



Metro / Religion

HUD "Best Practices" goes to EMO's Shared Housing for Innovative use of Existing Housing

CONTRIBUTOR STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A program that matches people who need homes with people who need assistance in their homes - Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Shared Housing Program - is one of 18 Northwest area winners of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development "best practices" award. The award, according to the Oregon's HUD office, was made because of the program's innovative approach to the housing shortage in the Portland area. Shared Housing serves people in Clackamas, Washington, Clark and Multnomah counties.

In a metro region with a growing shortage of affordable housing, "the only solution is to make more effective use of existing housing stock," said Lowen Berman, who directed Shared Housing for the past two years. By installing and fine-tuning a new computer program, modifying policies and procedures, and substantially increasing outreach, Shared Housing staff members have increased the number of home share matches from an average of six per month two years ago to a current average of 25 per month.

Berman and Laura Baumeister, who has worked with Berman during the past year and who takes over as program manager this month, believe in customer service. They work hard to ensure that Shared Housing participants are served promptly and treated with respect. A list of potential home share matches, for example, is generated immediately after a person has completed a home share application.

Recently Shared Housing has reached statewide by assisting in the establishment of a home-share program in Eugene. EMO also provides another kind of cooperative home share by handling the financial administration for approximately 45 Oxford Houses in the Portland metro area and an additional 25 elsewhere in the state.

Oxford Houses are self-run, self-supporting homes for people in recovery from addictions. The Shared Housing program is currently applying for funding to help establish new recovery homes across the state, some that will

become Oxford Houses and some that will be other models of community home living.

"We're excited about furthering our role as a statewide program," said Baumeister. "We also look forward to giving the technical assistance to other groups so they can get off the ground."

In August, Shared Housing will partner with the Hispanic Access Center of the Oregon Human Development Corporation (OHDC) to sublet a house to five low-income Hispanic men. The men will run the home themselves and pay their rent through a membership fee. This arrangement will help meet the needs of a growing number of Hispanic men who, according to the Hispanic Access Center, are employed but unable to obtain housing. Shared Housing will establish the procedures for addressing household financial needs, assist in establishing weekly house meetings, and provide a life skills forum that includes budgeting and money management. Shared Housing hopes that this model of community cooperative housing will lead to the establishment of additional community cooperative households for other populations of Oregonians who face common challenges in finding affordable housing.

In July, Shared Housing will also begin working with Interfaith Caregivers of East Multnomah County. Shared Housing will provide the interfaith group with its software and will train the group's staff how to use the software to offer opportunities to their volunteers, and Shared Housing will expand its pool of potential home providers in the Gresham area.

"We don't give housing to people as much as facilitate their use of their own energy, wisdom and creativity to solve their own needs as they see them," said Berman. "We leverage a little bit of public funding to allow them to solve their own problems."

Shared Housing is located at 1819 NW Everett in Portland. It is a program of EMO, a statewide association of 15 Christian denominations including Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant religious bodies that work together to improve the lives of Oregonians. For more information about Shared Housing, call Laura Baumeister at (503) 225-9924.

Briefs

Exciting Event Returns To North Portland On July 22nd, 1-4 p.m.

The PROPER Event's 2nd annual community festival at Kenton Park: nonstop live music and performance arts with poetry, storytelling, drama and dance. Featuring Celebration Tabernacle, WAVE Production, Paradigm; North Portland Music Academy; Das PHAT Ministries; Master Choi's Taekwondo Y Karate,

Theatron Productions; the Drama Queens of Project Network; Bethesda Christian Church Senior Choir; Imagen Latina, and Van Jackson. Enjoy food, fun and new friends with games and prizes. Establish relationships through the information alley (spiritual, financial, legal, mental healthcare and educational booths).

This festival's got something for everyone and it's free. See you there! Kenton Park is on bus line 4, North Portland off of Denver Avenue and

Kilpatrick Street, across from Kenton Station Post Office.

Special Summer Services

Special summer services are every Friday afternoon at 4:00 pm located at The Church of Scientology of Portland, 2636 NE Sandy Blvd. The Sermon topics for July 21 is "Goals of Man, and on July 28 is "Clean Hands Make a Happy Life." All are welcome, for more information call 503.963.8121.

Cletus Moore

from page 1

Managers more accountable for their area of expertise," Moore said. Examples of areas of responsibility for about 20 of these managers include Student Services, the Registrar's Office and Sports.

In addition to his post at Warner-Pacific, Moore is also an elected member of the Board of Directors for Mount Hood Community College, where he serves on the Budget Committee and a Task Force for reviewing Management Salaries. He will also be involved in a Search Committee to find a successor to current MHCC President Joel Vela, who will be leaving Sept. 30.

The community leader is also active as a Board Member of The Morrison Center, a community service organization with a wide range of activities including a Children's Family Center which deals with both teen and adult family problems.

