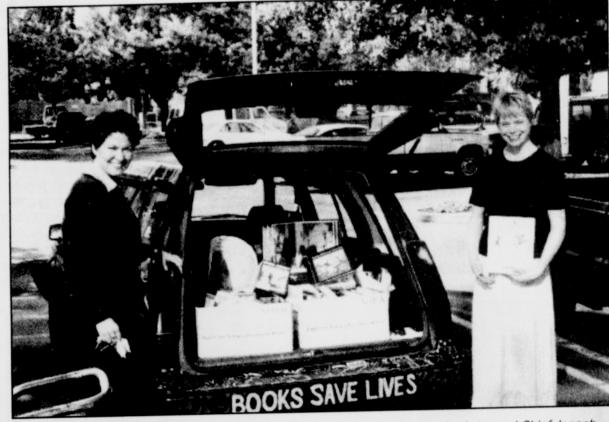
Family Living

Pacific Power workers
share books
with local reading
programs



Eileen Van Tyne (left), SMART (start Marking a Reader Today) Coordinator for Astor and Chief Joseph Elementary Schools helps Val Anderson, SMART area manager for Multnomah County, load books from a Pacific power employee book drive. More than 2,200 books went to child and adult literacy programs.

(PORTLAND, Ore.) – Pacific Power employees brought in books by the armload and box full to support local literacy programs. Company volunteers spent hours collecting, sorting cleaning and delivering more than 2,200 books during its first book drive this fall.

Employees donated an array of books, from popular children's books like Clifford and the Harry Potter series to lesser-known titles, and teen and adult books, ranging from love stories to "how to" books on everything embroidery to shopping for a pet.

Val Anderson, Multnomah County area manager for Start Making a Reader Today, said the variety is priceless in boosting literacy efforts. "The books enhance our permanent collection so volunteers have something more to get kids really hooked on reading," Anderson said. SMART volunteers spend time reading with children who need special one-on-one attention. With a wider selection, Anderson said, volunteers can better find titles to match the child's interest.

The SMART program received hundreds of books from the drive to use in its literacy program. In addition to donating books, Pacific Power employees also spend hundreds of hours each year reading to children at local schools- nearly 650 hours during the 1998-99 school year.

Portland employees volunteer at elementary schools across the area, including Boise-Eliot, Astor, King and, beginning this year, Meek Elementary.

The book drive and volunteer reading are coordinated through the company's employee program-Employee Community help Organization-which participates in community activities throughout Pacific Power's service area each. To date in 1999, volunteers have helped with 61 projects in the Portland area alone.

Child Welfare Agency Needs Crisis Foster Homes

Terri Barnett, Associate Director, at The Boys & Girls Aid Society of Oregon, announced that there is an immediate need in the tri-county area for foster parents willing to shelter youth in crisis. The agency is working to meet the increased need for foster care brought on by growing demand. Girls ranging in age from 11 to 17 are most in need of short-term foster homes.

The children and youth in crisis who are fostered through the agency may have been removed from their

homes or found homeless for a variety of reasons; from abuse and neglect to abandonment, family illness, emotional problems, or unplanned pregnancies.

Crisis foster parents care for children from one to three days while the agency performs an assessment, provides assistance and finds a more permanent placement. Foster parents can be married or single, rent or own their home, work outside the home, and may or may not have their own children Foster parents provide the youth in their care with positive, healthy role models, bringing positive change to their lives. Foster homes are certified by the agency, receive reimbursement for food and other expenses, and are supported 24 hours a day by agency counselors.

Adults interested in finding out more about becoming foster parents with The Boys & Girls Aid Society are encouraged to contact Sue Lyon at (503) 222-9662, extension 137. Foster parents and counselors are available for interviews.

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NEXT STOP: Portland
4th Annual Wellness Event
Sunday, October 17, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Renaissance Market (909 N. Killingsworth)
Sponsored by Lloyd Lions Club.
Supported by The African American Health Coalition Inc.
for African American Wellness Week.