

Wearing matching sweatshirts and armbands, Dads for Education are a visible force of volunteers in Portland's schools to help students and schools succeed.

Dads Making a Difference in Education

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

They volunteer in their children's classrooms, help out in the lunchroom, read to students, assist teachers and help their kids make critical decisions

about their education. They're not moms; they're dads. Portland Public Schools has adopted a national program, Dads for Education, to encourage fathers and other male role models to become more in-

involved in the education of children. A role traditionally connected to mothers, Dads volunteers firmly believe that men must be visible and active as positive male role models and

need to take a joint leadership role alongside mothers to educate their children. "This program is for fathers of all backgrounds to get active in schools," said Christian Miner, a spokesman for the district.

The program, which started this month, is attracting prominent education leaders including the districts communications director Lew Frederick and retired teacher Ken Berry, coordinator of the program.

Dads are currently present in 18 schools, many in north and northeast Portland. Program leaders hope to expand involvement to more schools in coming years. For more information, call 503-916-6470.

Oregon Partnership Alliance Fights Drug and Alcohol Addiction

BY KEITH FREDRICKSON
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Recovery can start with a simple phone call

If you or a loved one is having trouble with alcohol and drugs, call Oregon Partnership. We're here to help.

Oregon Partnership is a non-profit organization that reaches out to communities across the state with our prevention education and treatment referral services. We operate three telephone hotlines to assist people struggling with all kinds of substance abuse — alcohol, crack cocaine,

welcome calls from people who have loved ones suffering from substance abuse.

We also operate a Spanish HelpLine ("Linea de Ayuda"), which is answered by compassionate, highly skilled volunteers who are bilingual and bicultural. Linea de Ayuda's number is 1-877-515-7848.

Our YouthLine, 1-877-553-TEEN, lives up to its name. It is a peer-to-peer hotline that allows teenage callers to talk one-to-one with other teens about substance abuse problems. Our teen volunteers are supported by adult mentors. Like the volunteers for our other lines, these young people also undergo extensive, ongoing training to help them deal with all kinds of sub-

stance abuse and other problems. program where parents, grandparents and other volunteers are trained to deliver alcohol and drug prevention education in kindergarten through six-grade classrooms.

Oregon Partnership also has a resource library, free and open to the public, that offers a wide range of substance abuse information, educational tools and community-organizing resources. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, the library is located at Oregon Partnership's main office at 6443 S.W. Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy., Suite 200.

Oregon Partnership also houses the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth, a public health project based at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., that monitors the marketing practices of the alcohol industry to focus attention and action on industry practices that jeopardize the health and safety of our young people.

Over the next year, Oregon Partnership will work in alliance with The Portland Observer to help fight the epidemic of drug and alcohol addiction that threatens our communities. Along with informational ads, we'll also be publishing a series of articles that deal with specific drugs such as crack and meth, as well as stories aimed at supporting and informing parents and other adults engaged in the struggle to make our communities drug-free. Other articles will focus on young people and the struggle they face in avoiding this terrible epidemic.

We're here to help. Together, we can make some magic happen.

Keith Fredrickson is communications director for Oregon Partnership.

methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, inhalants, ecstasy, prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

Our telephone assistance is free and confidential.

All you have to do is pick up the phone, talk to one of our trained staff persons or volunteers, and you've taken the first step toward recovery.

Make no mistake, treatment for alcoholism and drug addiction is not an easy journey. But treatment and recovery work. And the first step to achieve a clean-and-sober lifestyle can start with a simple phone call.

I wish you could have seen — and felt — the energy on this past Labor Day when some 500 people in recovery spanned the Interstate 5 Bridge, joined hands and celebrated the freedom — and joy — that comes with sobriety. It was magical.

Oregon Partnership's main phone line is 1-800-923-HELP. HelpLine operates at all hours, seven days a week. It is staffed by adult volunteers trained in helping alcoholics and addicts who want help to find help. We also

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Portland Libraries Busiest in Nation

According to a recent report issued by the Public Library Association, Multnomah County Library ranks No. 1 in annual circulation of books among all public libraries serving populations of 500,000 to 1 million.

In 2002, residents checked out

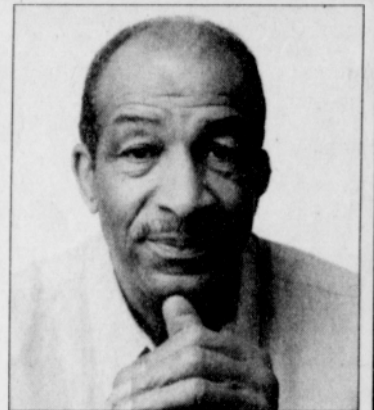
16.1 million items — over 24 books for every man, woman and child in the county.

"This wonderful news confirms what we already know — that our libraries are well-loved and well-used by people of all ages," said Interim Director of Libraries Ruth Metz, add-

ing that over 13,000 people visit a Multnomah County library daily.

Library board president and longtime library advocate Susan Hathaway-Marxer echoes the library director's enthusiasm, noting that the support of library users has made a critical difference.

Alcohol and drug addiction is color blind...



gender neutral...



...and targets all ages.



But help is available. Call our free and confidential HelpLine: 800-923-HELP



www.orpartnership.org