

HEALTH

More Children Live in Poverty



Regan Gray

Impact worsens with cuts in basic services

The percentage of families living in poverty in the state has increased, according to data released Thursday by the Census Bureau.

In Oregon last year, 18.2 percent of families with children under 18 had incomes below the national poverty level. Among

families with children under five, 21.6 percent were living in poverty. In 2007, prior to the recession, the poverty rates for these families were 14.3 and 16.2 percent, respectively.

The consequences of life in poverty for children are potentially dire.

"Among many other terrible circumstances, children who grow up in poverty lack stable, good-quality child care and adequate nutrition, which can lead to social and cognitive delays," says Pro-

fessor Ellen Scott of the University of Oregon. "The effects over the long term are clear: children who grow up in poverty are less likely to graduate from high school and more likely to live in poverty as adults."

According to the non-profit advocacy group Children First for Oregon, the steep increase in poverty for children and families in Oregon was not inevitable.

"Increased poverty reflects the disinvestment in programs that support families and help them to

return to the middle class," says Regan Gray, policy director for Children First for Oregon. "Oregon is pulling away from programs like Employment Related Day Care subsidies, which allow parents to sustain employment, and other services that buffer families from the worst consequences of poverty. Without reinvesting in services for the poor and in low-wage working families, we will see the impact of this recession on Oregon's children for years to come."

Hearing Loss Volunteer Honored for Rejecting Barriers

At the age of 10, Mark Foster, who has had profound hearing loss since birth, took a stand — he stood in front of his fifth grade class and asked to be treated like everyone else.

Foster has been named a Portland General Electric Outstanding Volunteer for 2011. The award, created to honor the volunteer spirit of PGE's employees and retirees, recognizes individuals who show extraordinary commitment to the causes they care about most.

"I am honored to be a part of a company whose employees exem-



Mark Foster

plify one of PGE's strongest core values, and that is giving back," said Dave Robertson, vice president of public policy. "It is inspiring to see how generous people are with their time and talents."

Foster is president of the Hearing Loss Association's Portland chapter, a role he's held since 2003. He mentors those struggling with hearing loss, offering everything from emotional support to resources for the latest assistive-listening technology devices.

"Those with hearing loss are often concerned about their com-

munication deficits, and it can be a barrier to those who want to become leaders," said Bob Russell, president of the statewide Hearing Loss Association. "Mark has demonstrated to others how to overcome

these obstacles."

In honor of Foster's work and determination, PGE is awarding a \$500 Outstanding Volunteer Grant to the Hearing Loss Association Portland chapter.

Battling Huntington's Disease

Saturday's walk to raise donations

The community is invited to make a difference in the lives of the people affected by a disease called Huntington's during a Team Hope Walk on Saturday in Portland.

Tyrone Moore of Portland is a loving father who struggles every day with the genetic condition. In February, his first born daughter Diamond Brown died after a long and courageous battle against juvenile Huntington's disease.

Today, Tyrone's symptoms have progressed. He needs assistance with eating, dressing, mobility, and medication management among many other daily duties.

Huntington's disease is a hereditary degenerative brain disorder which leads to both physical

and mental disabilities. Symptoms usually appear between ages of 30 and 50, but the disease may strike those as young as two or as old as 80.

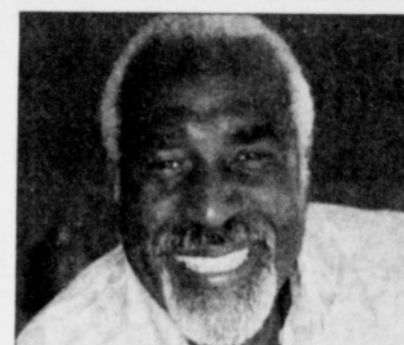
Initial symptoms may include difficulty in concentration, depression or twitching, but each person who has Huntington's is affected differently and early symptoms vary from person to person. In the U.S. about 30,000 people have the disease and estimate of its prevalence are about 1 in every 10,000 people.

You can help the Huntington's Disease Society of America find a cure and help people who have the disease or are at risk, during the Team Hope Walk on Saturday, Oct. 1 at Willamette Park at Southwest Macadam Avenue and Nebraska Street.

Registration begins at 9 am the walk starts at 11 am. No registration fee required. You can also make a donation by calling 503-201-4294 or emailing kbeane@walkforhd.org.



Tyrone Moore and his late daughter Diamond Brown.



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