

Family Living

America's Family Nursery Receives Grant

Volunteers of America (VOA), Oregon received a \$10,000 grant from The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) to fund the Family Nursery program, a prevention and early intervention program for children and their parents in at-risk families.

OCF awarded the grant based on the Family Nursery's congruency with the foundation's funding objectives including strengthening of attachment and bonding between parents and children, parents learning to better cope with parental and life stresses, families moving toward a safer, more stable lifestyle and away from alcohol, drugs, domestic violence and violent behaviors. The grant was made possible through \$5,000 from the Anna Wheeler Hayes Fund, \$3,000 from the Schamp Family Fund and \$2,000 from the Weston Family Fund.

Volunteers of America's Family Nursery is a prevention and early intervention project which takes a comprehensive approach to eliminating the abuse and neglect of very young children. The

program serves parents of infants, toddlers and preschool-age children to develop healthy family relationships and build on existing family strengths.

In 1996, 30 Oregon children died of abuse or neglect. Seventeen of these deaths resulted from neglect, 13 from abuse, while 10 of these deaths were children under age 3. Oregon claims a 3.8 percent increase in children identified as abuse victims from 1995 to 1996.

The Oregon Community Foundation was established in 1973 and manages charitable funds given by individuals, families, and businesses to enhance and support the quality of life in their communities. Today, the Foundation's endowment consists of 500 funds with combined assets of \$200 million.

Volunteers of America, Oregon is a not-for-profit, human service organization serving the Portland community for more than 100 years through its service to children and families, senior citizens, and adults and juveniles in community corrections.

"Waiting Child"

*Ebony and Brandon, Ages 7 & 6
This delightful brother and sister have ready smiles and ideas to share. They are two of over 300 Oregon children currently awaiting adoption.*

Ebony likes to color, play outdoors, swim, sing, and put puzzles together. She is enjoying first grade, after having benefitted from an all-day Kindergarten last year which helped prepare her with pre-academic skills. She is developmentally right on target.

Brandon likes to ride his bike, play basketball, go to the park, and be read to. He plays well with peers, but can also happily entertain himself. Brandon is enjoying his all-day Kindergarten, after having attended Early Intervention and Head Start programs for the past two years. He has a delay in expressive language, but is making good progress in speech therapy.

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These precious little ones experienced severe neglect, lack of supervision, and chaotic environments related to parental substance abuse. To help them continue the great progress they've made, Ebony and Brandon need a caring, energetic adoptive family to provide structure, close supervision, and warmth. Older siblings to serve as positive role models would be welcomed.

To learn more please contact The Special Needs Adoption Coalition at 222-9661.

U.S. Bank Donates More Than \$1 Million

Organizations throughout the state to benefit with the help of U.S. Bank, developing and funding affordable housing programs and economic development efforts got a little easier for 40 Oregon organizations. In support of these efforts, U.S. Bank distributed \$1.1 million in 1997 to assist in a variety of community development projects.

These contributions were the result of U.S. Bank's continual outreach efforts to community development agencies around the state, encouraging them to apply for these funds. "We told them to tell us what they were trying to accomplish and how much financial support they needed to succeed," explained Barbara Smith, vice president, community investment. "We know there are tremendous needs in our communities, and U.S. Bank has a long history of forging partnerships with community development organizations to meet those needs."

The impact of these grants can be seen around the state - Portland, Washington County, Albany, Dallas, Independence, McMinnville, Medford, Roseburg, Corvallis, Tillamook, Baker County, The Dalles, Eugene, Astoria, Bend, Salem, and Redmond.

The funds are used to support community services focused on economic development and to develop or improve a variety of affordable housing units meeting the needs of low-to-moderate-income families, seniors, disabled individuals, and farm workers.

Several umbrella organizations, which provide a variety of assistance and operational support to community development corporations at either a statewide or local level, received funding. Among those funded were The Neighborhood Partnership Fund, \$250,000; Association of Oregon Community Development Organizations, \$41,000; Community Development Network, \$16,000; Portland Housing Center, \$27,000; and the Housing Development Center, \$17,500; and the Housing Development Center, \$10,000.

"By funding these agencies, we hope to stretch these dollars to help even more organizations that were not funded directly," said Smith.

Next Generation Dream



Ken Mitchell - Phillips, Executive Director. (Photo by Kelly Moore)

Twenty years ago Rev. Joshua and Dr.

Virginia Phillips had a dream to strengthen, preserve, restore and reconcile families all over the northwest. So, they opened the doors of Give Us This Day, Inc. Community Center in Newberg, Oregon in November, 1978. They operated under the premise that if families are whole, than communities are healthier and the quality of life is better. The first major need they addressed in their business was counseling marriages and families. After a year of successful operation and over welcoming support from over 42 volunteers in their community they began to seek out additional ways they could render marriage and family therapy. They didn't have to look far to find out the many grave injustices to minority children in Portland's community.

Not only were there a large proportion of minorities without permanent homes, most of the minorities were placed or adopted into homes that were not culturally sensitive to the children's needs, outside their communities, and were not a part of their original

family. Additionally, most minorities were not informed about adoption or foster care, were not aware that they were losing many of their children to others outside their community, and were often disqualified from providing a home for these children due to the lack of minority representation from agencies such as Give Us This Day, Inc. Out of these social injustices, Dr. Virginia Phillips dreamed up the concept of an "Extended Family Homes Program" -- a solution to the problems in foster care, and she established the first African American owned and operated adoption agency in Oregon.

She wanted to create a network of minority parents in the N/NE community to eliminate the need to take such a large proportion of our children out of the community. She recognized the positive response children had when allowed to experience loving parents in an environment they are used to or their own community. The network of parents resembled the same model natural to many minority cultures.

Emergency And Winter Clothing

Portland service agencies need your help. The "Storm of '98" has left the low-income and homeless in our city off guard in freezing temperatures. Those that offer emergency clothing are in dire need of coats, sweaters, gloves, warm socks and winter hats of all sizes.

To accommodate this need, the Church of Scientology Celebrity Centre has offered to act as a drop site every day from 9:00am to 10:00pm throughout the month of January to receive donations on behalf of Low Income Families Emergency Center (L.I.F.E. Center), one of Portland's only work-for-assistance program. People in need of food, clothes or household appliances can do volunteer work in the Center in exchange for supplies.

For information contact Celebrity Centre at 228-0116 or bring by your clean, new if possible, donations to 709 SW Salmon.

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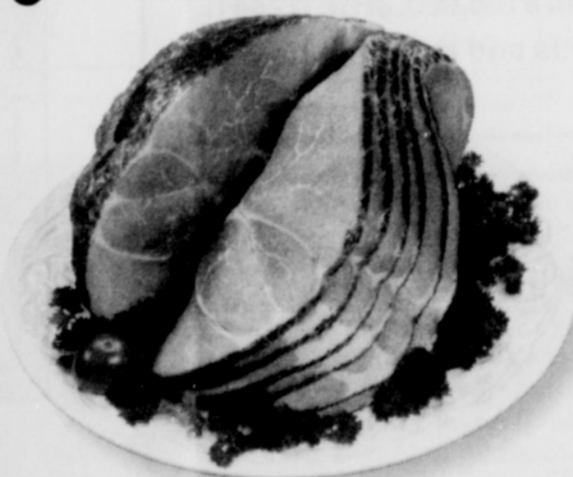
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