

Conference For Parenting Grandparents

"Keeping Families Together" is the theme of Oregon's first conference about parenting grandparents and relative care providers, which will be presented by the Urban League of Portland Aug. 26-27, at Emanuel Hospital's Lorenzen Center.

"We hope this historic conference will help focus attention on the needs of an often forgotten group of parents," said Urban League President and CEO Lawrence J. Dark. "Grandparents raising a second generation need our help to be effective parents and hold their families together."

The conference stems from an innovative program the Urban League created in 1992 to serve the needs of an emerging class: the parenting grandparent. A 1991 survey of 322 parenting grandparents in North and Northeast Portland found that 89% were raising children in a home with-

out biologic parents. Drug and alcohol problems, incarceration and abandonment were among the chief reasons for parental absence.

Despite their willingness to take on a parenting role, many grandparents are unprepared for it. They encounter institutional obstacles such as lack of legal custody, poor access to benefits and services, and lack of educational resources and emotional support.

The program provides peer support, education and advocacy for parenting grandparents and relative care providers. The program is based at the League's Multicultural Senior Center in Northeast Portland and has 135 active members from four metro counties. "Keeping Families Together" is being organized so that parenting grandparents and service providers from around Oregon and Southwest Washington can share in-

formation that will help preserve families.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Lenora Poe and Irene Endicott. Dr. Poe leads a Grandparents as Parents support group in Oakland, CA. She is also the author of *Black Grandparents As Parents*. Endicott is an inspirational speaker and author of *Grandparenting Redefined: Guidance For Today's Changing Family*.

The conference registration fee is \$20 per individual or \$35 per couple. Grandchildren 18 and under may attend free. Registration includes admission to the two-day conference, Friday lunch and dinner, and refreshments. The conference runs from 8:30am to 4:30pm Friday, with dinner at the Multicultural Senior Center from 7 to 9pm. Saturday's program runs from 8:30am to 11:30am, with an outing at Portland Art Museum at 2pm.

The Salvation Army Family Services

Helps Local Children Prepare For School

The Salvation Army Family Services program is helping local children in need get ready for school.

Family Services is providing 50 needy Portland children, ages 5-11, with back-to-school clothing, supplies and haircuts to help kick off the new school year. In addition to free haircuts, the children will receive a complete clothing outfit and shoes, and a backpack and lunch box. School supplies based on grade level, such as paper, pencils and scissors, also will be distributed. Interpreters will be on hand to assist Russian-, Vietnamese-

and Spanish-speaking children.

Children selected for the first-annual program are members of families who have received assistance, such as food, counseling and utilities, from the Family Services program. Family Services provides assistance for low-income families or those facing emergency situations.

"There is a real need for assistance this time of year," said Loren Kurtz, Family Services director. "Back-to-school is an exciting time for children, but also can cause anxiety or embarrassment if a student is

not as prepared as other classmates. Our goal is to help these children start off on a positive note."

The program is made possible through donations of clothing and supplies from churches and companies in the Portland area. For example, City Liquidators is donating backpacks, lunch boxes and school supplies, and local salon stylists are offering free haircuts.

The Salvation Army Family Services program provides emergency assistance, including food, counseling and utilities, for low-income families,

Crime Stoppers:

Homicide

Portland Police Bureau detectives, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in solving a homicide.

On Monday, August 1, 1994, at approximately 11:00 in the evening, Joan Borisch, a 42-year-old white female, who lived at 13605 SE Market Street, was found shot to death in her home. The motive appears to have been a residential robbery or burglary.

According to investigators, several people in the neighborhood heard gunfire and saw three subjects, described as "young appearing", run-

ning from the area at or about the time of the crime.

Investigators are attempting to locate what they will only say is "a vehicle of interest." The vehicle is described as a maroon, late model Toyota Camry, with a "Gold Trim Package", and Oregon license plates ending with the numbers 1-0-4.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

Public Help Sought In Hit And Run Accident

Witnesses to an August 3rd, 1994 Hit and Run accident are being sought by investigators. The incident occurred at about 2:35 p.m. at NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and NE Mason St.

Reportedly, 44 year old Ronnie Blocker, of Northeast Portland was standing on the corner when a newer beige or cream colored Cadillac jumped the curb and drove onto the

sidewalk, striking Blocker. Blocker was seriously injured, and transported to Emanuel Hospital.

The driver of the vehicle was described as being a 60 year old male, with glasses and grey and brown colored hair.

Anyone with information on this incident can call Officer Denise Kuemper, of the Traffic Investigations Unit at 823-2209.

Child Shot In Accident

Sophan Thon, a 13 year old boy, died after suffering from an accidental gunshot wound to the head Sunday night.

Detectives believe that Thon and a friend, John B. Thow, 12, of the 3600 block of N. Michigan Ave., found a rifle in the bedroom of Thow's older brother, the rifle was in very poor condition. When Thow

was showing it to Thon, the weapon discharged, with the bullet striking Thon in the head. Thow's parents were at work at the time of the shooting, and were apparently unaware that the gun was in the house.

No charges have been filed, detectives referred the case to the Multnomah County District Attorney's office for review.

Sex Offender Arrested

A California man was charged in connection with two Kenton neighborhood burglaries, and the rape of a 63 year old woman.

