

HOUSING

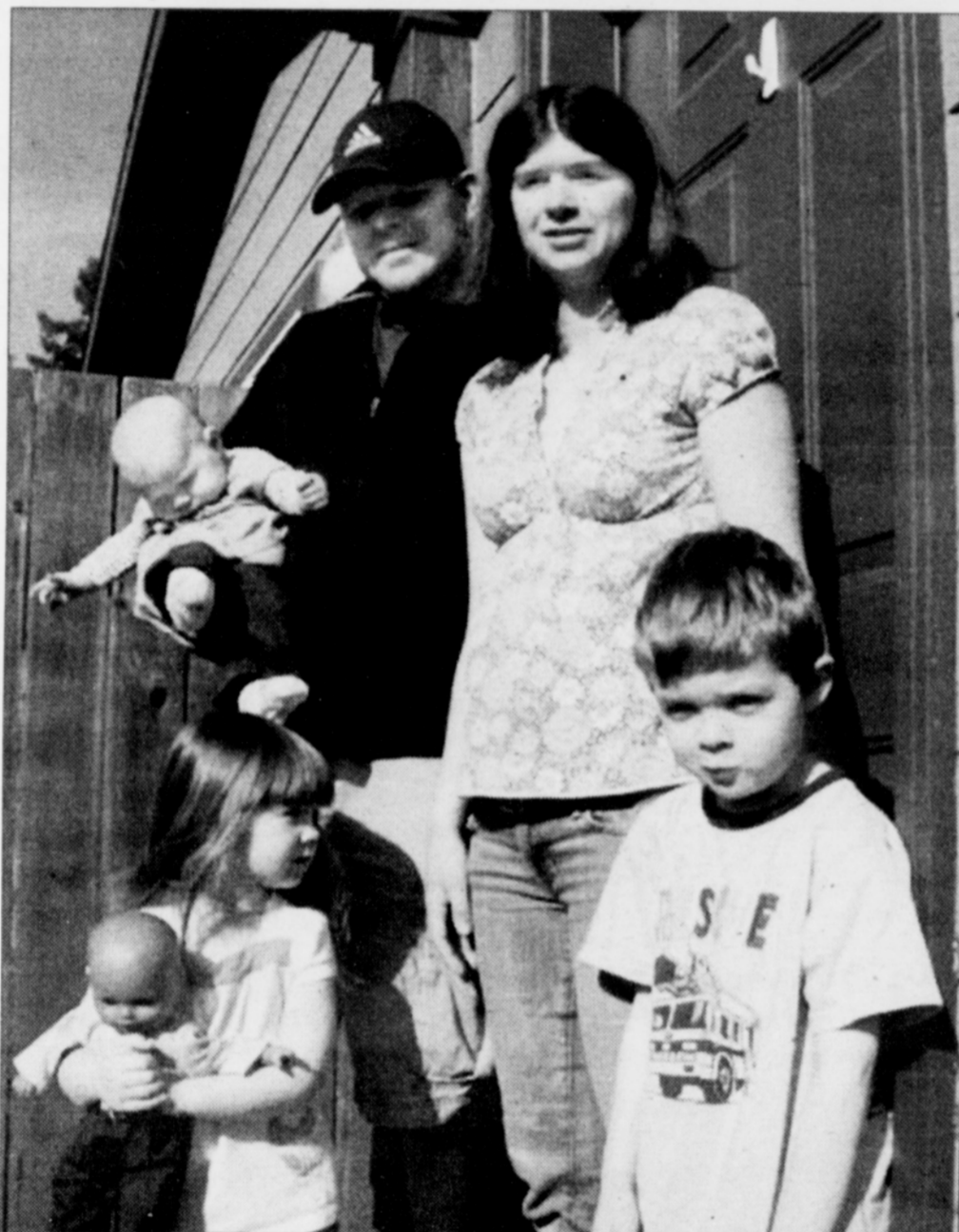
Buying a Home? Buy Smart

Successful couple found resources

The housing market has changed enormously. But the desire for homes and the need for housing hasn't.

For new homeowners Paul and Valery Mannthey the bottom line was having a game plan. Last year, the couple attended a public homeownership workshop sponsored by Rose Community Development to learn all they could about the home buying process and won a free raffle for a \$4,000 homebuyers' assistance grant.

Today, the Mannthey's are enjoying their new home, a short distance away from the Springwater Corridor in south-



Paul and Valery Mannthey and their children moved into their new home last year in southeast Portland thanks to the help they received from ROSE Community Development, a non-profit housing resource and a \$4,000 grant they won by attending a homeownership workshop during a community home ownership fair.

east Portland. The interior of their home is spacious and well suited to their family size.

Paul proudly points out the improvements they made to the home after they moved in, including some repainting and replacing appliances and light fixtures to match their personal taste. Valery is soft-spoken but smiles widely as we talk about what they like in their house. When I ask to take a photo of them in their favorite room, Paul responds "All of them, because they all are".

This is Paul and Valery's first home. They had previously been renting, but knowing that they wanted to expand

their family and try to save a little bit of money, homeownership was the answer.

Paul said when he attended the East Portland Homeownership Fair in 2009. "I had so much information. Pamphlets, brochures, business cards, just a ton of stuff."

He knew that there was a grant drawing for \$4,000 but looking around at the large room filled with hundreds of people, he couldn't imagine what the odds were that he would be one of the grant finalists. "When my name was called, I was shocked," he recalled.

Homeownership Fair Coming Soon

Looking for the tools you need to buy and preserve a home? The fifth annual East Portland Homeownership Fair on Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Ron Russell Middle School, 3955 S.E. 112th Ave., just south of Powell Boulevard, will be full of information designed for new homebuyers and those who wish to buy.

The free event, sponsored by the non-profit Rose Community Development Corp., will bring you face to face with realtors, lenders, home-buying counselors and other businesses.

Home-buying and home-own-

ership workshops will cover a wide range of topics, ranging from "Steps to Homeownership" to "Improving Your Credit Score" and "foreclosure prevention"

The highlight of the day will be a free raffle for a \$4,000 Homebuyer's Assistance Grant. The prize will be available only to those attend the workshops presented that day.

Translators for those who speak Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese and Mandarin will be available. In addition, there will be children's activities, door prizes and a free lunch.

PRESERVING THE COMMUNITY STARTS AT HOME

Home Repair Programs

Lead Hazard Grants

First-time Buyer Programs

Call 503.823.3292 or visit pdc.us/nhp



Portland Housing Bureau



Subscribe
just \$60 per year

(please include check)

503-288-0033

Attn: Subscriptions, The Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland OR 97208.

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

or email subscriptions@portlandobserver.com