

25th Anniversary

of
The Portland Observer's

League Grandparenting Help Supported

A Portland Urban League program to help grandparents raising children has won some financial support.

The league's growing grandparenting program has received \$10,000 from the Intergenerational Program Initiative, a Multnomah County group of public service agencies.

The grandparenting program offers case management and support services for adults raising their grandchildren.

The award was one of the four grants made to area organizations which bring older adults and children together in ways to address community problems.

Portland Impact's "Spirit Bear," a mentoring project for American Indian elders and teens, received \$9,775. The organization is creating an elder accountability board as a diversion program for youth involved in minor law infractions.

A senior program at Portland Community College to provide child care training and job placement for

older adult workers received \$9,981.

And the Northwest Pilot Project Friends Across Generations program received \$9,244. The pilot project works to enhance a socialization and support program for isolated urban elders through volunteers efforts of students from St. Mary's High School.

Multnomah County Commissioner Dan Saltzman announced the recipients of the grants.

Saltzman said all of the programs "help people break out of age-segregated groups in ways that solve problems, foster opportunities to know and learn from each other, and provide support for vulnerable individuals and families in our community."

The initiative is sponsored by Saltzman's office, the Portland and Multnomah Commission on Aging, Multnomah County Aging Services Division, Multnomah County Commission on Children and Families, and Multnomah County Community and Family Services Division.

History Center Library Closes Jan Through June 1995

The Oregon History Center regional research library will be closed on Tuesdays, from January 17 through June 26, as its librarians join other Oregon Historical Society staff in researching and preparing for major, new exhibits that will begin opening in November. The Oregon History Center library will be open, however, one-half hour earlier -- at 11:30am, Wednesdays through Saturdays.

The exhibits are part of a larger project, titled Breaking Tradition, that will also include the computer automation of library collections. The project will give visitors to the History Center as well as Oregonians statewide access via computer to the Oregon Historical Society's vast photograph, map, manuscript, artifact and book collection.

"The Breaking Tradition project will provide Oregonians much greater access to their history and to information about our state,"

explains History Center Director Chet Orloff. "Students and teachers in nearly every school in Oregon, businesses, organizations, and anyone with a computer modem or visiting a public library will eventually be able to scan their state history center's collections, which will materially expand Oregonians knowledge about their region, state, county, even neighborhood. Although we expect to be able to offer such statewide access within two years," Orloff says, "we will never reach the end of adding to our database, as long as Oregonians keep making history."

The OHC library is free with paid admission to the History Center: families \$10.00, adults \$4.50, students \$1.50. Students 18 and under must have notes from teachers. Children under 10 are not admitted. OHS members are free. Seniors are free on Thursdays. For additional library information call 306-5240.



David S. Liederman
News USA

SPEAKING OUT FOR CHILDREN

Orphanages: Lets Sift Facts From Tall Tales

(NU) - What the politicians and pundits are saying about welfare reform and orphanages might cause even optimistic Little Orphan Annie to wonder about tomorrow.

Let's sift out the tall tales and horror stories from the real facts.

Fact: Healthy families are still the best place to raise children. Residential programs, which used to be known as orphanages, are the wrong place for children who have a loving parent capable of caring for them, and who are not in need of group care and treatment.

Fact: Residential programs are appropriate and necessary for some children with emotional, psychological and/or behavioral problems, generally as a result of abuse or neglect. There are about 100,000 children and youth nationwide in residential care.

Fact: Orphanages would cost citizens far more than the Aid to Families with Dependent Children and the Food Stamp programs combined.

• AFDC plus Food Stamps for a parent and two children costs \$7,932 a year. The famous Boys Town estimates its residential program costs \$98,558 a year for two children.

• To provide out-of-home care for just 3 million of the estimated 9.6 million children on AFDC would

cost about \$109.5 billion a year. The cost of AFDC and Food Stamps for 3 million children is about \$7.9 billion.

Fact: The overwhelming majority of AFDC parents report they would leave welfare immediately for minimum wage jobs if they had health care for their families. How-

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ever, only 8 percent of people who leave welfare get jobs that provide health insurance.

Before we make orphanages the fad of the '90s, let's first remember that we are committed to children. We must be certain our laws help children become self-sufficient and offer them an escape from poverty.

Residential programs are useful for some children. But are they second best to a real family. Annie might be the first to agree.

David S. Liederman is executive director of the Child Welfare League of America.

Flooney's Theater Company

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Progress Reported in Sickle Cell Fight

Sickle Cell Anemia is an inherited blood disease affecting nearly 100,000 Americans, most of them African Americans. Now, researches at the National Institutes of Health have announced the first preventive drug treatment which promises to relieve the most painful symptoms of the disease.



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OQI members: \$95—by Feb. 17 \$150—after Feb. 17 —Group discounts available.
Non-members: \$120—by Feb. 17 \$175—after Feb. 17

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