raffle. Sponsors are the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department, Who Song and Larry's Restaurant

and Cantina, Red Lion Inn Quay and the Chart House restaurant. Cost for mother is \$8; other \$10; say of the race \$12; race only with no T-shirt, \$6. Pre-register at Bagley Center, 4100 Plomondon or Marshall Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. Registration and check-in start at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

## Basketball Tourney Hosted

Competition at Bagley Center

Teens ages 12-18 can enter a 3-on-3 basketball tournament Saturday, May 7 at the Bagley Center gym starting at 1 p.m. Bagley Center is at 4100 Plomondon. Players must be enrolled in junior or senior high school. Each team may have three or four players and are guaranteed three games. The age divisions are 12-14 years and 15-18 years. Register at Bagley Center or

Marshall Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. Cost is \$15 per player (\$12 for city resident). Scholarships are available for those in need of financial assistance. Space is limited. Call Barrett Goddard at 686-8219 for details. Awards will go to the top two teams in each division. Each player will get a T-shirt. The tournament is sponsored by the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department.

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## Your Social Security Number

What makes your Social Security number so special? It's the one number that belongs to you for your entire life. Phone numbers and license plates may change, and your age is only good for a year. But your Social Security number? It always stays the same. The reason you need a number in the first place is so the Social Security Administration (SSA) can keep track of all the Social Security taxes you've ever paid, no matter how many times you switch jobs or change names. By knowing how much you've contributed to the system during your working years, SSA can determine the amount of benefits when you retire or if you become disabled. Well, imagine trying to keep accurate records for millions of people. It would be a nightmare without some method of identifying each person in a way that's both constant and unique. In 1935 when the Social Security program was just getting off the ground, assigning each individual a nine-digit number was the most efficient way to do this. It still is. Until recently, applying for a number really wasn't necessary until you got your first job and began paying Social Security taxes. But it's no longer just employers who ask for it. The law now requires parents or guardians to list the Social Security numbers of dependents on federal

income tax returns. At the blood bank, you recite your number when you donate, and you may be asked for it when paying for groceries by check. But though other organizations may use your number for their own record-keeping purposes, they don't have access to your Social Security records. Your files are held in the strictest confidence. Even so, it's important to protect your Social Security number and make sure your earnings record is accurate. Here's what you can do: Protect your Social Security card by keeping it with your other important papers and documents. When a private business or organization request your number, ask why they need it. You're not required to give it out, but you may not get their product or service if you don't. Even if you know your number by heart, always use your card to double check when filling out a job application or tax form. Verify that your name and number on your W-2 forms are correct. If there's an error on the W-2, notify your employer. If the information on your card needs updating, contact Social Security. Make sure your file is accurate and up-to-date by sending for a free record of your earnings every three years. Two free publications from the

Social Security Administration offer more help. Your Social Security Number (Item 515A, free) includes information on protecting your number and reporting misuse. And with Request for Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement (Item 517A, free), you'll have the forms necessary to request your earnings history and an estimate of future benefits. To order both these free publications, send your name and address to: Consumer Information Center Department 22 Pueblo, CO 81009 When you write, you'll also receive a free copy of the Consumer Information Catalog. The Consumer Information Center of the U.S. General Services Administration revises and publishes the Catalog quarterly, so you know it's up-to-date. Its pages list more than 200 free and low-cost federal publications on a variety of subjects. Quick Tip: When applying for a child's Social Security number, or requesting a new card if you've changed your name, steer clear of companies offering to file your application for a "processing" fee or any other charge. They may get you a new card or number, but there's no need to pay. All the necessary forms and services are provided free by Social Security. Contact your nearest office for more information.

**PDC**  
 PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
**COMMISSION MEETING**  
 Date: April 13, 1994  
 Place: Portland Building  
 1120 SW Fifth Ave., 11th Floor  
 Portland, Oregon  
 Time: 8:00 a.m.  
 Commission meetings are open to the public. A complete agenda is available at PDC or by calling 823-3200. Citizens with disabilities may call 823-3232 or TDD 823-6868 for assistance at least 48 hours in advance.  
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