

BUSINESS

'Access Granted, Inc.' Serves Non-Profits

Founder is no stranger to community service

Phyllis Harris is the founder of Access Granted, Inc., a new Portland nonprofit organization that writes grants, raises funds, and designs programs for other nonprofit groups. While she's new to this position, she's no stranger to the business or to Portland.

Harris came to the organization after being furloughed from OHSU along with 2,000 other employees.

She was born and raised by a single, teenage mother in a very cozy neighborhood of northeast Portland. She attended Humboldt Elementary School, Harriet Tubman Middle School and Lincoln High School, where she received an unexpected college scholarship from a Jewish doctor.

During her junior year at Portland State University, she befriended a federal judge and his wife who became her mentors. Harris graduated from PSU with a bachelor's degree in history. She recently was accepted into the Library Media Specialist Master's degree program at PSU.

While attending college, she has held various jobs and served the community in several organizations, including the Oregon Museum Of Science & Technology, the I Have a Dream



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Phyllis Harris and Karis Stoudamire-Phillips go over a game-plan to spread the word about Access Granted, Inc., the new Portland non-profit organization that writes grants, raises funds and designs programs for other non-profits.

Foundation of Oregon, the Korean Grocers Association, Race for the Cure, Portland Parks and Recreation, and Cascade AIDS Project just to name a few.

Harris served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the West Indies for three years in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, re-vamping public policy and raising social awareness in information technology, special needs and HIV/AIDS as well as many other projects.

For the past 7 years, she has spent countless hours talking to members of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) about the issues that affect their ability to operate and grow.

The Portland Observer's Joyce Washington Scholarship Fund recently appointed Harris as its new executive.

While she is transitioning into her new roles, Harris was asked what type of future she foresees for nonprofits in the Portland metropolitan area.

The survival of nonprofits has been a No. 1 concern for many communities, especially during the current economic crisis, Harris said.

"The situation is becoming more challenging with a daily and growing struggle to find resources that will keep NGO's abreast, even as small businesses and large corporations are suffering," she said.

As President Obama pushes economic stimulus packages as issues for change, Harris said

she's going to make sure nonprofits are made aware of the opportunities available.

"Survival of nonprofits in a tough economy is fundamentally about obtaining and keeping donors enthusiastic about giving to social programs and charities that will better all Americans, especially the underprivileged and underexposed," Harris said.

"There's been so much talk about small business loans, expensing and depreciation,

but more than anything, members of the nonprofit community need donors with resources in their pockets who are willing to share and do business with them. We as a society are not going to grow, add jobs or invest if we don't produce citizens who are competent and capable of fulfilling their role in society, no matter what that may be."

Harris said nobody really knows yet what's going to happen to the economy over the next year or two, but that community outreach and cohesiveness will be one of the keys.

"People need to reach a point where they believe the worst is behind us and the best is yet to come," she said.

Harris said the size of nonprofit organizations doesn't necessarily matter in terms of success, but what really counts is the outcome of their mission and goals.

In order to help non-profits succeed, Harris said Access Granted, Inc. will be the cheerleader for helping them prepare for meetings, write letters and answer critical questions from potential donors, all of which help to better illustrate the struggles they face on a daily basis and why donation are important for nonprofits to survive.

"Access Granted is about aggressively forming relationships with other like-minded nonprofit organizations to increase their ability to reach donors, but more importantly to change people's lives," Harris said.

Locksmith Proves Value, Trust in Channel 12 Investigation

Johnny J. Moore, the northeast Portland owner of Affordable JJ Lock and Key, passed a big test recently by demonstrating he offers lock and key ser-

vice that is affordable, reliable and trustworthy. When KPTV, Channel 12 news did a consumer investigation on locksmiths, Moore was the professional they called on that did everything right when they needed help unlocking a front door to a resi-

dence. The first thing Moore asked for was for ID. This impressed the news reporter because all the other locksmiths they called failed to ask for ID or had business addresses that did not exist.

The KPTV investigator called Moore "one honest lock-

smith." Moore says, for him, honesty comes easy when you are dealing with people's safety and security. He is licensed and bonded and is recognized by the Better Business Bureau. Moore was born in Selma,

Ala., where he was raised during the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. He marched with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1969, he moved to Portland with his father and they sent for the rest of the family a little while later.

