

Oregon Teens Hunger To Fight Famine

Across the state, thousands of young people are getting ready to fight hunger by joining in the annual 30 Hour Famine, sponsored by the International Christian Humanitarian organization World Vision. Over 3,200 Oregon residents are among the more than 130,000 American students who have already committed to help feed the hungry at home and overseas by going without food for 30 hours.

Young people from schools, churches, youth groups and civic organizations are busy recruiting sponsors to support their 30 hour fast. Last year, more than 100,000 participants raised over \$1.3 million through sponsor pledges. The funds raised are used to fight hunger through World Vision projects.

"These kids continually astonish us with their energy, commitment and enthusiasm," says World Vision's Alexa Hawkins, nation director of the 30 Hour Famine. "They have a real passion to make a difference in their world. We can learn so much from their example!"

To join the 30 Hour Famine, participants obtain sponsor books and supporting materials by calling the 30 Hour Famine Hot Line at 1-800-



"30 Hour Famine" volunteers

7-Famine. From 1:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24 to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25, the participants will go without food, taking only water and fruit juices. While they're not eating, many groups will keep busy by addressing the needs in their own communities -- assisting in homeless shelters, serving

in soup kitchens, and cleaning up their neighborhoods.

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine is well-established internationally as an effective way to raise awareness of world hunger. Last year, nearly 1 million participants worldwide raised over \$20 million.

City Program Activities For Children

Exciting recreational activities for children including arts, sports, storytelling and special events have been developed for the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department's Youth Services newest program, Kids First, based at Image elementary School, 4400 NE 122nd Ave.

Program hours are 3:30 to 5 p.m., Monday and Friday, Jan. 6, through May 12.

The free program is aimed at children kindergarten through sixth grade. Kids First is a structured recreational program and requires that emergency information and photo consent forms be filled out for all participating children. This is not a licensed daycare operation. Children are supervised at the site until they leave the program at 5 p.m. The sites are unsupervised after 5:15 p.m.

If you have questions about youth programs call Teresa Williamson or Pattie Amann at 696-8065.

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BANK OFFERS NEW CHECK CARD

Bank of America has a solution for anyone who hates to write checks or carry cash when shopping, a new ATM card that works like a check without the hassle of writing a check. This week, BofA will introduce its VERSATEL Check Card in Oregon.

The VERSATEL Check Card is like an electronic check that can be used as a substitute for both checks and cash, according to Jim Barri, vice chairman of retail banking. It's as easy to use as any Visa card. Customers simply present the card when purchasing goods or services. They sign a sales slip as with any Visa purchase. The difference with the VERSATEL Check Card is that the purchase amount is automatically deducted from the customer's Bank of America checking account. Customers

do not borrow against a credit line or pay interest on any unpaid balances, as they would with a bank credit card.

The new card will be accepted at more than 11 million merchant locations throughout the world that display the Visa logo and accept Visa credit cards.

When the VERSATEL Check Card is used for purchases, merchants will provide customers with a sales receipt at the time the purchase is made. In addition, all VERSATEL Check Card purchases -- and the name and location of merchants where purchases are made -- will be listed on a customer's monthly bank statement. This will provide customers with a detailed record of all Check Card purchases.

"The VERSATEL Check Card

is a multi-purpose card that will open the door to a range of BofA financial services," said Barri. "It's a Check Card and ATM card rolled into one. When using the card for ATM service, customers will have access to their linked Bank of America accounts through our network of more than 5,500 VERSATELLER ATMS."

ATMs are convenient for routine transactions like cash withdrawals, deposits, and transferring funds between accounts, and for a host of other financial services, such as making mortgage or auto loan payments, and IRA investment account deposits.

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