

## More Minority Organ Donations

continued ▲ from Metro

a beautiful granddaughter to know and love. I've got a second chance, so I live each day like it's my last."

Although African Americans need all types of organs, kidneys top the list. Currently, more than 23,000 African Americans are waiting for kidney transplants. Statistically, African Americans have the best chance of being matched for a kidney transplant if the donor is also black. African Americans are disproportionately affected by illnesses that can lead to the need for dialysis or a kidney transplant. The lack of available organs means longer transplant waiting periods, years on dialysis, and sometimes death.

Here in Oregon, Family of One, a coalition for African American organ, tissue and bone marrow donor awareness and kidney disease prevention,

supports an increase in minority donors year-round.

On Aug. 7 and 8, Family of One will set up a display at the Homowo Festival of African Arts to provide information about organ and tissue donation. The event runs in the Portland State University South Park Blocks in downtown Portland.

"Ultimately, it's about community members helping their own in the most precious of ways—by donating life," said Warren Becker, manager of programs for Oregon Donor Program, a supporting member of Family of One.

Included in the Family of One display will be the Threads of Life quilt. The handmade quilt is dedicated to the memory of those who have given the gift of life, sight and mobility and celebrates the lives of transplant recipients.

For more information, visit [www.familyofone.org](http://www.familyofone.org).

# born to breastfeed

continued ▲ from Metro

"By highlighting the consequences of not breastfeeding and providing necessary support, more parents, including fathers, will be compelled to give breastfeeding a try and stick with it for six months and beyond. This could potentially change the health of our nation in one generation," said Amelia Psmythe, director of Nursing Mothers Council of Oregon.

The council is launching a campaign with public service announcements and outreach geared toward communities of color. At the conference, members discussed the medical risks of not breastfeeding, ways to eliminate racial disparities in breastfeeding rates, parents' first-hand experiences about what hinders and supports nursing and honored local hospitals for their promotion efforts and employers friendly to nursing mothers.

Oregon boasts the highest breastfeeding initiation rates in the country, more than 89 percent of new mothers start out nursing their babies. Close to half discontinue well before their child is six months old, the recommended length of time for optimum health benefits.

For free breastfeeding advice, visit [www.nursingmotherscounsel.org](http://www.nursingmotherscounsel.org) or call 503-282-3338.



Jovan Young holding her daughter, Denali.

## New Director for Latino Network

continued ▲ from Metro

lic administration and international studies from the University of Oregon. Prior to working with the Network, she served as policy staff and community liaison for former Multnomah County Chair Beverly Stein.

"I think this is a great decision on the part of the Latino Network. Johnson was a valued member of my team. She is well organized, has tremendous follow through and great

passion for her work in the Latino community," said Sten.

Johnson's Peruvian heritage points to the growing diversity of Oregon's Latino community, which is not exclusively of Mexican origin as is sometimes assumed. Under Johnson's leadership, the Latino Network will strengthen its grassroots capacity building efforts in order to bring about positive change on issues such as education reform, youth violence, immigrant rights, and community wellness.

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## Postal Service Honors James Baldwin

The James Baldwin tribute is the 20<sup>th</sup> stamp by the U.S. Postal Service in its Literary Arts series.

Well-known author James Baldwin, whose works explore race relations, as well as the arts and human relationships, was honored Tuesday when the U.S. Postal Service dedicated a new commemorative postage stamp in its Literary Arts stamp series.

"His writings are a demonstration of his love for all of us. Baldwin wrote with great honesty and passion. You can almost feel his need to explore the hard truths of our society," said Henry Pankey, a postal service executive, who dedicated the stamp in New York.

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