Boys and Girls Club Celebrates

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project. The celebration included carnival games, cotton candy and a brief program recognizing the importance of the Boys and Girls Club in the community.

Boys and Girls Club site in the metro area, over 25,000 youth were served by this fantastic organization last year," said Sarah Mensah, Trail Blazers chief operating officer. "What a wonderful impact we would have on

"If you take into account every the youth of Portland if the leaders is part of a concentrated effort by are not in school. in our community joined the Trail Blazers and Windermere in rallying around organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs that provide these opportunities for our youth."

The revamping of the local club

the Trail Blazers' Make it Better foundation and Windermere to support an organization that provides local youth with a safe location to engage in positive and productive activities when they

Windermere partners Denali Oregon, Christenson Electric, En Pointe Technologies and Integra also participated in restoring the Blazer Boys and Girls Club facili-

Empowerment

for Local Youth

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need to advance their education in

their opportunities for the future."

Multnomah County has

partnered with the Portland Oppor-

tunities Industrialization Center at

north Portland's Rosemary Ander-

son High School, which will train

the youth before they go to work in

the offices, as well as Workforce

Inc., which is providing funding with

the county to make this program a

she said.

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success. "Together, all of the combinations, have given our young people opportunities they not have had before," Smith said. When four young people who will be participating in the program

were asked if it is hard to find a job, they all reacted passionately. "I know tons of people my age looking for jobs," said 17-year-old Giovanni McKenzie, who is interested in going into politics and economics in college. "This is a really

good opportunity for me." After he sent over 50 resumes out trying to find a job in the past five months, Giovanni said he only received one call back for an interview

for a job he didn't receive. Bre'on Dance, a 20-year-old college student and participant with the program, said people who are going into college, or are in college, also need money because they might not get enough money with financial aid or grants to support them.

Recent high school graduate Shirley Luo expressed her excitement for the opportunity.

"I am looking to gain more experience and skills that will help me later on in college and in careers and in life," she said.

Smith challenges the community to follow the lead taken by Multnomah County, the city and businesses that have stepped up.

Among the businesses invested in the program is Pacific Power.

Pacific Power executive Pat Egan said he is hopeful other private sector companies will support jobs for youth.

"This is a program that hits critical targets, employment, youth development and workforce training," he said. "We are supporting what Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Cogen are doing for our county."



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