After getting settled here with jobs and a place to live, Moore has never looked back. He has worked as a sawmill operator, a warehouseman at Safeway, and graduated from sales training and business management.

He said he started his locksmith business not only to make money but to serve people

in a helpful way. He thought back to some experience he had with a lock company in Selma and how he really enjoyed fixing locks.

Moore became a locksmith 26 years ago and has never looked back.

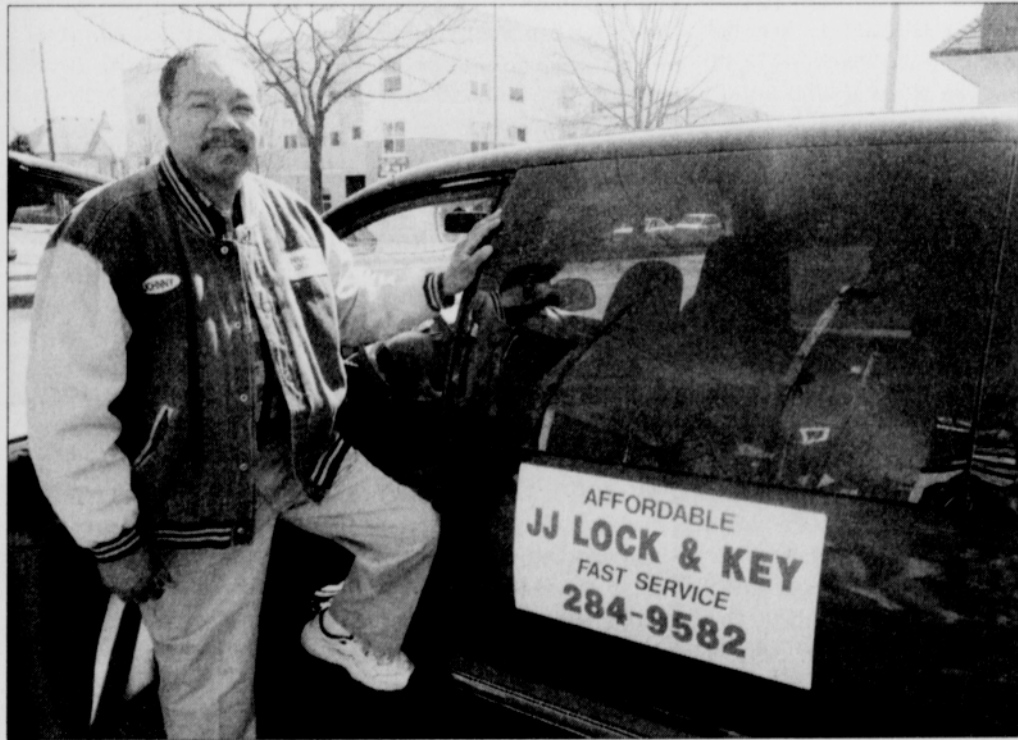


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

JJ Lock and Key owner Johnny J. Moore advertises his long-time northeast Portland business. In a recent KPTV Channel 12 consumer report, Moore proved he offered lock service that was affordable, reliable and trustworthy while other locksmiths had service that wasn't so good.

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PDC Seeks 'Green' Proposals

The Portland Development Commission is seeking proposals from businesses in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area that are interested in implementing creative, sustainable business practices and "green" building features.

The Green Features Grant is for small to medium-sized wholesalers and manufacturers to implement sustainable features in their businesses that increase productivity

demonstrate cost savings, reduce environmental impact and contribute to Portland's environmental, economic and social goals.

A total of \$150,000 is available for fiscal year 2009-2010. Grants will be dispersed on a reimbursement basis.

"Our goal is to encourage small to medium-sized businesses in the ICURA to think about sustainable features and what these features might mean

as far as cost-savings, increased productivity and improved efficiency," said Randy Evans, PDC senior program manager.

Applicants are encouraged to attend an information session on Tuesday, May 5, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, 4134 N. Vancouver Ave. For more information, contact Evans at 503-832-0119 or email evansr@pdc.us

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