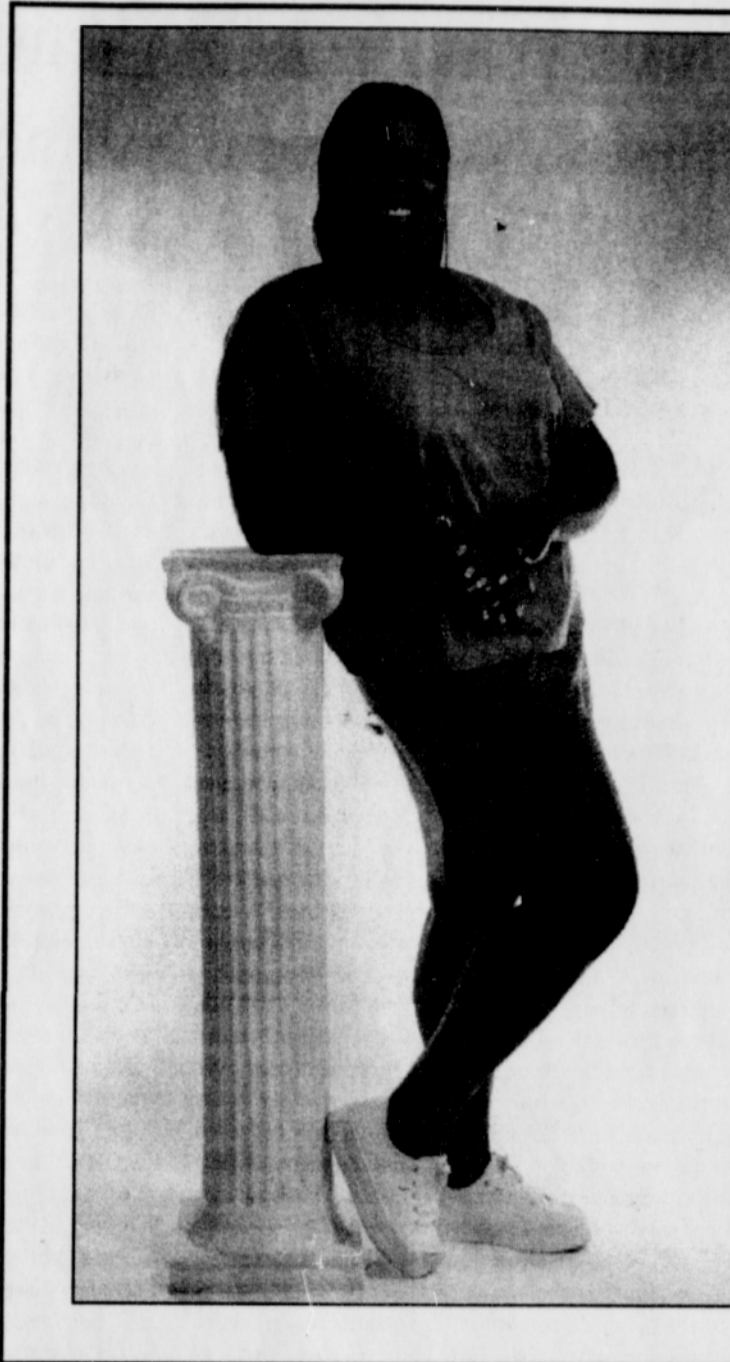
He is also involved with the Rosemont School for Girls, which helps young ladies between 12 and 18 encountering personal problems such as being molested by family members as well as the more positive aspects of helping families and working with parents.

In addition to his work with children and families, Moore is also a member of the Board of Directors for Downtown Community Housing, Inc. which aims to provide low-income housing in the heart of the city.

Major accomplishments of this group include Alder House, a six story house at 13th and Southwest Alder which provides low-income housing for single adults. Another house run by the same group is Kearney House, located at Northwest 20th and Kearney, a multi-family unit specifically geared to low-income families. The facility has 6 stories of very up-to-date, modern facilities. Other extracurricular activities include participating in the Roseway Lions Club and the Oregon Taxpayer's Association, which lobbies on behalf of Oregon taxpayers. The organization is also linked via internet to other tax advocacy organization around Oregon through the site: oregonwatchdog.com.

Moore is married with two children from a previous marriage. His wife Phyllis works as an Office Manager for a tax consultant. His daughter Jennifer graduated last year with a B.S. in Biotechnology from Chico State University in Chico, Calif. She is now married and lives in San Francisco, and the couple have had a 5-year-old girl.

His son Christopher recently was discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps, and now lives in the Seattle area. Moore currently attends the First Baptist Church. He is a singer with a three-and-a-half octave range, from tenor to first bass. Local productions he has taken part in include My Fair Lady, The Merry Widow, Hello Dolly, and Beauty and the Beast. He has acted and sang in the Gallery Player's Production of A Three Act Play, Condensed, By Mozart.



Margesha
 You have beautified the world;
 You add a unique flare to all you survey;
 Your accomplishments will be remarkable.
 With your gentle side, you have tamed what others fear.
 With your explosive side, the fierceness will open those close doors.
 You have many gifts from God and he trusted me with you.
 Much Love to you:
 Margesha J Albert-Richmond
 Congratulations My Dearest
 From Mom, Dad, Brother, Grandmother And Family
 June, 2000

Obituary

In loving memory of Billie Sue Parker

A funeral will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 8, 2000, in Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes for Billie Sue Parker, who died July 4 of diabetes and a stroke at age 65. Ms. Parker was born June 1, 1935, in Kiamichi, Okla., and was raised in Vancouver, Wash. She graduated from Hudson's Bay High School and was a guard for the Oregon State Penitentiary from 1975 until her retirement in 1992. She was a former member of Bethel A.M.E. Church.

Survivors include her son, Lester; sister, Priscilla Wiggins; brothers, Gene, Bill, Ronnie and Harold; and three grandchildren.

Interment will be in Rose City Cemetery. The family suggests remembrances to the American Diabetes Association.

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