



**Join us for our biggest community events of the year!**

**Saturday, August 26**  
**Harrison Park**  
 SE 84th Ave. and Harrison St.  
 Next to Binnsmead Middle School  
 Gregory Vajda, conductor  
**3 p.m.** Afternoon Festival begins  
 Kids activities, performers and food!  
**7 p.m.** Oregon Symphony concert  
 Rain location: Madison High School

**Thursday, August 31**  
**Tom McCall Waterfront Park**  
 In downtown Portland  
 Bowl area south of the Hawthorne Bridge  
 Carlos Kalmar, conductor  
 Gregory Vajda, conductor  
**5 p.m.** Portland Youth Philharmonic concert  
 Mei-Ann Chen, conductor  
**7 p.m.** Oregon Symphony concert  
 Rain date: September 1

For more information visit [JoinTheAudience.Org](http://JoinTheAudience.Org)



PHOTO BY CHARITY PRATER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
 Yvonne Simmons, a survivor of domestic violence, gains strength and inspiration from the painful truths painted on shirts in the Portland Clothesline Project.

**A Clothesline Swollen with Tears**

*continued* ▲ *from Front*  
 the display.

"Violence is so widespread," she said. "The shirts help to release the pain."  
 Like Tibetan prayer flags, the shirts begin to disintegrate the longer they hang on the clothesline. This symbolizes the powers of healing through the passing of time. Some women chose to take their shirts with them, burning them, burying them, or stowing them away.

Patricia Barrera, Victim Services Coordinator for Clackamas County Community Corrections, spoke about the relationship Portland has to violent crimes against women.

Statistics have shown that violent crime increases in neighborhoods where adult retail stores and strip clubs exist, Barrera said. Crime rates also increase for women involved in prostitution.

"Portland is known as 'Porn town,'" she said. "For every one strip club or porn retail store Los Angeles has Portland has 11."

On average prostitutes are sexually abused at the age of 13 and later in life by family members, boy-

friends, and husbands.

"Even the 'John's' are plagued with sexually transmitted diseases, being robbed constantly, losing time and money, and are often murdered," Barrera said.

The Portland Clothesline Project's long term goal is to stop violent crimes against women altogether.

As a grassroots movement, the hosts aren't overwhelmed with the notion of ending violent crimes entirely.

Carey-Harper has been working on phase two of her national effort, which addresses racism as well.

"Violence against women is the result of sexist people. Men contribute to sexism like white people contribute to racism," she said.

Women's advocates see a violent-free society is an attainable goal.

"We have to begin with treating each other with respect and love people who we disagree with or don't really like," Carey-Harper said.

*For every one strip club or porn retail store Los Angeles has, Portland has 11.*

— Patricia Barrera, Victim Services Coordinator

Clothesline projects have caught on all across the country and usually include music, shirt making and speeches from victims and professionals from the local community. All men are welcome to share their personal experiences or engage in the event, however, it is specifically geared to support women and children.

Saturday's downtown event was a small one, but it didn't go unnoticed. Drivers yelled "Thank you!" out of their windows, dog walkers surveyed the clothesline with emotional faces, and curiosity lured in a few men who obviously felt sympathetic towards the emotional evidence left by the outspoken victims.



PHOTO BY ISAAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

**Local Women Invest in Kids**

Members of the Portland Chapter of the Links, Inc. line up donated school supplies for distribution to local children. Pictured at Saturday's free event at the Portland Observer are Lorraine Hood-Jack, Renee Dubois, Par Walker, Sylvia Welch, Barbara Leonard, Johnnie Stokes, Joanne Edwards, Johnnie Bell, President Betty Cabine and Elaine Hartzog.

**Youth Gatherings Turn Violent**

*continued* ▲ *from Front*

Regena Williams bridges the gap between what young people want and what they do. She has spent the past three years directing them to certain existing outreach programs based on their interests. Williams founded the non-profit Northwest Country Community Outreach six months ago to further facilitate this goal.

These kids want to learn to work on cars, make videos and build houses, she said. They are full of positive energy, but it just needs to be channeled right.

John Canda, new director of the Office of Youth Violence Prevention, challenged others to simply engage young people. One of his personal favorite tactics is a barbeque.

"If you feed them, teenagers will come," he said. Some individuals in attendance

called the concerns "too little, too late."

Richard Brown, a long-time northeast Portland resident, is a mainstay at the gang violence meetings. He said he saw the potential for chaos months ago, when just five or six kids were meeting.

"Crowds have gotten bigger every week and month," Brown said. "Now instead of 10 kids to deal with, you've got 400."

"My concern is that had this meeting been held at eight at night people wouldn't be here."

Time will tell if parents and neighbors are serious about taking youth problems into their own hands. Sign-up sheets were passed around for community members to be called out, even last minute, at events or gatherings that could spiral out of control.

STUDIO 20 ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

# SPOTLIGHT

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