

Family Living

The Portland Observer

Grant awarded to Oregon for local family literacy efforts

Oregon communities interested in beginning, expanding or improving family literacy projects will benefit from a U.S. Department of Education grant awarded to Oregon's Office of Community College Services and Department of Education.

Family literacy programs integrate early childhood education, adult literacy education and parenting education and support.

"Family literacy programs help parents develop in their role as their children's first and most important teacher," said Cathy Lindsley, family literacy specialist at Office of Community College Services. "Parents who dropped out of school themselves probably won't have positive feelings about school. It's difficult for them to walk in the school door, nonetheless become partners with schools in their children's own learning."

"Once parents have positive learning experiences themselves, they are then more likely to read to their children, enjoy reading to their children and the children in turn see that their parents value education."

Family Literacy programs give parents an opportunity to improve reading, math, writing and thinking skills, while they also participate in fun learning activities with their children. Adults in family

literacy programs get their GED, or earn high school credits and work on life skills, such as budgeting, accessing health care, getting their driver's license and using other community resources.

Family literacy, a relatively new research field, supports the approach as a long-term strategy for breaking the cycle of poverty and literacy. "The grant will allow local teams strategy for breaking the cycle of poverty and illiteracy. "This grant will allow local teams interested in building family literacy projects to learn together and from each other," she said.

The grant activities will also build on what Oregon communities have learned through the experiences of current Even Start programs, one family literacy program model.

Local schools, Head Start programs, volunteer literacy groups, libraries, state agencies, social service agencies and community colleges will be invited to form teams to determine what family literacy strategy makes the most sense in their communities.

The grant includes money for two state-wide conferences for about 150 team members plus funds for technical assistance and resources at the local level for the critical collaboration-building piece. The first conference will be April 30, 1997 in Corvallis with a follow-up confer-

ence one year later. A steering committee with representatives from a variety of constituent groups will guide the process.

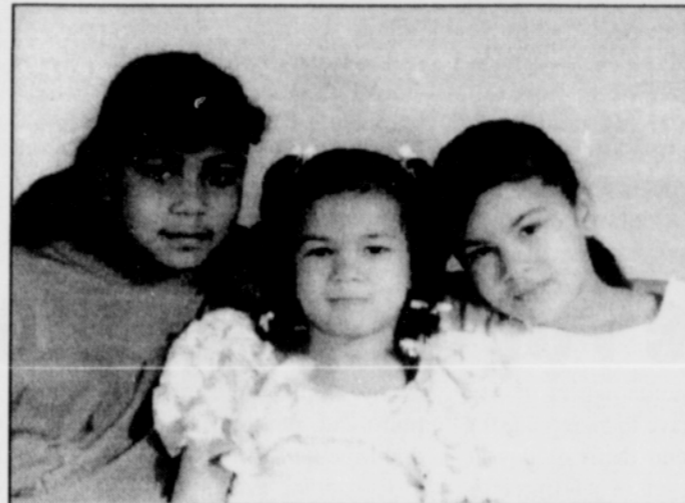
Most communities have at least some of the elements of family literacy already in place: adult basic skills, or English as a second language program, parenting education and early childhood programs. In family literacy projects, the components are integrated, which requires cross-training and education of community partners, identifying community strengths and resources, eliminating duplication and determining evaluation strategies.

Oregon is one of only five states to receive a family literacy initiative grant. The grant U.S. Department of Education funds of \$143,000 represents about 50 percent of the total cost, with the balance matched by state agencies and community partners.

For more information, or for a packet on forming a family literacy initiative team, contact Cathy Lindsley, Office of Community College Services, 255 Capitol St. NE, Salem, OR 97310-1341, or by e-mail at: cathy.LINDSLEY@state.or.us.

Packets will be mailed to Oregon school districts, Head Start grantees, community college basic skills directors and county Commissions on Children and Families.

"Waiting Children"



Above: Kanithia, Katrishia and Kamishia.



Right: Keith and Keonna.

Around the United States, there are many children awaiting adoption. In the states of Oregon alone, there are over 300 children in need of adoptive families. We are a group of private agencies working with the state to help find adoptive families. These agencies are completely waiving fees in order to encourage the adoption of these children in need. Single adults, both male and female, as well as couples are welcome to consider adoption. To learn more, contact The Special Needs Adoption Coalition at The Boys and Girls Aid Society, (503) 222-9661.

Below are some examples of these special children:

Kanithia, Katrishia and Kamishia, ages 12, 9 and 5--These

beautiful girls are a close and memorable set of sisters!

