

# Family Living

The Portland Observer



Fred Rogers has written a new week of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood programs about Transformations, premiering on PBS February 19-23. The week features a whimsical Neighborhood of Make-Believe adventure about a mysteriously changing package which "Mayor" Maggie Stewart has trouble delivering to Purple Panda. Through the message of the story, Fred Rogers helps children cope with the changes in their lives by reassuring them, that much stays the same: most importantly, they're still themselves inside. Photo: Richard Kelly

## RAP To Benefit Elderly

The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman is creating a new program beginning in February called Resident Associate Program (RAP). RAP volunteers enter nursing homes and adult foster homes and visit with the residents. The program is designed to increase the presence of the community in long term care facilities and to enhance residents' quality of life.

"Over fifty percent of the residents in long term care facilities do not have regular visitors," explains Kathy Walter, volunteer Coordinator for the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman. "RAP will help

alleviate isolation and loneliness for residents and will link them with the community." Volunteers will spend one hour a week at a designated facility visiting with residents and will attend a training session teaching appropriate communication skills.

The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman was created to protect the rights, dignity, and quality of care of residents of long term care facilities. The new RAP program will augment other services provided by the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman. Specifically, the Office will continue to train and certify volun-

teer ombudsmen to investigate and resolve complaints and concerns made by or on behalf of long term care facility residents. Many residents feel a sense of abandonment and loss of freedom when moving into a nursing home or adult foster care home. This can cause functional dependency, decline of intellectualism and a loss of self-esteem. RAP can bring a warm personal friendship that combats the sense of institutionalization.

For more information concerning RAP or The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman, contact Kathy Walter at 1-800-522-2602.

## Major Corporation's Host Holiday Slam Dunk For Local Foster Children

PacificCorp, Panasonic, Georgia-Pacific, Pacific Power and the Blazers teamed up during the 1995 holiday season to bring cheer to the children currently placed in Multnomah County's foster care system. Each organization played a vital role in the implementation of the Giving Tree program to benefit the Foster Parent Association, giving Blazers fans the opportunity to grant a child's holiday wish.

From the donation of a 23-foot

Christmas tree placed on the main concourse of the Rose Garden to the energy-efficient light bulbs provided to illuminate the tree, this partnership of local organizations made this first-time community outreach a resounding success.

"Response from the community was overwhelming," says Linda Roberts, Executive Director, Foster Parents Association. "Last year donations were down, but with the help of PacificCorp,

Panasonic, Georgia-Pacific, Pacific Power and the Blazers, they helped put us over the edge. What an inspiration this program has been for our association."

Through the efforts of this team, 750 gifts were collected and distributed to children currently residing in the Multnomah County Foster Care system. The success of this year's giving tree, alone, added up to 25% of the total gifts collected for these children.

## Red Cross Distributes Disaster Booklet For Older Adults

When older adults in New York State faced a two-week power outage caused by an ice storm, they were not prepared. They responded by writing Disaster preparedness for Sen-

iors by Seniors, a 24-page booklet distributed by the American Red Cross. Chapter and the Portland Fire Bureau have distributed thousands

of copies of this free booklet to senior and retirement centers in the last few months. To receive a copy of the booklet, call 284-0011, ext. 460.

## Portland General Electric Blanket Drive For Red Cross

Portland General Electric (PGE) announces that it's kicking off a blanket drive for the American Red Cross with a donation of funds to buy 500 blankets. Currently, the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Red Cross has approximately 500 blankets (PGE's contribution will make 1,000), but wants to increase the number of blan-

kets on hand to 5,000, for use in emergencies statewide.

The need for blankets is especially critical in winter, when cold-related incidents such as fires and power outages lead people to seek shelter.

People interested in helping the Red Cross obtain more blankets can send checks for donations of any

amount to:

Red Cross Blanket Drive, PO Box 4125, Portland, OR 97208.

Please note: People are requested NOT to send cash or blankets.

For ease in storage and consistency of service, Red Cross purchases blankets in bulk through a generous discount at the manufacturer.



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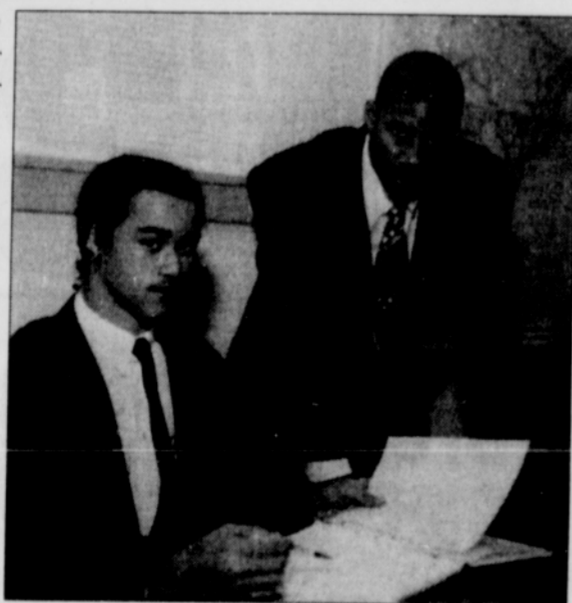
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## UMOJA YOUTH START RECYCLING COMPANY



Tyrone Taylor and Freddie Welch of Portland House of Umoja work together as Sales Representatives to develop Sales Strategies for the "Umoja Can and Bottle Recycling Company". Umoja youth are dedicated to making this project succeed. As Freddie says: "This is ours from A to Z." We take it very seriously. If someone can make money selling pet rocks, I know with the help of our community we can create jobs from this company. Besides, it has a better future than selling crack rocks." Umoja Can Company is canvassing businesses and homes in the community. For businesses, we are asking you to place a "U.C.C." box near the beverage machines. The U.C.C. will provide bags to residences, in which we ask that on designated days, you fill with bottles and cans and place on your porch for pickup. Umoja appreciates your support of the efforts of these young men. As their business cards read, "With your help we can change!"



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