

HOUSING The Portland Observer

Volunteers Repair Local Homes

On April 27 and 28 more than 400 volunteers made homes safer, warmer and more comfortable for some area elderly, low income and disabled citizens.

Christmas in April got its name because, for these residents, it's like a Christmas present to have volunteers patch the roofs, replace worn carpeting and linoleum, put in wheelchair ramps and do other repair work on their homes. These are repairs homeowners can't afford or are unable to do themselves. Last year, Christmas in April contributed more than \$90,000 in materials and in-kind labor.

This is the 4th year for Christmas in April in Washington county, and the 6th in North Portland. Homes are selected on a basis of need, working closely with the various community agencies that serve the low income elderly and disabled.

Local volunteers come from corporations such as Intel and US Bank as well as church groups and trade unions (painters, plumbers, bricklayers, and carpenters).

Materials and other contributions come from such companies as Parr Lumber, Lumber-mans, Franz Bakery, and Fred Meyer.

This year was probably the most successful year ever, according to Ace Guffey President of the Oregon State District Council and skills trades coordinator for Christmas in April.



"Christmas in April is a great way for the Oregon Building Trade to give back to the community. It gives a great deal of satisfaction," said Guffey. "But we couldn't do it without the hundreds of volunteers who gave up a weekend to help."

More than 26 homes in Washington County and North Portland were chosen this year for work ranging from painting, installing deadbolt locks and smoke detectors to glazing windows to reduce energy bills. In

addition six non-profit community centers also received work.

Christmas in April is the leading local volunteer organization that rehabilitated the houses of low-income homeowners particularly the elderly and those with disabilities. There are 115 Christmas in April Chapters in 39 states.

The motto of Christmas in April is "Not just fixing up homes in a day, but fixing up people's hearts for a lifetime."

Housing Grants Awarded

Commissioner Gretchen Miller Kafoury announced the third annual award of grants for non-profit organizations developing affordable housing. Fifteen organizations will receive funding totalling nearly \$580,000 under the program. Groups selected include Cascade AIDS Project, Central City Concern, Franciscan Enterprise of Oregon, Portland Habitat for Human-

ity, Housing our families, Human Solutions, Inner Westside Community Development Corporation, Low Income Housing for Native Americans of Portland Oregon, Network Behavioral Healthcare, Northwest Alternative Housing, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Portsmouth Community Redevelopment, REACH Community Development, Rose Community Develop-

ment, and Sabin Community Development. Recipients under the Operating Support Program were selected through a competitive application process by a Review Panel of seven citizens.

Kafoury said, "We are very pleased with our strong partnerships with the non-profit developers. These grants help build their delivery and in turn help stabilize neighborhoods."

Home Gardening Project Receives Grants

Pacific Power is providing a grant to the Home Gardening Project of Portland to help feed elderly, disabled and single parents.

Since 1984, volunteers have constructed 1270 vegetable gardens. This year, they will add 150 new spaces -- many in the inner northeast areas.

They also supply seeds, starts and fertilize to previous participants.

"When we select recipients for our special grants, we look for programs that reach the people who need it most," said Carl Talton, Pacific Power's Portland general business manager. "The Home Gardening Project provides needed vegetables for those who are in need of inexpensive, healthy balanced meals -- while teaching environment stewardship -- wise use of our land."

Over the past 12 years, the project has built gardens for clients for Oregon Access, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, AIDS Hospice and others.

"We measure our success as a company by the success of the communities and people we serve," Talton said. "What better way than to assure that people eat balanced meals and learn to put the land to productive use. A winning combination."

Home Gardening Project Receives Grants

Pacific Power is providing a grant to the Home Gardening Project of Portland to help feed elderly, disabled and single parents.

Since 1984, volunteers have constructed 1270 vegetable gardens. This year, they will add 150 new spaces -- many in the inner northeast areas.

They also supply seeds, starts and fertilize to previous participants.

"When we select recipients for our special grants, we look for programs that reach the people who need it most," said Carl Talton, Pacific Power's Portland general business manager. "The Home Gardening Project provides needed vegetables for those who are in need of inexpensive, healthy balanced meals -- while teaching environment stewardship -- wise use of our land."

Over the past 12 years, the project has built gardens for clients for Oregon Access, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, AIDS Hospice and others.

"We measure our success as a company by the success of the communities and people we serve," Talton said. "What better way than to assure that people eat balanced meals and learn to put the land to productive use. A winning combination."

Tomato Growing Tips From OSU Expert

Growing tomatoes has always been a challenge to many Oregon home gardeners.