Starting in late July, Kenton neighborhood officers noted an increase in prowler calls during early morning hours. Then, on Aug. 2, a 63 year old woman was sexually assaulted in her home on North Wabash Ave. On Aug. 4, a woman on North Baldwin Ave. reported that a man had attempted to break into her home, but had fled when the woman discovered him and called 911. Officers found that the suspect description in both incidents was similar. A red import car was also described as a possible suspect vehicle.

On Aug. 9 at about 5:30am the police observed a similar vehicle driving through the neighborhood. The officers arrested the driver of the vehicle, Eric Sidney Thompson, 33 on traffic violations.

Subsequent investigation led to Thompson being charged with burglary and two counts of rape. He is being held in jail on \$130,000 bail and a parole detainer from California.

Detectives said that Thompson was on parole in California for robbery and burglary, and was on a 30-day pass to visit his mother who is ill.

State Reviews Adult Foster Care

Oregon, already a national leader in adult foster care, is reviewing its licensing, inspection and training procedures to ensure the highest quality care for seniors and people with disabilities.

BY JIM WILSON

Here's news about a product that consumers like, that costs less than the leading alternative, and for which state government will help you make a better buying decision.

The product is adult foster care. It's a subject most people don't think much about but, like old age, it's also a living option that many of us will consider someday.

We're lucky to live where we do. Oregon's network of adult foster care homes represents a national model, offering seniors and people with disabilities greater independence at a cost of only one-third to one-half that of nursing homes.

The news gets better. Together with other alternatives to nursing facilities, adult foster care is also responsible for tax savings of more than \$350 million since 1981 for Medicaid-eligible residents. The savings are even greater for the majority of residents who pay their own bills or have private insurance.

Adult foster care is delivered in private homes, with providers re-

ceiving formal training and being licensed for up to five residents.

Recently, however, several highly publicized incidents have raised questions about the judgment of several providers. Now, the state Senior and Disabled Services Division is taking a hard look at our practices in adult foster care licensing, inspections and training.

Specifically, we are taking these actions:

We will seek and independent review of the state's role in adult foster care from a citizens' panel with the freedom to talk to the people and obtain the data it needs. This review will be completed within 90 days of its start, and could result in proposals to the 1995 Oregon Legislature.

State and local staff will conduct internal reviews to learn how to identify patterns of poor care, recognize characteristics of poor providers and screen out those providers faster. Where indicated, we will act immediately.

We have met with leaders of the state's two adult foster care provider associations, who say they will support the state in strengthening criteria for people to become providers of adult foster care.

Because they have the most contact, the people who can do the most to ensure high-quality care are the

families of people living in adult foster care. This begins with choosing the best adult foster home to meet your needs.

My agency offers free "A Guide to Adult Foster Care" to help you in making a wise choice. It outlines the types of adult foster homes, and provides a comprehensive, 35-item checklist for you to use as you visit homes.

For example, is the home close to family, physician and social contacts? Do residents appear well cared for and does the home offer a warm, homey atmosphere? Can your family member bring his or own room furnishings? Can special diet needs be met? Is transportation available?

The guide is available to you by contacting your local Senior and Disabled Services Division office, local Area Agency on Aging or by calling toll free: 1 (800) 232-3020 (voice or TDD).

The booklet will help you to make the best choice from among adult foster homes that are already nationally recognized for their high quality.

Jim Wilson is administrator of the state Senior and Disabled Services Division in the Oregon Department of Human Resources. You can write him at 500 Summer St., N.E., Salem, Oregon 97310-1015.

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Children's Clothing Needed

For Back-To-School Giveaway

The Low Income Families Emergency (L.I.F.E.) Center finds itself half way through its ninth annual clothing drive needing larger size clothing for its Back-To-School giveaway.

"We are doing ok with clothing for younger children, but we desperately need clothing for children in junior high and high school," said Board Chair Richard Rickel. Winter coats, socks

and underwear are also needed.

Clothing or financial donations are being accepted at L.I.F.E. Center, 2746 N.E. MLK Blvd., Children's World Learning Centers throughout the metro area, or home pick up on clothing can be arranged by contacting Center director Charles Carter at 284-6878. The used clothing is sorted, mended and cleaned by volunteers. The Giveaway is August 27 at Peninsula Park Community Center starting at 10am.

For more information about the Back-To-School giveaway, contact Director Charles Carter at 284-6878.

A Look Inside America's Lunch Boxes

As a new school year rapidly approaches, Oh Boy! Oberto Sausage Company has taken a look inside America's lunch boxes. Some commonly known lunch box facts include:

- Kids eat their dessert first
 - The most traded item in the lunch box is the fruit.
 - The most embarrassing item found inside the lunch box is the note from mom.
- However, some lunch box facts you may not be aware of:
- This year's most popular lunch box -- The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers.
 - The all-time most popular lunch box -- Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.
 - The number one snack -- potato chips.
 - The 1994 new lunch box snack idea -- Oh Boy! Oberto's 97 percent fat-free beef jerky.
 - The fruit most often found in the lunch box -- apple.
 - One of the items most often left behind on the bus -- lunch box.

Washington State Lottery

Wednesday August 17, 1994
04-13-15-23-44-45
Saturday August 20, 1994
20-23-24-40-42-44