

METRO

The Portland Observer

36
years of
community service

Giving Between Classes

Students, staff give
back for the holidays

Maleah Johnson could be one of the 60 families that benefit from the Thanksgiving Basket and Adopt-a-Family program at the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College in north Portland.

That's why she is giving.

Each year the ASPCC gives Thanksgiving Baskets to more than 40 student families and later helps an additional 20 with the Adopt-A-Family project where the children will receive gifts. The goal is to make the holiday a happy, stress-free time for those students who might find it a financial burden. Johnson is organizing this year's campaign.

"The Thanksgiving Basket Program is an annual tradition that some students look forward to each year," Johnson said. "Since continuing an education while having a family is such a big task, many students may have to choose between purchasing holiday goods for their family, or buying books and paying the rising costs of tuition."

"A lot of students are broke," she added. "They have children, tuition costs and can't afford presents or a big meal during the holidays. This is a way that they can get that Thanksgiving meal."

Johnson, 23, could be one of those students and understands how important the basket program is.



Maleah Johnson has overcome her own hardships to help others as she completes her studies at Portland Community College in north Portland.

"I've been there," she said. "You miss so many things growing up in a poor family. It is really difficult to afford these things. My family had to rely on a state agency for a lot of what we had."

But she has survived. She is the first in her family to go to college after being thrown out of the house by her mother's boyfriend at the age of 18. Forced to find employment to pay the rent, she worked for five years before enrolling at PCC last year.

Now, she is close to earning her Oregon Transfer Degree, majoring in biology, and will apply to study

at Oregon State University's pharmaceutical program. However, her days are full. She studies four hours a day, rides the bus from Clackamas another three and a half hours. When she isn't in class she is volunteering her time with student government, and serving as game manager for the PCC basketball teams. She is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the two-year honor's society.

Many at PCC share Johnson's giving nature.

Around the college district, PCC students and staff conduct various can, food and clothing drives

to help the needy in the community. Staff and faculty host clothing and food drives during their respective holiday parties at all three comprehensive campuses and the Southeast Center in December. The college also conducts an annual giving campaign where staff and faculty can give to a charity of their choice sanctioned by the college.

To see how you can help, contact the following offices Sylvania ASPCC at 503-977-4361, the Rock Creek ASPCC at 503-614-7442, or Cascade Campus at 503-978-5379.

Benefit Concert Takes up AIDS Battle

Helping our sister city
of Mutare, Zimbabwe

On the eve of World AIDS Day, Thursday, Nov. 30, the Lloyd Jones Struggle will play a benefit concert at the Tiffany Center's Emerald Ballroom at Southwest 14th and Morrison St. to help victims of AIDS in Portland's City of Mutare, Zimbabwe.

The "Rhythms for Life" concert is under the direction of the Portland-Mutare Sister City Association and its African AIDS Response program.

Lloyd Jones is a consummate guitarist, singer, songwriter, arranger, performer and bandleader. One of the most original artists on the modern day blues scene, he grew up in Portland where he was the leader of one of Portland's most popular blues bands, Brown Sugar in the early 1970s.

Jones honed his craft by performing with the likes of Albert Collins, Robert Cray, Bonnie Raitt, Taj Mahal, B.B. King, Dr. John, John Hammond, Etta James, Junior Wells and Buddy Guy, and many more music legends.

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with an exclusive patron dinner and live auction, where attendees will view a special dance performance by Loveness Wesa and Kgotso African Cultural Arts. At 8 p.m., general concert ticket-holders will join the patrons as the doors open the Lloyd Jones Struggle.

Tickets are \$15 and available at Safeway TicketsWest locations or directly from Africa AIDS



Orphaned children from Mutare, Zimbabwe are being assisted with medications, equipment and HIV care through the help of Portland's Africa AIDS Response and the Portland-Mutare Sister city Association.

Response at www.africaaidsresponse.org.

This will be the fifth annual benefit concert and auction for African AIDS Response. All proceeds will directly support grassroots AIDS efforts in Mutare.

Dayna Kirk, executive director of the program

recently returned from a trip to Mutare with fellow Portland volunteer Carol Tenenbaum. They met with the mayor and health care officials of the town to coordinate material donations and also directly distribute funds raised from Portland's 2005 World AIDS Day benefit event.