Kanithia, known as "Kiki", has many talents and abilities. As a skilled athlete, a variety of sports fill her days.

Katrishia is a warm middle sister who interacts easily with people. She likes to make a positive impression on those she meets.

Affectionately known as "Kamish", little Kamishia is a compassionate and playful girl. Despite her sickle cell anemia, she is presently a picture of health.

All three girls are eager for a second chance to be someone's special daughters. They would make a glowing addition to a new home.

Keith and Keonna, ages 7 and 8-

Keith and Keonna are looking forward to finding a family to call their own. They are a delightful brother-sister duo!

Keonna is an active girl who liked to verbally express herself! Keonna plays enthusiastically outdoors riding bikes and jumping rope, but is also content with doll play and other indoor pastimes.

Affectionate, athletic Keith enjoys being read to and likes to joke with his sister. He is developing a close connection to his foster father, and is working on peer relations through his day to day interactions with other children.

Sensitive parents who could provide this sweet pair with security and comfort would be welcome!

50th Wedding Anniversary

The family and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Henderson Jr. (shown right) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 25, 1997 at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) Center located in the Cascade Plaza in North Portland. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson were married in Beaumont, Texas on January 22, 1947. Mr. Willie Henderson Jr., originally from Dumus, Arkansas, is retired from Union Pacific Railroad. His wife, Mrs. Gloria Henderson, who was self-employed, is also retired. She comes from Beaumont. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have resided in southeast Portland since the early 1950s and have raised four children: Gloria Grenn-Wickliff, Gregory Henderson, and Anthony Henderson all of Portland and Mary McDaniel of Vancouver, Washington. They have three grandchildren: Tamisha and Nia Green of Portland and Justin McDaniel of Vancouver.



Take the bite out of winter's chill

Help from the community is needed to save families from crowded shelters.

The rain, wind and cold weather associated with Oregon winters can be burdensome for everyone, but they also may be life threatening. An estimated 130,000 Oregonians could be living in homes without heat this winter. To help, Portland General Electric (PGE) has teamed up with Oregon Heat, an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to pay people's energy bills.

This is the fifth year that PGE and

Oregon Heat have worked together to meet the needs of families in crisis due to unemployment, accidents, sickness and other unforeseen circumstances.

"Most Oregon Heat beneficiaries are single-parent households with children under the age of five or senior citizens on fixed incomes," said PGE's Customer Resources Representative Lynda Tatum. "Since no one should have to choose between heating and eating, Oregon Heat steps in and helps pay overdue utility bills and makes sure that these families have heat throughout the

winter." PGE also offers home weatherization assistance and education on how to reduce energy consumption.

"Unfortunately, recent reductions in federally-funded energy assistance programs could force these families to go without heat all winter," said Oregon Heat Director Jay Formick. "But with individual donations and PGE's help, thousands of families are able to stay in their homes and out of crowded shelters."

Last year, PGE and its customers donated over \$300,000 to Oregon Heat, helping a total of 7,399 people stay warm. But thousands more still need assistance. This year, PGE will support Oregon Heat with over \$43,000 in corporate donations and in-kind support worth \$30,000. However, customer donations are urgently needed to help make a difference.

Whether an individual or corporate donation, Oregon Heat ensures 90 percent of every donated dollar will stay in the community where the donation was made--only 10 percent goes to the organization's administrative expenses. Oregon Heat receives no tax or United Way support for its energy assistance program.

For more information or to make a donation, please call Oregon Heat at 503-612-3790.

Show heart for needy

The Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division, Western Family and a host of other local sponsors, invite you to help celebrate the 15th annual Have A Heart Food Drive.

The Sunshine Division's largest single food drive for the year, the Have A Heart Food Drive helps feed needy Portlanders not just during the holidays, but throughout the year.

Please join us in culminating the Have A Heart Food Drive on Friday, February 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Sunshine Division warehouse, located at 687 North Thompson St. in Portland. A check will be presented to the Sunshine Division at 11:15 a.m., and there will be refreshments on hand for all.

Sponsors include: United Grocers, Western Family, The Ray of Hope Sunshine Division, The Oregonian, Willamette Industries, Inc., Earth 105 fm, KPTV Oregon's 12.



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Beef Round Steak	1.29	lb.
Lucerne Gallon Milk	1.39	gal.
Ovenjoy Bread	3 for \$1	22.5-oz.

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- Bone-in
- Valu Pack 3 or more
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• SAVE up to \$1.20 lb.



1.29 lb.

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Ovenjoy Bread

- 22.5-oz. White or Wheat
- SAVE up to \$1.55 on three

3 for \$1

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