

'I Have a Dream' Program Adopts Local Class

Life-altering opportunity for Rigler third graders

Third graders at Rigler Elementary School in northeast Portland are the newest class of "Dreamers" with "I Have a Dream" Foundation-Oregon.

Sixty-four students form the class that represents the organization's 10th sponsored class in the state. Since the Oregon chapter was established in 1990, nearly 900 students in 10 classes in eight different schools have benefited from the 10-year-long "Dreamer" program.

The nationally based "I Have a Dream" program helps children across the country develop and fulfill their educational goals through long-term mentoring, tutoring, and enrichment activities, cul-

minating in financial assistance for higher education.

The program serves some of the most under-resourced communities in the state, and this year's school is the third poorest in the Portland School District.

The 'adoption' of the newest Dreamers will take place on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on Tuesday, Jan. 15, in the Rigler cafeteria, located at 5401 N.E. Prescott. A dinner program begins at 6 p.m. The new class of Dreamers will share their dreams for their future and will be welcomed by Dreamers from programs based in other schools.

"I Have a Dream" program coordinators Julie

Richards and Becca Wolf, will administer the year-round program from the designated Dreamer space at Rigler.

"It is a unique opportunity to watch as a child grows and changes through the years, and it is even more wonderful

to have the chance to be a part of that growth and change," said Wolf. Richards added, "It takes all kinds of people to shape a child into a kind, intelligent, productive and happy adult, and I am thrilled to work alongside families, teachers, and other community members throughout this process."

Each Dreamer class receives 10 years of year-round support, and the program's services are made possible by generous contributions and dedicated sponsors. Two Portland individuals - Sonja Straub and Julie Diamond - serve as the Rigler Dreamer class sponsors, assuming the principal 10-year finan-

cial commitment.

"Becoming a sponsor in the "I Have a Dream" program gives me a chance to do something to mitigate the effects of racism and poverty. I feel strongly that everyone should have a chance to reach their full potential," stated Diamond. Straub added, "I believe in education and I believe it is a long-term investment that can help to fight poverty, give people a fair chance, and make a difference in the world."

The Rigler class will also be supported by contributions from Ball Janik LLP, Collins Foundation, Stephanie Fuhrman-Spanish Peaks Real Estate, Herbert A. Templeton Foundation, Jackson Foundation, Jeld-Wen Tradition Foundation, MacDonald Family Foundation, Providence Health System, Jim & Barbara Snow, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, and numerous other donors.

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- Julie Richards, 'I Have a Dream' program coordinator

Advocate for Kids Honored

A local volunteer was recently honored for her year-round work to procure items and garner community support for a charity store that is open to needy residents during the holidays.

Diane Sherwin received a Lowenstein Trust award in honor of the legacy of Steve Lowenstein, a former lawyer and humanitarian. The award's \$10,000 prize will be used to stock toys and small household appliances for many years to come at Human Solutions' Holiday Store.

"I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award. Diane is a perfect example of the impact one person can have on thousands," said Human Solutions' Executive Director Jean DeMaster.

Teaching kindergarden through second grade in the Rockwood area for more than 32 years, Diane learned that one of the most damaging elements of poverty, especially intergenerational poverty, is its



