

Center Opens to Help Youth Gain Skills, Employment

New Partnership Includes SEI, Area Schools and Youth Services Consortium

Worksystems Inc. will host a grand opening next week for its new Northeast Portland youth center designed to help young people attain marketable job skills and gainful employment.

The Youth Opportunity Center grand opening will be held at 4 p.m. on Oct. 19 at the center, located at 3034 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. The theme of the grand opening is "Youth Opportunity: School + Skills = Success."

The event is open to the public.

Guest speakers include Lorenzo Harrison, director of Youth Services for the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Division; Mayor Vera Katz; and Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz.

Cruz said the Youth Opportunity Center is a vital program. "The youth are critical our future," Cruz said. "Their ability to attain the necessary job skills, training and employment is directly linked to the success of

this city and this nation."

Staff members of the Youth Opportunity Center will work with youth between ages 14-21.

The young people can be referred to the center by their schools, community agencies, or they can come into the center without being referred, said Alescia Blakely, the center's program assistant.

The staff will work one-on-one with youth to create tailored plans for long-term employment. The

plans would include obtaining a degree, building skills, job training, internships and job placement. In addition, the center will also offer mentoring, tutoring, leadership training, community service and recreational opportunities.

The center is a partnership that includes Worksystems Inc., Portland Public Schools, Self-Enhancement Inc., Portland Community College and Youth Services Consortium.

Albina Bank Cited For Community Lending

Albina Community Bank is the recipient of a \$171,217 award from the U.S. Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institution's Fund.

The award is in recognition of the bank's lending efforts in northeast Portland. Albina Community Bank made loans totaling more than \$5.8 million to borrowers in low to moderate-income neighborhoods of northeast Portland in the first six months of this year.

The loans financed small

businesses, commercial and residential real estate development and family needs. This reflects an increase of more than \$3 million in loans over the same period in 1999.

"We are very pleased to receive this award," said Robert McKean, President and CEO of Albina Community Bank. "The award is significant that it supports specific loans and programs that we have undertaken over the last year. There is financial risk involved in these ventures, and

the CDFI has recognized our efforts and is stepping forward with meaningful support."

"Albina Community Bank was established to accelerate the redevelopment of north and northeast Portland by providing a variety of financial services to families and businesses in our neighborhood," said Michael Henderson, Chairman of Albina Community Bank. "We are committed to providing loans to small businesses in our community, particularly woman and minority-

owned businesses, and to providing mortgage loans for affordable housing and support for rehabilitation of our service area."

Albina Community Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of Albina Community Bancorp, opened in 1995 as a CDFI. Its mission is to "help accelerate the redevelopment of north and northeast Portland, and to work to ensure that low to moderate income individuals and small business owners share in the economic upturn."



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Who Will Take Care Of Our Parents?

By ROGER AUERBACH

More than 300,000 Oregonians serve as caregivers to family members or friends, according to a national survey conducted in 1999. Family caregivers assume many different roles in different settings. They may help a loved one with cooking, cleaning or bathing needs. A caregiver might help with shopping or transportation, or simply spend time with the person. Without these family supports, many elders could no longer live at home and would have to move to an institutionalized setting.

A combination of love for the family member and the economic reality of hiring a caregiver motivates most family caregivers. Many families find that caregiving adds a rewarding dimension to their relationship with the family member.

But caregiving can also be very stressful. Long distance caregiving can cause great anxiety, as the caregiver wonders about the amount and quality of care given to the family member.

An additional challenge is the need to learn about complex medical, financial and legal issues. Unfortunately, most of us are not prepared to assume this huge and important responsibility.

As we face an unprecedented surge in the growth of the elder and disabled population in Oregon, we prepare our community to be more informed caregivers. Medical advances will make it possible for us to live longer, but with chronic illness such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease more likely to affect the elderly. The responsibility of family caregiving will increase.

Oregon's Senior and Disabled Services Division is taking a major role in preparing Oregonians for this life-changing experience. As thousands of our citizens assume caregiving responsibilities each year, we must provide informational resources and programs to make family caregiving a positive experience.

As part of Oregon's caregiving initiative, we are co-sponsoring with Oregon Public Broadcasting and the Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation, a two-hour television documentary on caregiving.

Growing Up And Growing Old: How Will We Care For Our Parents, will be shown on OPB today from 8-10 p.m. This show follows four Oregon families as they address caregiving challenges in their lives. A panel of elder care experts will discuss the families situation and answer questions from a studio audience.

The show will be rebroadcast on Sunday at 1 p.m.

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