



Family Living

William and Legacy team up

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Patients who leave hospital emergency rooms with only the clothes on their back, and sometimes not even that, are now assured of warm, adequate clothing—thanks to a new partnership between William Temple House and Legacy Health System.

William Temple House, which provides emergency services and counseling to people in need, has agreed to supply clothing, including coats, gloves, hats and shoes, to the emergency rooms of Legacy Good Samaritan and Legacy Emanuel Medical Centers.

"This means that anyone, including the homeless, who come to us in wet or torn clothing can leave wearing something clean and comfortable," said Virginia Hendrickson, director of Social Services at Legacy Health System. "Often we have only light, temporary garments to offer, which are inadequate in cold weather."

Hendrickson explained it is not just the homeless who need clothes. Patients' clothing is often ruined in the accidents which bring them to the hospital, or have to be cut off in order to provide emergency care.

Together, Good Samaritan and Emanuel see more than 86,000 patients annually in their emergency rooms, so nearly every day two or three patients need proper clothing, Hendrickson said.

She said hospitals keep some extra clothing on hand, but often do not have the garments or sizes patients need, and frequently do not have adequate cold weather clothing.

"When we heard about the hospitals' dilemma, we saw an opportunity for William Temple House to step up and meet a need," said Donald Nichols, executive director of the Northwest Portland-based social service agency.

"This is a natural partnership," Nichols continued. "William Temple House provides food and clothing without charge to those in need as part of our on-going emergency services program. We have a good selection of clean, warm donated

clothing, so we can provide a variety of sizes and garments to supplement what the emergency rooms have on hand."

One element in the new agreement calls for William Temple House to conduct a clothing drive at the Legacy hospitals twice a year. The donated clothing or other household items will be collected, sorted, cleaned and prepared for reuse by William Temple House.

"In addition to coats, caps, gloves and shoes, donated sweat suits are very useful because they are warm, comfortable and adjust easily for different sized patients," Nichols said.

The hospital will keep an inventory and let William Temple House know the sizes and articles of clothing they need for their emergency room patients. The ER staffs may also refer patients to William Temple House for other assistance, including counseling and emergency social services.

"This is a win-win for all of us, but especially for people of very limited means, often without family, friends or basic resources," Nichols said.

Founded in 1965 as a non-profit organization to help those in need, William Temple House provides counseling and emergency social services without charge to approximately 12,000 individuals and families annually throughout the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. For appointments or services, call (503)226-3021.

Planned Parenthood provides cancer screening

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To celebrate Valentine's Day and commemorate National Cervical Cancer Awareness month, Planned Parenthood of the Columbia/Willamette are offering free breast and cervical cancer screenings Feb. 14 for women who have not had a Pap smear in the last three years. Women must make appointments for the screenings, and can call 1-800-230-PLAN to reach their closest Planned Parenthood Clinic.

In 1999, about 12,800 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer nationally, and 4,800 women died from the disease. A disproportionate number of deaths are among minorities and women of low income, due in large part to lack of insurance, transportation to a health care facility and child care for the appointment.

An estimated 37-60 percent reduction in cervical cancer mortality is possible with regular screening for all women. If cervical cancer is detected while in its earliest stages, the survival rate is almost 100 percent, with timely and appropriate treatment and follow-up.

"Virtually all of these deaths can be prevented by making lifesaving screening services available to all women at risk," said Lois Backus, Executive Director of Planned Parenthood of the Columbia/Willamette. "Our central mission is to provide health care services to women who otherwise could not receive care.

While we certainly can't provide free breast and cervical exams every day, we want to provide this screening as our gift to the community on Valentine's Day."

The incidence of invasive cervical cancer dramatically decreased by 44 percent from 1973 to 1996, while mortality due to this disease

decreased by 47.3 percent. Much of the reduction in cervical cancer mortality has been associated with the increased use of Pap smears. Also, early detection and treatment of the disease improves the prognosis for women diagnosed with this disease. PPCW was founded in 1963 as a provider of medical services,

counseling, and educational programs for low income individuals in Portland, and expanded its coverage in 1993 to 30 of the 36 counties, and two counties in Southwest Washington. PPCW currently operates clinics in S.E. Portland, N.E. Portland, Beaverton, Gresham, Salem, Bend and

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Win a get-away to see Civil Rights treasures

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As a special salute to Black History Month 2000, one very lucky family will get an up close and personal tour of the home of America's Civil Rights movement when Atlanta's DeKalb Convention & Visitors Bureau awards an exciting and educational all-expense-paid weekend get-away to Atlanta, Georgia.

The Grand Prize winner will receive up to four round-trip airline tickets to Atlanta via Delta Air Lines, ground transportation, two nights hotel accommodations, a grand tour of Atlanta's African-American Heritage Treasures including Sweet Auburn, The King Center, Stone Mountain Park, Underground Atlanta and much more.

Entering to win the Black History Month Vacation Package is as easy as winning itself. Entries can be submitted by sending a post card with your name, address and phone number to Black History Month Contest, DCVB, P.O. Box 93447, Atlanta, Georgia, 30318 or you can enter on-line at www.atlantasdekalb.org/contest. The Grand Prize winner will be drawn on Feb. 28, 2000, by Atlanta's DeKalb Convention & Visitors Bureau President Jon Manns.

"We are proud to honor Black History Month by bringing a lucky family to Atlanta and DeKalb County," said Jon Manns, president of Atlanta's DeKalb Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We plan for this weekend get-away to be packed with fun, history and lots of good-times for the whole family."



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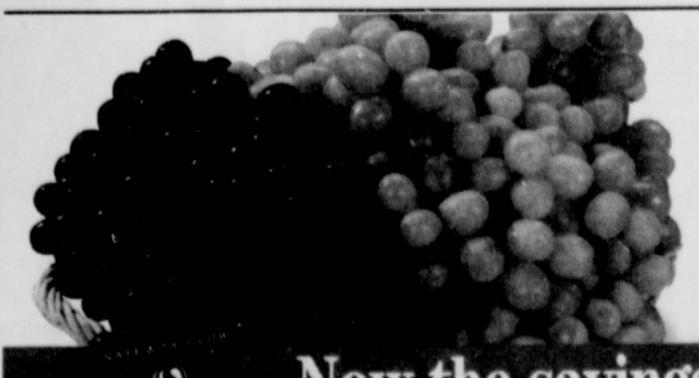
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