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'I Have A Dream' Distributed

Commemorative brochure offered free during Black History Month



Coretta Scott King helps to introduce the "I Have A Dream" brochure, including the full text of her husband's famous speech.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous speech, "I Have A Dream," is now available — in its entirety — free at participating 7-Eleven stores.

The King Center, Education is Freedom Foundation and 7-Eleven, Inc. have partnered to make the speech available on the front counter of neighborhood 7-Eleven stores, in honor of Black History Month.

The commemorative piece includes a unique four-page introduction penned by Coretta Scott King, the wife of the late Dr. King, that describes the hours leading up to King's speech and her observations on the audience response to it. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in Washington, D.C., during which King delivered "I Have A Dream."

"I have always wanted to have more people read the full text of Martin's 'I Have A Dream' speech because I think the text is very powerful and is very relevant to the concerns of people," Mrs. King said.

Established in 1968, The King Center is the official living memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and institutional guardian of his legacy. The King Center's mission focuses on developing and disseminating programs that educate the world about Dr. King's philosophy and methods of nonviolence, human relations, service to mankind, and related teachings and building a national and international network of organizations that help further the organization's mission and objectives of building the Beloved Community that Dr. King envisioned.

Library Explores Family Histories

The North Portland branch of the Multnomah County Library invites area residents to jump start their research into black family histories.

The library is sponsoring a workshop for people to learn how to gather information on African American genealogy on Friday, Feb. 21 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the branch location at 512 N. Killingsworth.

Library staff will demonstrate how to find family histories using a variety of examples and websites.

For more information, call the library at 503-988-4810.

Vital Programs Medical Programs Cut

continued from Metro

Needy Program, which has served elderly, blind and mentally and physically disabled clients by providing financial assistance for medical and care services.

Also on the chopping block is the General Assistance Program, which provides care for 2,700 disabled and low-income clients unable to work.

In addition, 9,000 older adults and people living with disabilities in long-term care will also lose their services.

The cuts are jamming county offices with clients looking for answers and alternatives.

"We've got to get something going," Hasbun said. "We've got to give back to the disabled people."

Hasbun's two-dozen prescription bottles have become increasingly empty as the month rolls on. He doesn't yet know how he'll refill them.

He is clearly frustrated by a system that appears to have betrayed him. But in the face of uncertainty he keeps his own situation in perspective.

"There's a lot of people out there in worse shape than I am," he said.

Many clients in the Medically Needy Program were 60 years and older. The program covered the Medicare premium and costs for prescription medicine.

"Since that program has been cut, our clients have to find ways to pay for the medicines themselves," said Hasbun's case manager, Javelin Hardy.

Hardy presented Hasbun with a list of prescription medicine resources but most will only cover 10 percent of the cost. She knows options are few for Hasbun and thousands of others just like him.

"He's a fighter," she said. "It's hard seeing those that don't want to fight."

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