Lloyd Jones of the Lloyd Jones Struggle, one of the most original artists on the modern day blues scene, will perform Thursday, Nov. 30 in Portland for a benefit to help fight AIDS in Portland's Sister City of Mutare, Zimbabwe.

Community Calendar

Christmas Tree Permits

The Mt. Hood National Forest has opened its personal use Christmas tree cutting program. Permits are \$5, limited to 5 permits per household, with a 12' foot maximum height per tree. For more information, call the forest headquarters at 503-668-1700 Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Title Wave Book Sale

Multnomah County Library's Title Wave Used Bookstore, 216 N.E. Knott St., hosts a customer appreciation sale Friday, Nov. 24, from 5:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Treasures are hidden throughout the store.

Women of the Season

Share the gospel and rebuild hope this Sunday, Nov. 26 at 4 p.m. when the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, 3128 N. Vancouver Ave., presents honored guest Jessica P. Manaway, Evangelist C.P. Monk, Lady Della Johnson, and Missionary Zina McGee.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Emmanuel Temple Church, 1033 N. Sumner St., invites the community to a Thanksgiving service and free community dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23. The worship service begins at 10 a.m. with dinner served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"Scrooge Lives" Craft Bazaar

Mt. Hood Community College will host the 37th annual craft bazaar, at the Gresham Campus Lounge; Room 1051 on Wednesday, Nov. 29 and Thursday, Nov. 30, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

December Zoo Lights

The walk-through winter wonderland Oregon Zoo Lights comes to life throughout the month of December. The festival includes a lighted zoo train, choral and ensemble music, puppet shows, and a model train display. Festival hours are Sunday - Thursday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 5 to 8:30 p.m. Closed Dec. 24 and Christmas Day.

Presents for Primates

Thursday, Dec. 14, at 10 a.m., Santa's

Elves will give holiday gifts to the Oregon Zoo's chimpanzees, orangutans, mandrills and other primates. Bring your cameras for this great picture opportunity. Call 503-226-1561 or visit oregonzoo.org for more information.

Holiday Wreath Sale

The Portland Parks Environmental Education Department will host the holiday wreath sale on Thursday, Nov. 30 through Sunday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Mt. Tabor Greenhouse, 6437 S.E. Division St. All proceeds go to scholarships for low-income youth.

Holiday Ceramics Sale

Mt. Hood Community College invites the public to attend the 23rd annual student works sale to be held in the Visual Arts Center Gallery at the MHCC Gresham Campus on Tuesday, Dec. 5 through Friday, Dec. 8, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Work Against Abuse

Community Advocates invites those interested in protecting children from abuse

to become an event volunteer, event outreach, technology expert, graphic artists or office support team member. For information, call 503-280-1388.

Women in Community Service

Volunteer female mentors are being sought by Women in Community Service to work with incarcerated women at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. The women provide support and encouragement for inmates transitioning from prison back into the community. For information, call 503-570-6614.

Black History Museum

The Black History Museum of Oregon is seeking brilliant minds of concerned individuals to help in restructuring the museum foundation's committee. For information, call 503-284-0617.

Oregon Food Bank

The Oregon Food Bank seeks volunteers on Mondays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon, to sort and repack perishable foods. Call 503-282-0555, ext. 272 or visit Oregonfoodbank.org.

Volunteer for Crisis Line

Want to make a difference in your community? Volunteers and advocates are needed for the Portland Women's Crisis Line. The needs include on-call advocates to respond in person or over the phone, outreach and educational efforts, and fundraising and administrative duties. Call 503-232-4176 for more information.

Home buying Classes

Portland Community Land Trust helps first time and low-income homebuyers purchase homes at below market price. Attend a free, one-hour class to learn more about the program. Contact Kelly@pclt.org or call 503-493-0293.

Parenting Classes

Newborns don't come with instruction manuals but parents and parents-to-be can attend classes through Providence Health Systems to learn about a variety of topics from pain and childbirth to breastfeeding to infant CPR and much more. For a schedule of events, call 503-574-6595 or visit: providence.org/classes.