

# LOCAL HOMES TESTED FOR INDOOR POLLUTION

## Lung Association program helps people with asthma

Dust, lead, molds, biological contaminants and household chemicals are a few of the indoor pollutants volunteers check when they assess home environments through the Master Home Environmentalist program offered by the American Lung Association of Oregon.

Currently, priority for assessments is being given to residents of north and northeast Portland.

The program is available to all families who have a family member with asthma.

"We're excited about this program," said Margaret McConnell, Master Home Environmentalist Program Coordinator. "It's a chance for families to dramatically reduce their exposure to indoor pollutants by taking advantage of the expertise of our volunteers. And in many cases, that expertise is free."

American children and adults spend 90 percent of their time indoors. For people with asthma, that means exposure can often

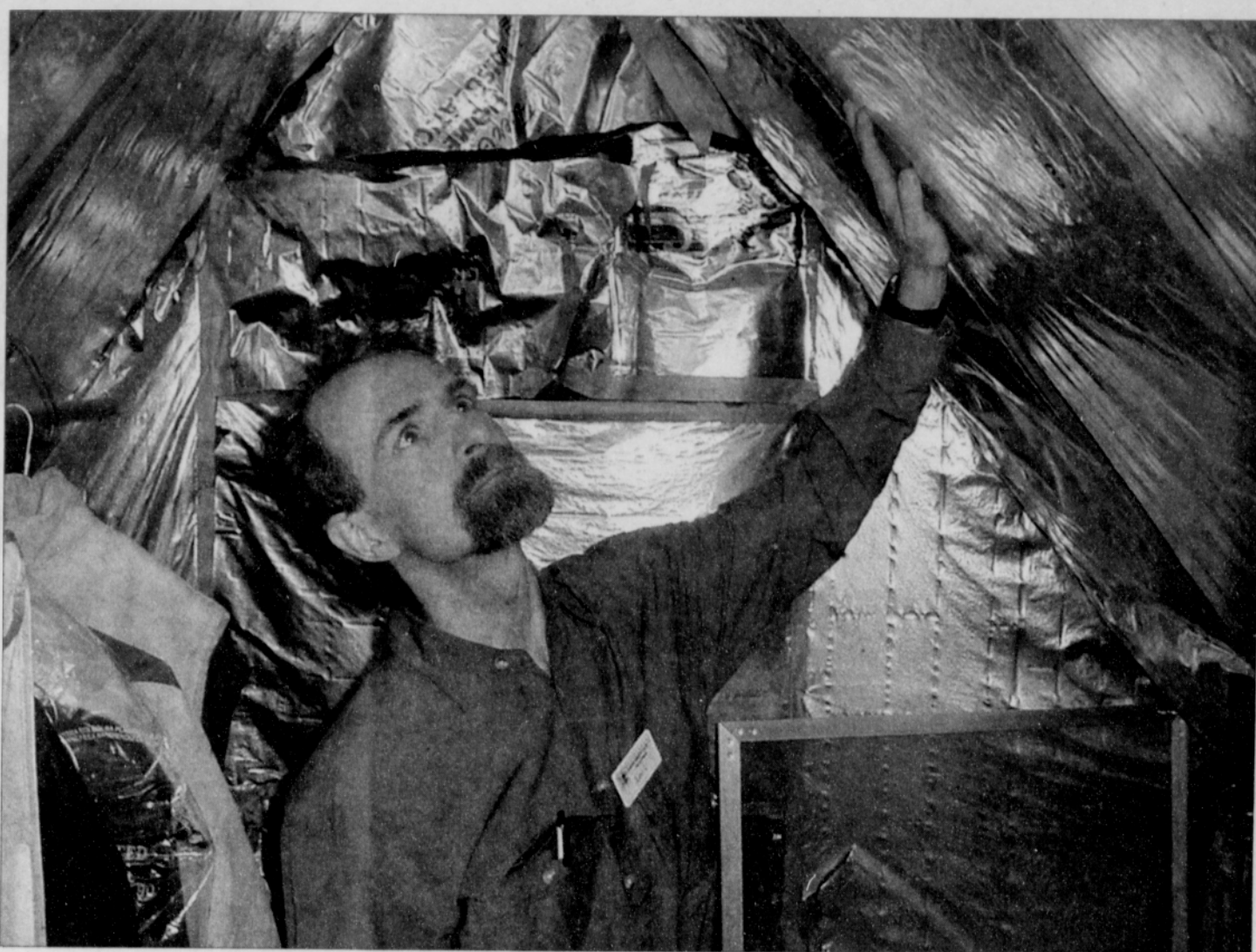
begin with the home environment. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency studies of human exposure to air pollutants indicate that indoor air levels of many pollutants may be two to five times and occasionally more than 100 times higher than outdoor levels.

Through the Lung Association's Master Home Environmentalist program, professionally trained volunteers can identify pollutants and address residents' concerns about air in their homes.

