

Women Honored for Participating in Major Osteoporosis Study

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undreds of women from the Portland-Vancouver area some as old as 101 - were honored at a luncheon on April 7th at the Double tree Lloyd Center for their participation in an important, long-running study by Kaiser Permanente's Center for Health Research (CHR). Nearly 900 women and their guests heard news about the latest results of the study of Osteoporotic Fractures (SOF) and were thanked for their participation over the past 12 years.

Osteoporosis affects nearly 24 million American women and, until recently, was usually seen as a white woman's disease. In 1987 the CHR recruited more than 2,400 local women over the age of 65 to join this federally study to discover what factors influence the loss of bone density and lead to debilitating bone fractures. In 1996 data collected at the SOF site in Pittsburgh showed that African American women over the age 70 experience a rapid loss of bone density, a loss that is twice as rapid as in white women of the same age. To study this issue further, the CHR recruited more than 120 African American women from the Portland area to join the study.

"We feel it was very important to honor and thank all the women who made this study possible," says Emily Harris, PhD, the principal investigator. "Many of the women have been part of the study for as long as 12 years, and all of the women have been extremely loyal and active par-



SOF volunteers and staff take time out form lunch to celebrate. Left to right: Ora Nunley, Ruth Glass, Adam Doherty (Research Specialist), Marge Erwin (Study Coordinator), Lauretta Slaughter, Betty Key, and Louise Harris

ticipants. Their Willingness to come to clinic visits, patiently answer all our questions, and go through all the tests has been extremely impressive. They are making it possible to better understand the cause of osteoporosis and paving the way for discoveries to prevent osteoporosis and osteoporotic fractures Clinic visits to collect information for the study are scheduled to end December, but analysis of the data will continue through 2001. The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease and the National Institute on Aging fund the study. The University of California at San Francisco is the coordinating center. The four

University of Minnesota, and University of Pittsburgh.

Kaiser Permanente's center for Health Research in the public interstate. Kaiser Permanente Northwest is a prepaid group practice health maintenance organization that serves the health care needs of more than 435,000 people and the dental needs of more than 180,000 people in Oregon and Southwest Washington.



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The work of 20 young artists has been selected to adorn 1999 Kids for Kids for CASA greeting cards. Proceeds from the sale of the cards support a program that helps abandoned, abused and neglected children to have a voice in court.

Friends of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) chose

this year's artwork from among over 200 pieces submitted by children age five to 17, primarily from Multnomah and Washington counties. The array of holiday scenes and

winter landscapes will be reproduces onto more than 650,000 greeting cards, which are available for purchase by individuals and businesses.

'The artwork reflects that special magic and optimism that children feel about life," says Laura Kebbe, marketing for Kids for Kids for CASA. "When people purchase these cards, they are not only supporting the important work of CASA, but also encouraging the kids who donate their time and artwork to benefit their peers who need our help. This is truly an activity by kids, for kids."

Revenue from kids for CASA

Oregon SAFE KIDS Week Starts with Children's Safety Fair at the Zoo

Children, parents and grandparents are invited to the Oregon SAFE KIDS safety fair at the Oregon Zoo in Portland from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 1. In Keeping with this year's theme of Helping Every Generation Care for Kids there will be interactive safety exhibits for kids and the adults of all ages who care for them. Safety checklists good for discount Zoo admissions are being distributed through area schools and other locations. For information about other activities during SAFE KIDS Week, check the website at http:// www.osp.state.us/SAFEkids.

cards make up one quarter of the annual budget for training new CASA volunteers, who advocate for children's best interest in court

proceedings. It costs \$41,000

for CASA

to provide

a full year of advo-

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one child.

Currently,

600 chil-

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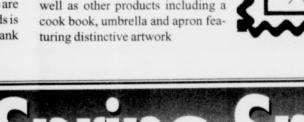
While the bulk of CASA cards are sold for the holidays, Kids for Kids is currently offering gift packs of blank

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cards suitable for year-round use, as well as other products including a





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