Cool summers often mean slow ripening fruits, and when it first frosts of fall come, many home gardeners find themselves with an overabundance of green tomatoes.

To avoid this, make sure to get tomato starts in the ground between May 2 and mid-June, recommended Bill Mansour, Oregon State University vegetable crops specialist.

Some of Mansour's home garden tips on growing tomatoes:

- Plan only high quality semi-hardened transplants without blossoms. Pinch blossoms off transplants to avoid delayed flowering

- Prevent transplant shock by setting plants out in a protected area for a week before planting in final place.

- Thoroughly water plants 12 to 14 hours before transplanting to the garden.

- Be careful about fertilizing young

plants.

- Irrigate tomatoes to maintain a steady moisture content in the soil.

- Use black plastic or other heat transmitting ground mulches and/or row covers or tunnels if possible.

- Lengthen the tomato harvest season by gathering mature green tomatoes before the first frost. Store them at 50 degrees and ripen at 70 degrees.

- Plant tomato transplants about 1-2 feet apart in rows 3-5 feet apart. For more information call OSU.

Warnings About Spring Cleaning Around Power Lines

Spring is here, marked by the roar of chain saws as people clear away winter debris. While the big clean-up begins the Bonneville Power Administration is asking northwest residents to help keep trees and other potential hazards away from power lines.

"As northwest cities grow, more housing and recreational activities are spreading into what were once rural areas where high-voltage power lines are located," said Kirk Tousley of BPA. "This situation along with tumultuous weather conditions, can create a dangerous mix of people

and electricity."

BPA owns and operated more than 15,000 miles of high voltage power lines in the northwest. Many of those lines pass through rural neighborhoods, including private property. Local public utilities own and operate lower voltage distribution lines that run along streets and deliver power directly to homes and businesses.

When people improve their property with trees, fences or other structures BPA advises them to keep in mind power lines nearby.

Trees need not touch power lines

to be dangerous. During hot weather, or when carrying heavy amounts of electrical power lines can sag dangerously close to trees. Electricity can "arc" or jump from power lines to nearby trees. Safely growing and pruning trees and shrubs can make the difference between creating beautiful landscapes or safety hazards.

Housing Fair

The Portland Housing Center in partnership with the Fannie Mae Foundation will host the annual Home Buying Fair May 18 at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, 4940 NE 8th Ave. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It presents an opportunity for low-income renters interested in buying a home to talk to lenders, non-profit housing developers, and realtors.

There will be mini workshops on credit, the home loan process, working with realtors and how to get started. A children's activity corner will help with childcare, and there will be door prizes.

Only trained experts should remove trees that are close to transmission lines.

Anyone planning to remove debris or plant or build anything that could interfere with power lines or facilities should contact BPA first. Their danger tree specialists can prevent problems before they start.

CARPENTER ANT ELIMINATION

- COCKROACHES •
- HOUSE ANTS •
- RATS & MICE •



LICENSED IN OREGON SINCE 1975
Singles & Seniors, I can help you!
"1st Class Guarantee"
A-ZEBRA
RMLS Realty Inc.
300 NE Multnomah, Suite #27
Portland, Oregon 97232
(503) 230-1390 • (Res.) 287-6837

CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT
EDWARD T. DURHAM, JR.
(503) 319-0821
FAX 283-2977
317 B. N.E. KILLINGSWORTH PORTLAND, OREGON 97211

Northwest Color
Construction & Painting Company
John McVeety 282-9233

- Quality Home Remodeling
 - No Project Too Small
 - Finish Carpentry & Woodworking
 - Senior Discounts
 - Storm Windows & Doors Installed
 - Interior & Exterior Painting
 - Pressure Washing
 - FREE Written estimates
- Warm your home now with an efficient gas furnace from Rheem™
- Oil to Gas conversions \$200 rebate (terms apply)
 - Central Air Conditioning
 - Gas Firelogs & Fireplaces
 - Gas Water Heaters
 - Custom Duct Work
 - Financing Available O.A.C.
- "If it works like a dream it works like a Rheem."™
- Call today for free consultation.
License # CCB-81322 Bonded & Insured

Dad's Oil Service
Speedy Service
Friendly
Call For Quote

heating oils
Best Cash Prices
104 NE Russel
Portland, OR 97212
282-5111

YOU ARE THE MISSING PIECE!

Help put the puzzle together—become a shelter parent.
We offer financial support, training and 24-hour backup. Teamwork is our top priority. With all the pieces together, helping youth doesn't seem quite so puzzling. Won't you add your piece?
Call: 222-9661
The Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon