Red Cross Commits to Diversity

continued A from Front

when looking at this history.

"Throughout the challenges of segregation, black folks had to separately donate blood from white blood because it couldn't be mixed, but we still showed up and did that," she

She expressed pride seeing a portrait of Charles Richard Drew in the lobby of Portland's Red Cross headquarters. Drew was an African-American physician who protested against the practice of racial segregation in blood donations and made strides for Red Cross to promote equality during the middle of the last century.

The advances remain significant because non-whites' lower donation rate of much-needed organs and bone marrow may still stem from the legacy of using populations of color for medical experimentation. For Edwards, the question always rests on the level of commitment for which any particular person is ready.

"How do we get together and move beyond that uncomfortable, 'yeah, that was then?' Because we have work to do," she says.

Before committing to a career as a diversity consultant, Edwards served

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ture shape.



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Antoinette Edwards, the new diversity outreach manager for the American Red Cross, teams up with AmeriCorps workers (from left) Mike Fish, Hillary Turby, Rose Bottle and Aman Kubrom, along with Kim Bryant, Red Cross community activity coordinator.

as the executive director for Portland's Youth Opportunity Center and worked as the coordinator of the Jefferson and Columbia Villa Family Resource

"We're a nonprofit that everyone can profit from," she says. "It's not dependant on a personality, but it's a value that's part of every fiber."

To this end, Edwards' hiring is not the only change coming to the chapter, where the goal is to increase the multicultural representation in the board of directors and amongst all paid staff.

The organization is expanding its Spanish-language safety offerings and Latino health outreach efforts, and extending service in neighborhoods most affected by house fires, many of which are located in diverse communities.

Red Cross and AmeriCorps will also spend several days this month at Humboldt Elementary in north Portland conducting interactive presentations about safety. With the economic challenges facing both the school and its students - over 95 percent of whom are on the free- or reduced-lunch program - traditional Red Cross training and materials were out of the question.

Edwards would also like to announce that space in the Red Cross facility on North Vancouver Avenue is available for community meetings. Call her at 503-528-5639 to reserve.

Great Jazz and Black History

The festival's theme The Shape of Jazz to Come is the title of Coleman's landmark 1959 recording

A focal point of these efforts are The legendary alto saxophonist, performances of the Incredible Jourwhose last Portland appearance was ney of Jazz, a 60-minute music-thein 1983, will be celebrated through ater piece tracing Black History a series of performances, lectures, movements and events in parallel panel discussions, and workshops setting to the evolution of jazz music dealing with the issue of jazz's fu- as America's only indigenous art tion of gospel, ragtime, blues, and ing Arts box office, or by calling

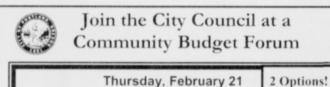
outreach efforts on week days.

The festival's two weekends of These performances are staged headline programming and 18 tick- for free at selected Portland area eted events act as bookends to middle schools where students are support community education and exposed to African rhythms, drum-

ming, the singing and chanting on at all TicketMaster locations, the slave ships, to the eventual evolu- Portland Center for the Performthe syncopated swing of jazz 503-228-JAZZ(5299). Tickets and through rap and hip hop.

procedures with all shows on sale pdxjazz.com.

a complete schedule of events Despite multiple venues, the are also available by visiting the festival has streamlined ticketing Portland Jazz Festival online at



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Same Format & Times for Both Locations!

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6:30-8:30 - PM Budget Forum

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For more information, call 823-5288

All locations are ADA accessible. Special needs: call 823-4519 in advance, TDD: 823-6868

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