

Metro

NE Portland woman rescued from abuse says thanks

By MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER

A northeast Portland woman who was rescued from an abusive living environment is reaching out to the many people and organizations that came to her aid.

Annie Goggans, 64, will move back into her fully remodeled and refurbished house this weekend.

This could not have been accomplished without the time, donations and labor of businesses, non-profit organizations and individual volunteers.

This summer, Goggans was in a state of great despair. Her home was about to be boarded up by court order because of nuisance complaints. The house at NE 15th and Highland was in a state of disrepair. According to police, illegal drugs and other unlawful activities were all too common.

Unfortunately, the problems were not of her own making.

People who came to her aid said Goggans was completely overwhelmed by the bad deeds of her adult children and others.

According to court records,



Annie Goggans is thanking the many people who helped her reclaim her home and escape an abusive environment.

Goggans herself was a victim, being physically and emotionally abused by the very own family members whom she loved.

Her pastor got her in touch with the Elders in Action advocacy group and lawyers donated their time to get

the problem fixed.

A series of restraining orders were drawn up to get the abusing family members out of the house. Area businesses donated supplies and labor to change the locks in her home. Businesses and organizations also

donated time and money to remodel the home's kitchen, bathroom and lighting.

Portland attorney Edie Rogoway said volunteers hard work proves that Portland is truly the greatest city in the world.

"Annie is so grateful that and wants to take this time to say 'God Bless You' for making her house a home," Rogoway said.

The Portland Observer is pleased to list the following people who opened their hearts and did their part to help.

Steve Griffin, Home Depot; McLakey.com; Don Sherwood, Roto-rooter; Debra Woods, the Bob Shop; Ronnie Balog; Richard Lundstrum; Dave Gaylor, The Bug Man; Mark Williams, Wilsonville Carpets/Tile; Alonzo, City of Roses Hauling; Mike Dingman, Haul All; Elite Care Senior Housing Center; The Drama

Queens; Billy Reeds Restaurant; Oregon Demolay; Tray Steel and the crew at Safeway on Martin Luther King Junior Blvd.; K.C. Cleaning Co.;

Fred Meyer; Kirk Hamann and Victoria Larson, Elders in Action; Erika, Mike and Emily, Habitat for Humanity; Metro/Environmental Services, City of Portland; Pastor Taylor, House of Prayer Church;

Portland Police Locksmith Program; Judy Booker; Linda Hornbuckle; Annie's neighbors; Deputy Ross, Multnomah County sheriff's dept.; Officers Marcy Jackson and Lucy Kochever, Portland police dept.; Steve Rose, Cindy Bidnick and Karen Haul, Multnomah County family and civil clerks; The Hon. Paula Kurshner and the Hon. Steven Evans, Multnomah County circuit court; The City Attorney's Office; Michael Wendrow; Bob Ornstein; JLH; KS; BRL; Louise Kaiser; and all the special people who have donated furniture, houseware and gift certificates.

Disparity in death penalties found

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wide racial and geographic disparities exist in the federal government's requests for death penalties, according to a Justice Department study released Tuesday. The White House called the findings troubling.

The report, requested by Attorney General Janet Reno, was certain to provoke renewed calls from Congress, civil rights and legal groups for a moratorium on federal death sentences.

Reno imposed a new system in 1995 requiring U.S. Attorneys to get her approval for all death sentences after a review of each case by a team of senior Justice officials. Neither she nor the review team members are told the race of defendants but defense attorneys sometimes tell them in the course of arguing against the death penalty. Reno's goal was to achieve a more uniform system, but the report found the first five years of experience with the system was not uniform.

The numbers did show, however, that Justice Department recommendations for death sentences in federal cases roughly reflected the racial percentages of the pool of defendants charged with capital crimes.

Between 1995 and July of this year, U.S. attorneys forwarded for review the cases of 682 defendants who faced capital charges, of which 20 percent were white and 80 percent were minorities. U.S. attorneys recommended the death penalty be sought for 183 of them, 26 percent of them whites and 74 percent minorities.

Reno approved seeking death penalties for 159 of them, of which 28 percent were for whites and 72 percent for minorities.

Ultimately during this period, 20 defendants have been sentenced to death, of which 20 percent were white and 80 percent minorities.

Many cases are resolved during this process before trial or sentencing by guilty pleas, altered charges and other outside events. Other cases are



Attorney General Janet Reno speaks to journalists during her weekly news briefing at the Department of Justice in Washington, Thursday Sept. 7.

pending.

The minority proportion of those charged with capital crimes, those recommended for the death penalty and those sentenced to death was far higher than the minority proportion in the national population.

"We've seen the numbers," White House deputy press secretary Jake Siewert said. "At first glance, those numbers are troubling. We need to know more about exactly what's behind the numbers." Siewert declined to discuss a possible death penalty moratorium.

"Obviously, the president wants to see this information and make his own judgment, but I wouldn't expect anything on that," Siewert said.

Geographically, only five of the 94 U.S. attorney districts accounted for about 40 percent of the 682 death penalty cases submitted for review. They were Puerto Rico, the eastern district of Virginia, Maryland and the eastern and southern districts of New York. Those five and four other

districts, western Missouri, New Mexico, western Tennessee and northern Texas, accounted for 43 percent of the 183 defendants that U.S. attorneys recommended for the death penalty.

The federal death penalty has been back on the books since 1988 and was expanded in 1994 to cover dozens more crimes, many of them drug-related or violent.


But because of appeals, no death sentence has yet been carried out since 1963. Two-thirds of the 21 prisoners under federal death sentence are minorities. In 1972, the Supreme Court struck down the death penalty as applied at that time on grounds that it was unconstitutionally unfair.

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Development

apartments designed to provide affordable housing to tenants in the 60 percent median income range.

This would mean one person could make as much as \$22,560 and a family of four could make as much as \$32,220 to remain eligible to live there.

"Our basic mission is to provide affordable housing for families and seniors," said Shelter America President Sherman Kellar. "Last year we have either built or rehabilitated over 560 units. We just finished the Country Run Apartments in Longview, Wash. It's 20 units of transitional housing."