

Volunteer responders and staff from the Portland Police Bureau Crisis Response Team include (from left) John Sedra, Ron Macias, April Murchinson, William Warren, Sean Cruz, Victor Leo, Officer Marci Jackson-Johnson, Robin Wisner, Mary Rhodes, Marcus Branch, Barry Diggs, Pam Monnette, Margaret Bain, Dan Rosen, Rita Jamison, Deborah Monk and Renee Blakely-Ward.

Portland Police Crisis Team Volunteers Give Back

Take survivor care to next level

When Margaret Bain received little compassion.

arms around me. But at the time, I expect from us. didn't know what to do or what to ask," Bain said.

Showing up at the scene of a help us like this. loved one's death creates the feelare few as officers go about investigating the crime.

sponse Team.

as accidental deaths, homicides and traumatic events themselves. aggravated assaults.

"This is an unexpected service the news 17 years ago that her son of the Police Bureau to walk through was gunned down on a street cor- a situation with the victim or their Jackson-Johnson, who has been funeral services. "It was very business-like," said with the team since 2005. "When Bain, 60, who was approached by a the officer or detective is busy in-Portland Police officer and a vestigating, we inform the family of Multnomah County medical exam- the investigative process, how long iner about her son Mujib's death in it takes, what comes next. We offer homicides, suicides and a case of support was not there in 1990. 1990. "They had time to put their direction that the family doesn't

> "One thing we never stop hearing is, 'I didn't know police would

The team consists of one officer, ing of numbness, denial and shock, a senior administrative support which can overwhelm the system. specialist and volunteer respond-Questions are many, but answers ers. There are currently 47 active culture, the responders come with responders, who are community It was because of survivors like aspect to the team because they Bain that the Portland Police Bu- show up at crime scenes to provide more important is that responders quested in 2007 as of October. The volunteers and staff that are from various diverse cultures make up the group provide immedia and speak various languages. Typia members of the community making ateon-scene crisis intervention and cally, a responder goes through a up CRT's volunteer corps of reshort-term support to victims and minimum of 40 hours training, but sponders, and with local businesses victims of traumatic events, such some have actually experienced pitching in to help, this cooperative

The team also partners with busi- community policing.

nesses, such as victim's assistance

northeast Portland - responded team." to about 28 calls, which included sudden-infant-death syndrome. Soon after, more culturally specific teams were formed with Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic and Sexual Minority groups. There are hopes to develop Russian and African teams.

"Although we can't cover every a willingness to do whatever it takes members that provide an important to help the person in need," Jackson-Johnson said.

In 2006, CRT responded to 25 reau in 1994 created the Crisis Re-support to the survivors. What is calls, and already 33 calls were re-

> Jackson-Johnson said that with effort truly meets the definition of

"What better way to be a partner organizations, funeral homes and with the community than to walk "It was only in the eyes of the local restaurants. The services in-through a tragic incident with the clude completing Crime Victim's family," said Jackson-Johnson, who Assistance forms and offering re- has been with the Police Bureau ner in northeast Portland, there was families," said CRT Officer Marci ferrals for crisis intervention and since 1993. "Usually, officers do already seen enough. But the death In its first year, CRT - then We take it to the next level and a mission. based primarily in north and become a resource and support

officers who could not carry out their jobs and cry at the same time."

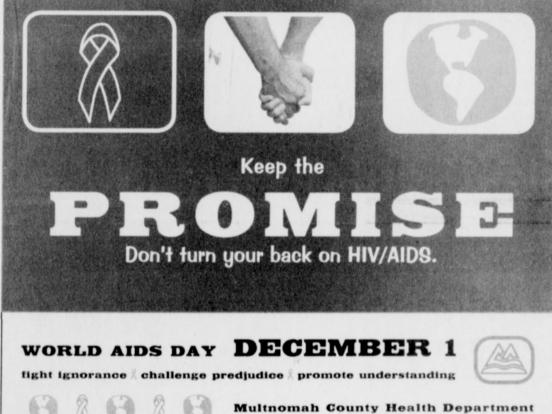
Bain is now a responder, and has

"I am the mother of a murdered For Margaret Bain, that level of be the glue that kept my family come a CRT volunteer responder, together as we walked this cold call 503-823-2095.

"CRT wasn't born yet," she said. road. So I know what it's like for these families as they journey from the crime scenes to the funeral homes. I've served food and held hands, and cried with them.

"The community really needs their immediate job and are done. of her son, she said, has given her these special crisis response teams.'

> For more information about the child. I have been sleepless, had to Crisis Response Team or to be-



Bethel AME Reunion Concert

joy some of the best traditional Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. gospel music in the area, when the 5824 N. Eighth Ave., presents its from around the city. An offering

The community is invited to en- second reunion concert, Sunday, will be taken to help raise money to

Under the direction of the re-Inspirational Choir of Bethel Afri- nowned Mrs. Lorene Wider, the can Methodist Episcopal Church, concert will feature guest soloists Robertson at 503-810-4958.

purchase a lifesaving Automatic External Defibrillator for the church. For more information, call Kal

Choral Christmas Concert

its 33rd annual Choral Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah. Concert on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. Ave. near Division Street.

The concert will feature the will conduct. Warner Pacific Concert Choir, Admission is free, but donations Choir performing seasonal music of tion, call 503-517-1207.

Warner Pacific College's Con- Burt, Brooks, Britten, Haydn and certs in the Chapel Series presents Mozart, as well as the Christmas

Members of the Metropolitan in McGuire Auditorium on the Youth Symphony will accompany school campus at 2219 S.E. 68th the choirs, and Warner Pacific Choral Director Dr. Thomas A. Miller

Warner Chorale, and a special Alumni will be accepted. For more informa-

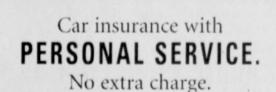
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