

Roz Babener started the Community Warehouse, a local resource of donated household amenities for families down on their luck.

Warehouse follows the King's Dream

Helping the poor get by through hard economic times

BY JAKE THOMAS THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Martin Luther King Jr. was. the standard of living for all home. people, regardless of background. The aim of Portland's Community Warehouse is similar, as it seeks to provide needing a leg up.

steady stream of trucks and founder of the organization.

goods.

Although the scene looks like it could be any commercial storage facility, it isn't. The Community Warehouse provides household amenities so basic that they can easily be taken for granted by most. But for many families and indiinclusive, and wanted to raise vidual it can make a house a

Community Warehouse serves about 65 households every week by providing requested household items like basic necessities to people furniture, sheets, and silverware, and other basic house-Located on North Interstate hold goods according to Roz Avenue, the facility sees a Babener, a volunteer and

Some are households headed that and keep them stable. by a woman fleeing an abumentally ill or homeless

Getting people who've taken hard stumbles back on their feet requires serious efforts in the way of jobs, housing, and counseling, but sometimes the smaller details can be big stumbling blocks.

"Without something like the warehouse they'd be eating and sleeping on the floor for months," said Babener.

She explained that stability and familiarity are essential for the recovery of mentally ill cars trickles in as workers Many of these households people who've been on the

haul in chairs, tables, mat- are families down on their streets. Having a furnished tresses and a number of other luck and trying to recover. apartment can help provide

Babener recalls one story sive relationship. Others are she heard from a client of a young boy who seemed dispeople getting a place of their tracted and struggled in school. He made a sudden turnaround after his family acquired a simple item: a lamp. The boy couldn't study at home because of a basic lack of light.

Community Warehouse, which has been in existence for about seven years, relies on people to donate furniture and other household goods. Sometimes hotels will donate a bonanza of items when they decide to renovate and need to something with the old items.

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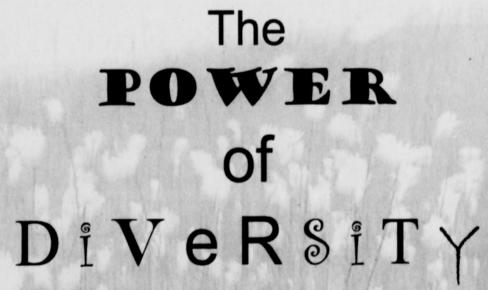
I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go to the mountain. And I've looked over, and

I've seen the promised land! I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land.

-- Martin Luther King Jr.



Singer James Brown (left) walks with his agent, the Rev. Al Sharpton, from the White House in Washington on Jan. 15, 1982. They met with U.S. President Ronald Reagan to advocate making Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday.



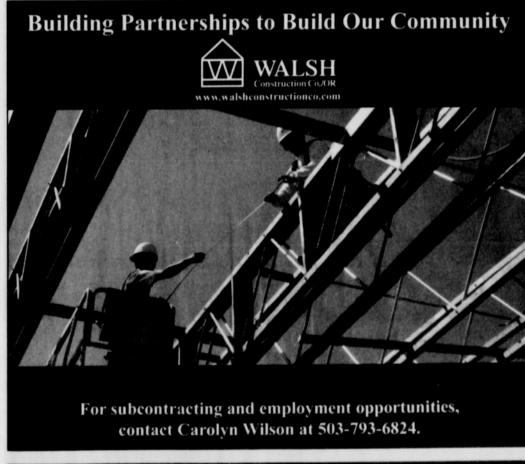
is evident in BLM- in its lands and resources, programs, and workforce.

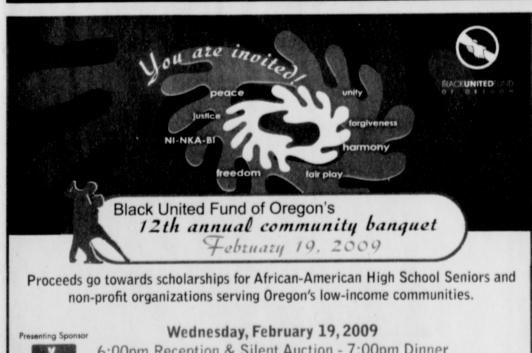




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6:00pm Reception & Silent Auction - 7:00pm Dinner The Governor Hotel, Heritage Ballroom 614 SW 11th and Alder

\$80.00 per person / \$800.00 per table of ten

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or contact Christina Jenkins at cjenkins@bufor.org or (503) 282-7973.