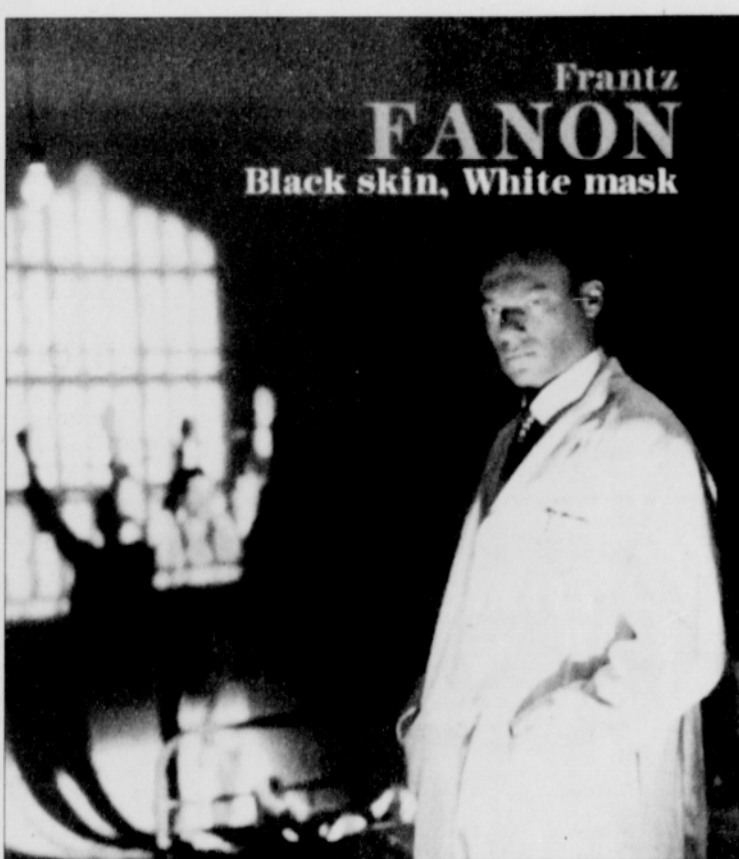
Diane Sherwin (left) receives an award for her contributions to Portland's low-income, homeless and disadvantaged populations from Michelle Harper on behalf of the Lowenstein Trust.

effect on children.

She frequently encountered children who came to school without lunches and proper

clothing or appeared surly and withdrawn. Out of her experience came an incredible commitment to empowering fami-

lies and her belief that "there is no greater way to build a better community than by helping families become stronger."



Film Documents Anti-Racist

Jefferson High School's Multicultural Film Festival presents Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask, a documentary about an author whose voice for the Third World influenced both leftist and anti-racist political movements. The film screens on Monday, Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. in Room C39 on the Jefferson campus.

Fanon's two major works, Black Skin, White Masks and The Wretched of the Earth, were pioneering studies of the psychological impact of rac-

ism on both colonized and colonizer.

Fanon was born in 1925 and spent his childhood in the French colony of Martinique. Director Isaac Julien film biography contains personal interviews of Fanon, quoted texts, and reenacted film footage.

The community is invited to see the film and join in a discussion, led by Yves Labissiere, a native of Haiti and educator at Portland State University.

The price of the ticket is family-friendly free.

TriMet Reaches Out

TriMet has hired community advocate Martin Gonzalez to develop a program that helps people with limited English skills understand transit services.

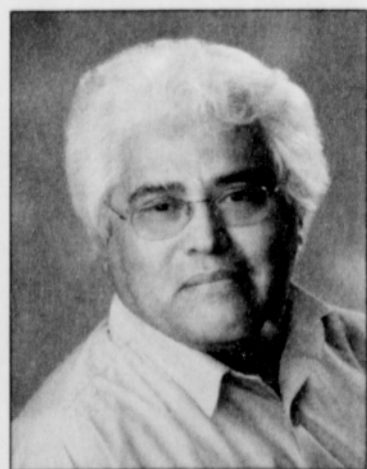
"We remain committed to making TriMet accessible to all and that it serves all communities equally and adequately," said TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen.

Gonzalez has already begun working on enhancing customer service information so that Spanish-speaking riders can easily access the services provided.

He has 30 years of experience in community and public service work. As Executive Director of the Portland Schools Alliance, Gonzalez worked to implement two dual-language immersion programs to close student achievement gaps.

In 2006, TriMet became the first and only transit district in the nation to receive a \$500,000 grant from the Federal Transit Administration's Civil Rights Division to create and implement a Limited English Proficiency program.

Latinos represent one of the



Martin Gonzalez

fastest growing populations in the Portland metropolitan area. In addition, the number of people with limited English proficiency continues to increase.

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