

Support Builds for Community Transitional School

Site prepared on NE Killingsworth

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has granted \$300,000 to help the Community Transitional School build its first permanent school for Portland's homeless children.

The not-for-profit school educates Kindergarten through 8th-grade children whose families are homeless or living in transition. It is the only program of its kind in Oregon but has been disrupted by six different locations since it began at the Portland YWCA in 1990.

Earlier this year, the school's board of directors launched a \$3 million capital campaign called "Our

School. Our Future" to pay for construction of a permanent school on two acres of vacant land in the Cully Neighborhood at 6507 N.E. Killingsworth St.

Pre-construction work for the new 9,000-square-foot, one-story building is nearly complete. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring at the 2.35-acre site.

The school is temporarily housed at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church in southeast Portland, where it moved at the end of July after its eviction from St. Stephen's Catholic Church in the Hawthorne neighborhood.

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— Cheryl Bickle, transitional school principal

school principal and lead teacher. "We are often the only stable force in these kids' lives. Moving the school every year is incredibly stressful both to students and the staff.



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Land is prepared for construction of the Community Transitional School at 6507 N.E. Killingsworth St. in the Cully Neighborhood.

The transitional school's new building campaign's first major commitment was a \$300,000 grant from the J.C. Kellogg Foundation of New Jersey. San Francisco-based Jamba Juice

has committed \$100,000 to build a track and playground on the grounds of the new school.

For more information, visit transitionalschool.org.

Black Entrepreneurs Annual Dinner

'Tis the season for food, networking

Black Entrepreneurs of Clark County, a free monthly business round table and networking group, works to expand empowerment and close opportunity gaps through advocacy, contacts, fellowship, mentorship and the exchange of expertise and ideas. All are welcome regardless of race, residence or venture.

Not to be outdone during the holiday season, the group will host its annual free dinner and dessert potluck celebration from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, at

Clark Public Utilities-Electric Center community room, 1200 Fort Vancouver Way, near East Mill Plain Boulevard in Vancouver.

Amid delicious peach cobbler, spicy entrées and other delights, the organization will honor volunteers from its mentorship program, which works to help entrepreneurs, executives and other go-getters learn, grow and succeed. Also, participants can share lessons from the past year and offer tips for 2007.

If attending, RSVP and indicate planned dessert, side dish or entrées to call Shareefah Abdullah at 360-604-8583 or email her at



Shareefah Abdullah

shareefah@hotovations.com by Monday, Nov. 20, to ensure adequate seating and food.

From Law Degree to Government Relations

Haynes serves business alliance

The Portland Business Alliance has named Marion Haynes as its new Government Relations Director.

She will serve as the business group's chief lobbyist, responsible for maintaining relationships with all local governments in the Portland region.

"Marion has been an effective representative for the Portland business community and a valuable asset to the alliance," said Sandra McDonough, the alliance's president and chief executive officer. "In this new position

she will work closely with elected officials at all levels of government to address the interests and concerns of the business community in the Portland metropolitan area."



Marion Haynes

A lawyer, Haynes joined the alliance in November 2004 as a policy analyst, reviewing and developing public-policy proposals. She has developed expertise in the areas of land use, transportation and economic development.

Haynes worked with Schnitzer Investment Corp. while earning her law degree from Lewis & Clark Law School. She is a member of the Oregon State Bar and will continue in her role as Associate General Counsel for the alliance.

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