The program puts emphasis on prioritizing problems and finding low-cost or no-cost solutions that reduce exposure to indoor pollutants, thus improving the health and well being of the residents.

The assessment can take from two to three hours. They are offered free of charge to families with a household income of \$45,000 or less when at least one family member has asthma.

Residents who are interested



A professionally trained volunteer looks for mold and other contaminants that can cause breathing problems in homes. The American Lung Association of Oregon offers indoor pollution tests to north and northeast Portland residents who have a family member with asthma.

in receiving a home environmental assessment can contact the American Lung Association of Oregon at 1-800-LUNG-USA or 503-924-4094, extension 18.

The Master Home Environmentalist program is an American Lung Association of Oregon program in cooperation with Portland General Electric,

Multnomah County Health Department, Environmental Justice Action Group, The Urban League of Portland, Healthy Communities, Northwest Natu-

ral Gas, Oregon Center for Environmental Health, Oregon Department of Health Services Asthma Program and Portland Community College.

# Minority Advocate Honored

A Portland attorney is being honored her commitment to social justice.

Adrienne Nelson will receive the Judge Mercedes Deiz Award for promotion of minorities and women in the law during the 11th annual Oregon Women Lawyers awards dinner on Friday, March 14, at the Portland Hilton.

Oregon Women Lawyers is the largest specialty attorneys group in Oregon with nonprofit status and a membership of women, men, lawyers, judges, students and many others who are committed to improving the practice of law and the justice system.

The group's mission is to promote the advancement of women and minorities in the legal profession.

The judge Mercedes Deiz Award named after the Honorable Mercedes Deiz, the first African-

American judge in Oregon, is awarded to an individual who has made outstanding contribution to promoting women and minorities in the legal profession and in the community.

Nelson has been a longtime advocate for minorities both in and before the law.

One nominator noted, "in the course of her career, she has represented countless members of minority groups, including both racial and ethnic minorities, as well as sexual and gender minorities."

As a public defender working for Multnomah Defenders, Inc., Nelson earned the respect of colleagues and judges alike for her commitment to social justice and to providing professional, respectful representation to her clients.

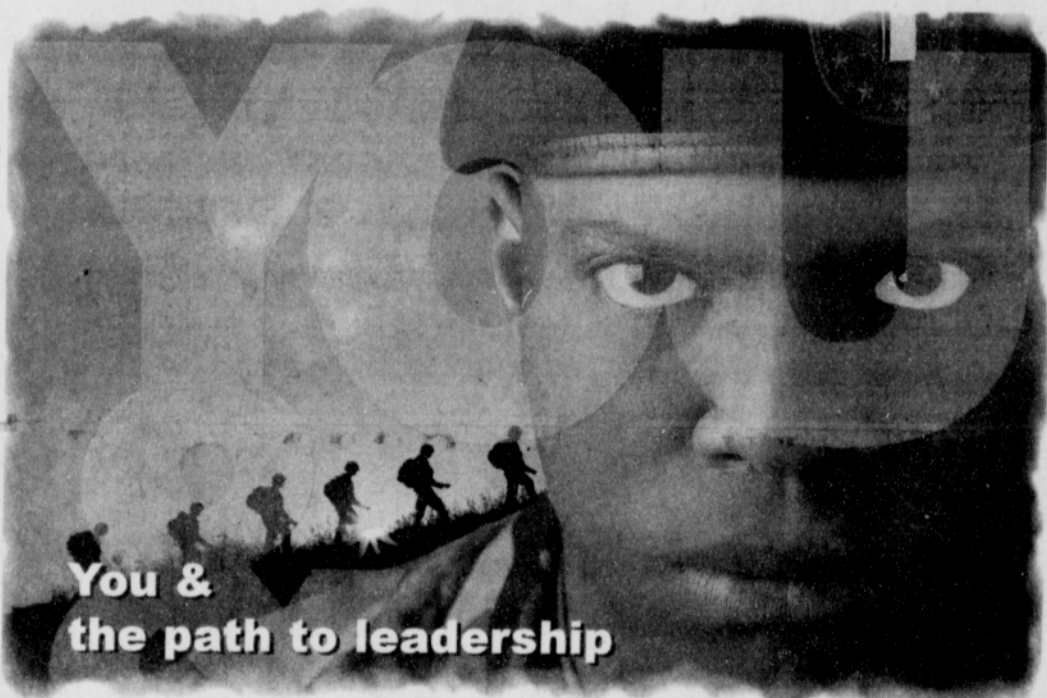
Most recently, as an associate with the law firm of Bennett, Hartman, Morris and Kaplan, LLP,



Adrienne Nelson

Nelson has continued to represent numerous minority clients in her private practice, while assuming a more active leadership role in the legal community.

She has been elected twice to statewide seat in the American Bar Association House of Delegates, where she participates in the Minority Caucus.



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