



# Praise Dance Explosion

The Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 5935 N. Minnesota Ave., is inviting the local community to its "Praise Dance Explosion" on Saturday, May 17 at 6 p.m.

The fellowship will include the Daughter of Judah Praise Dance Ministry and other mime, flag and drill team ministries.

For more information, call Thelma 503-289-2364.

*The Praise Dance Ministry prepares for a special fellowship at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in north Portland.*

## In Loving Memory

### Michael Wayne Howard

Funeral services will be held Saturday, May 10 at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 5935 N. Minnesota Ave., for Michael Wayne Howard, who died April 26, 2008 at the age of 51.

Howard was born May 28, 1956 in Baton Rouge, La., the fourth child to Felton and Thelma Howard. His older brother asked for a little brother and they shared the same birthday.

He attended King and Sabin elementary schools and graduated from Benson High School in 1974. He worked as a supervisor at ABM Janitorial for 30 years. He was known for

his outstanding work as a union representative for SEIU Local 49 and would travel over the state to make sure his clients were well represented.

A diligent, dependable hard worker, he lived by his father, Rev. Howard's motto, "whatever you do, do your best".

Howard had a great sense of humor. He found the positive side in everything and could make you laugh. His smile would light up a room.

He received his early Christian training at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and later united with Antioch Missionary. He loved to sing in the choir.

He met his wife Lena Lewis on Dec. 21, 1982

and they were together for 26 years. Through joy and sorrow, sickness and health they shared many wonderful times together.

Howard is survived by his wife; two sons Michael Howard Jr. and Andre Avent; nine grandchildren; his father; four brothers, Felton Jr., Ronald (Cathy), Charles and Milton Staley; three sisters, Elaine Lambert (George), Veronica Howard, and Arianna Moody (Matthew); aunt Frances Vaughn; sister-in-law Yvonne, brother-in-law Benny Lewis; special nieces Cameisha Woollard and Chamelon Jackson; a host of nieces and nephews, co-workers, church family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother and a son, Antonio Porter.

## Cascadia in Crisis

continued ▲ from Metro

"In the event that Cascadia closes, I'm concerned that there's been no official plan as to where patients will be able to continue to receive services," Rene Tucker, program manager at Cascadia's Garlington Center in northeast Portland, told the Portland Observer.

By Friday, a meeting with about 30 clients of the center aimed to reassure that there would be some way to reassign or realign community needs. One of those that showed up on a day's notice was Cascadia client Dawn Roberts, who informed the crowded room about trouble she had controlling her post-traumatic-stress disorder as she searched for other agencies that could provide counseling.

"It's pretty scary because of the level of uncertainty," Tucker said. "Our objective is to continue to

maintain services until there's been a successful transitioning of the clients."

Cascadia's staff also had to explain the absence of Derald Walker, who took over as the chief executive officer last month as part of management overhaul and had promised to attend the meeting.

A large concern involved the potential of a population falling through the cracks without community-based services. The Garlington Center was named for an African-American family's advocacy for minorities that have been underrepresented in the mental health field.

"The greatest populations served at Garlington are folks of color, and they're able to receive culturally specific services here," Tucker says. "If they no longer have this agency to receive those types of services, where will they

go?" Other advocates wondered how an already overloaded system would weather any transition plan.

Northeast Portland resident Jason Renaud of the city's Mental Health Association doubted that officials would take the "politically and clinically devastating" step of closing Garlington, but he foresaw a regional shake-up that would lead to more resorting to police and emergency-room visits.

Renaud estimates that the system had stood at providing less than 25 percent of optimum treatment, meaning on-demand outcome-based case management hasn't guided the vast majority of mentally ill to housing and other basic necessities.

With the tentative future of Cascadia, some onlookers fear that Portland's mental health structure is headed back to the especially devastating years of the early 2000s.

In 2001, a Mexican day laborer named Jose Mejia Poot was killed

by police after he fell 20 cents short of the fare to get on a bus and became angry in northeast Portland. Soon after, an audit of the city's fragmented mental health system revealed discrepancies that also contributed to a major consolidation under the Cascadia banner.

As an assistant to the former president of Cascadia, Renaud saw a greater concentration of accountability required for the merger of five providers. Cascadia had overseen about 1,000 house calls a month through Crisis Respond, 90 care facilities and 800 housing units in Multnomah County, 300 of which are set aside for discharges from the Oregon State Hospital.

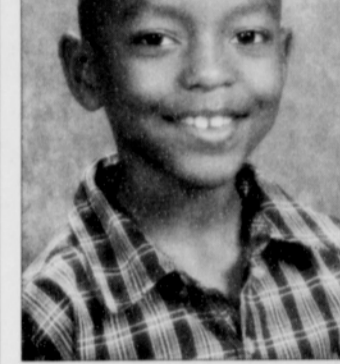
"It's the utmost responsibility of any executive to know about cash flow," he says. "In terms of the stakes of failure here, you're talking about people who are already fairly imperiled by poverty, stigma and illness, and you're asking them to shift their primary medical from Cascadia to someone who they don't know."

## CHILDREN AWAIT LOVING FAMILIES

### Adoption agencies welcome inquiries

The Portland Observer is pleased to feature two children from the approximately 300 Oregon children available for adoption through the state generally because of abuse and neglect.

Kolby is a perceptive, insightful and inquisitive bright boy. He asks many questions and is clearly learning from the answers! He is reading a full grade level ahead in school and has an excellent vocabulary. Add in his clever sense of humor and you've got one terrific conversationalist.



Kolby, age 9

Kolby keeps up an impeccable appearance and looks older than his mere eight years. He's also a gifted athlete, excelling in just about any sport. Kolby thrives in a highly structured and predictable environment. He enjoys playing with peers, but has done superbly well as an only child. He can feel overwhelmed when in large groups, and will likely do best in a home where there are few, if any, other children. It is a lucky family who will have the privilege of adopting this fine youngster!

A friendly, generous and giving child, Samantha "Samie" works hard to please the adults in her life. She is a charming conversationalist and an expressive communicator. She hopes especially for a mom and a dad, and would do best as an only child.

Samie has many interests. She is athletic and enjoys riding her bike or experimenting with different sports. She also loves animals, and relishes the opportunity to help care for family pets.

Artistic and creative, Samie effectively utilizes art as an outlet for her emotions. Patient, adoptive parents who can welcome and accept her for who she is, while simultaneously helping her to create a vision of who she can become, will be thrilled that they took a chance on such a special girl.

For more information on the availability of these children or on how to become a foster or adoptive parent, contact the Special Needs Adoption Coalition at 503-542-2392 or Department of Human Services at 1-800-331-0503.



Samantha, age 12

## Art Beat

continued ▲ from Metro

tended his uncle's sheep, and hunted or watched animals. He later joined his mother in Bamako, where he began his formal education in a French school.

Tears of Joy Puppet Show will perform, "Anasi the Spider," at the Sylvania Campus' Performing Arts Center from 11 a.m. to noon, Friday, May 16. The na-

tionally acclaimed and award-winning group's show is based on West African mythology and is perfect for children.

Author Kathleen Halme will give a poetry reading and lead a discussion on her most recent Oregon Book Award nominated book, "Drift and Pulse," from 10 to 11 a.m., Tuesday, May 13, in the foyer of the Performing Arts Center, Sylvania Campus.

Parking at all three campuses, plus the Southeast Center, is free during Art Beat.

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