



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Christina Forbes, business coordinator for Powerhouse Temple Church of God in Christ on North Williams Avenue, accepts donations from a community member.

Hurricane Victims Welcomed

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evacuees feel comfortable and answer questions.

At the former Washington High School in southeast Portland, more than 50 displaced residents arrived Sunday and received information, support and resources from the Red Cross, Salvation Army, City of Port-

land, Multnomah County, Tri-Met, Department of Health Services, U.S. Postal Service, Social Security Administration and others.

The Red Cross said some arrived by plane, bus, car and even hitchhiked.

More than 4,000 meals have been served to hurricane evacuees at Washington High School. Locally,

the Red Cross has raised \$2.8 million in donations and \$500,000 in-kind gifts for the disaster relief.

Powerhouse Temple Church is planning on bringing back at least 10 more families from the hurricane region via plane and bus during the last week of September.

To make donations, visit the church at 4525 N. Williams Ave.

Resource Shelter Assists Arrivals

continued ▲ from Front

ate assistance and housing for any victim of the storm.

"The way that all these different community groups are interacting, I'm just seeing collaboration and support at a level I've never experienced before," Miller said. "The story is about helping about people in need, but there's also the story

about how we all came together as a community and changed. People have decided they wanted a better life than what they have now. Everybody is so happy to have them here that it's a transformation."

Miller noted that a huge Red Cross volunteer program will also take place at the school. More than 1,000 people have already signed

up to be trained and deployed to affected regions.

Portland-area families already hosting survivors should call the Red Cross at 503-284-1234 to inquire about available services and benefits. Community members are also encouraged to call 211 or 1-800-SAFE-NET for accurate, updated information.

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Neighborhood Torn by Evacuee Concerns

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concerns were not motivated by racism.

Several people said they hoped those who came to Portland out of the disaster would get some sort of screening. One man, who said he moved to Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard after "fleeing" North Killingsworth Street and Albina Avenue, said his concern was as much for the refugees as for the surrounding community.

"Let's say that 950 are ordinary people who are just trying to get out of hell," he said, "and 50 are criminals. That's a lot of criminals."

Jesse Clay, a Red Cross worker and another local African-American resident, said she had just returned from the Sixth Ward of New Orleans and felt safer there than Portland.

She asked if neighbors would ask for screening if the displaced Americans were from Martha's Vinyard.

Southeast Precinct commander Rosie Sizer said the police had "made good progress" in dealing with safety concerns.

Red Cross workers Mary Loftin and Bob Keeler said the intent is to move refugees into permanent housing and to place them in jobs and schools, as quickly as possible.

Some residents and nearby businesses said their attempts to help and to donate goods or services were rebuffed by the Red Cross.

But Loftin said the agency is not set up to accept donations of goods and that these are best made to other agencies such as St. Vincent de Paul.

Hughes said she had previously attended a meeting in northeast Portland where people were planning a welcoming for the displaced residents and was moved to tears by the intense, warm and caring faces.

"During that evening among all those people who 'did not look like me,' though many were not strangers to me, I learned a thing or two about community," she said.

Asked his impression of the Buckman meeting, Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods chair Willie Brown said, "We all have to do a lot more listening to each other."

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