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HOUSING special edition



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41 years of community service

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Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

A Foundation to Flourish, Build On

Proud Ground and New Seasons equal new homeowners

"I can't believe this is my place." That was Michelle Holder's first thought as she walked in the front door of the home she now owns.

Tired of moving every time her rent increased, tired of asking for permission to paint or fix things up, tired of living without pets, and ready to have a place of her own, she was ready to become a homeowner.

Luckily for Holder, her employer—New Seasons Market—partners with the non-profit group Proud Ground to help spread the word about affordable homeownership to its employees.

Holder attended a Proud Ground homeownership information session hosted by New Seasons at one of its stores. Thanks to this partnership, she is now one of four New Seasons employees who are Proud Ground homeowners.

The Proud Ground-New Seasons Market partnership, ongoing since 2007, is simple, effective, and beneficial.

Proud Ground works with New Seasons Market's human resources team to arrange free, on-site homeownership information sessions at New Seasons stores. The out-

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Michelle Holder and her pet BiScotty stand outside the home she was able to purchase thanks to a partnership between the housing agency Proud Ground and her employer, New Seasons Market.

Rent Assistance Helps Families Hardest Hit

2,900 households avoid homelessness because of stimulus

In the Portland area, 2,900 households avoided homelessness or moved from homelessness back into housing, thanks to an infusion of short-term rent assistance monies from the federal government and a partnership with the Portland Housing Bureau, Multnomah County, the Housing Authority of Portland, and the City of Gresham.

Officials administering the program said



Deborah Kafoury

the results were aided by \$4.2 million in stimulus funds awarded in 2009 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

For families on the verge of losing their home or getting evicted, small amounts of one-time assistance can often make the difference between becoming homeless or retaining the stability of a home.

"This is one of the hidden stories of our community's response to one of the worst economic recessions in our country's history. Through this targeted assistance, we're helping hundreds of households keep their homes and helping others move quickly out of homelessness and back into housing," says

Steve Rudman, executive director, Housing Authority of Portland.

The Short-Term Rent Assistance program, administered by HAP, was created as part of the City and County's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Through this program, 19 community-based nonprofits deliver short-term rent assistance, getting dollars out to families almost immediately.

The program serves households earning less than 50 percent of the area median family income (less than \$35,000 a year for a family of four) and are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless.

"These dollars allow us to respond immediately to people in crisis and stop the crisis before it gets worse,"

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