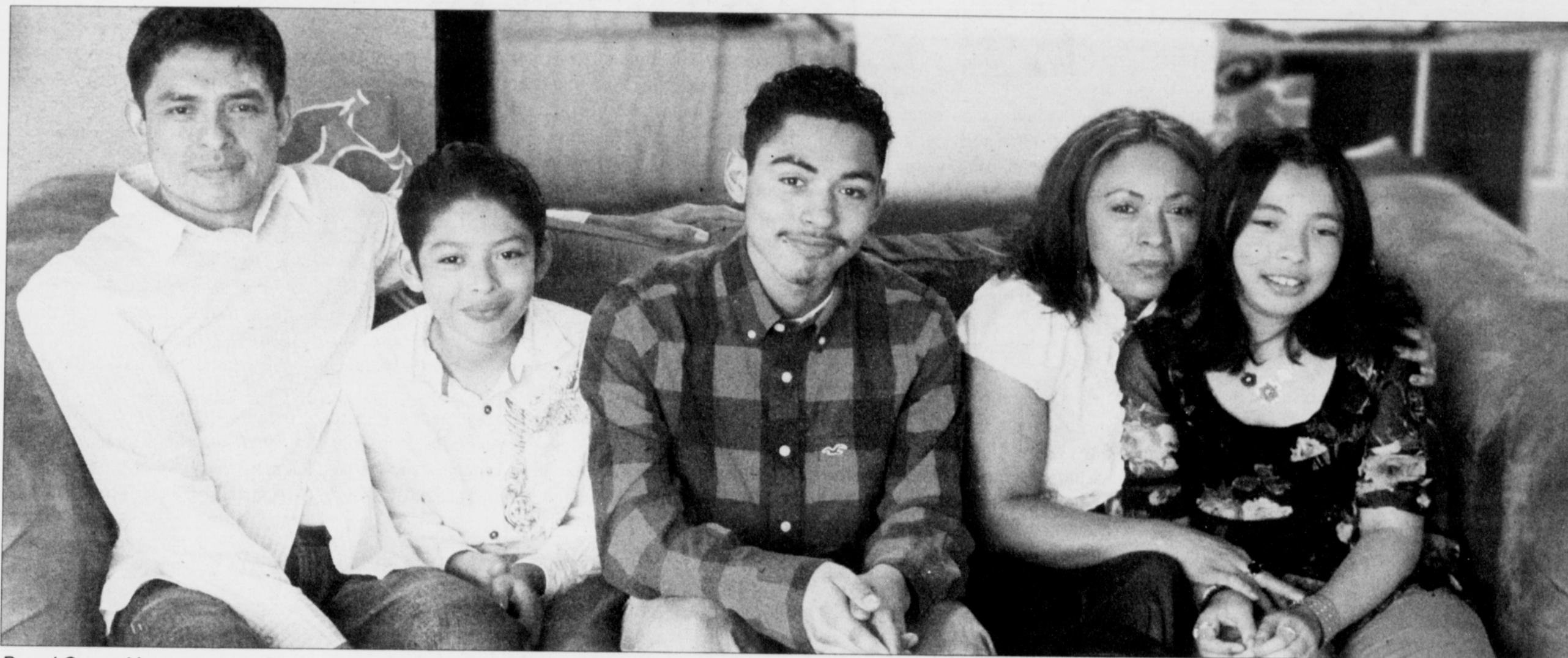


The Portland Observer Sustainability



Proud Ground homeowners Gladis and Luis Turcios say buying a home through Proud Ground is the opportunity of a lifetime. "It's because of our children that we worked so hard to buy our own home — so that they could have a stable roof over their heads and a home they could call their own," Gladis Turcios said.

Homeownership is Happiness

Nonprofit helps make dream come true

When Gladis and her family — husband Luis and children Luis Jr., Aileen and Charlie — became homeowners they had a slightly different experience than most new homeowners: with the help of Proud Ground and the Housing Authority of Portland, they were able to buy the home they had been renting — and had come to love.

"I remember that my daughter was very emotionally moved when she found out we would be buying the home where she was growing up and having wonderful childhood memories," Gladis explains.

Gladis goes on to point out a major difference between owning their own home and renting it, "The tranquility of knowing I don't have to move."

And about Proud Ground's program that helped Gladis and her family get to this point? "It's a great

opportunity to buy and own a house of your own — it's an opportunity of a lifetime," she said.

The Turcios bought their home through Proud Ground, a nonprofit organization that provides affordable homeownership opportunities

erations to come.

In a period of deep economic decline marked by a steep foreclosure rate, Proud Ground has a 0 percent foreclosure rate among its homeowners. A core feature of Proud Ground's program is exten-

'When I walked in the front door for the first time as a homeowner, I felt very happy,'

-- Gladis Turcios

for people who work and live in our community.

Working with community partners, lenders, builders and others, Proud Ground prepares families and individuals for homeownership; renovates existing homes; builds new, energy-efficient affordable homes; offers homeowners tools to be successful; and manages transactions to keep homes affordable for gen-

sive homebuyer education and counseling, and ongoing, post-purchase support of homeowners.

Since 1999, Proud Ground has created 125 new homeowners, and the median sales price of a Proud Ground home in 2010 is \$126,900, vs. \$240,000 for a market-rate home in Portland.

For more information, visit proudground.org or call 503-493-0293, extension 10.

Bicycle Use in Portland Up Again

After a one-year decline, bicycle traffic in Portland is growing again.

A Portland Bureau of Transportation count released last week shows an 8 percent jump in bi-

cycle trips overall.

The bike counts were conducted at more than 150 locations around Portland by trained volunteers and automatic hoses on bike routes.

A recent Census Bureau survey shows Portland is still No. 1 in bicycle commuting among the 30 largest cities in the country. In that survey, 6.8 percent say they prefer to bicycle to work in Portland.

"My house payment is less than I paid in rent!"

Lanesheia, Proud Ground homeowner



We're a nonprofit serving first-time homebuyers like Lanesheia for more than 10 years.

Our average sales price is \$127,000 in 2010 for families earning around \$25,000-45,000 a year.

OPEN HOUSE THIS SATURDAY

December 4 | 10 am—Noon | 4475 N Trenton

Proud Ground's newest project, Woolsey Corner, offers eight brand new 2 & 3 BR homes priced from \$105,600 to \$144,000. These energy-efficient homes are close to neighborhood amenities, parks, schools & rec centers.

Bring this ad to the open house for a chance to win a \$35 Fred Meyer gift card.



More info: Katie Ullrich, 503-493-0293x12
www.proudground.org