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Effective  
May 1, 2010**

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**Carpet & Upholstery  
Cleaning  
Residential &  
Commercial Services**  
Minimum Service CHG.  
\$45.00

A small distance/travel charge  
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**CARPET CLEANING**  
2 Cleaning Areas or  
more \$30.00 Each Area  
Pre-Spray Traffic Areas  
(Includes: 1 small Hallway)

1 Cleaning Area (only)  
\$40.00  
Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area  
(Hallway Extra)

Stairs (12-16 stairs - With  
Other Services): \$25.00

Area/Oriental Rugs:  
\$25.00 Minimum  
Area/Oriental Rugs (Wool):  
\$40.00 Minimum

Heavily Soiled Area:  
Additional \$10.00 each area  
(Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)

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- Spot & Stain  
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# OPINION

Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to [news@portlandobserver.com](mailto:news@portlandobserver.com).



## Engaging More in the Occupy Movement

### Drawing strength by giving back

BY MARC H. MORIAL

The black "Twittersphere" and "blogosphere" are abuzz with talk about ways to engage more African Americans in the "Occupy" movement. There are even social networks forming under the banner: "Occupy the Hood." From Zuccotti Park in Manhattan to Westlake Park in Seattle, the participants in Occupy events tend to be overwhelmingly young, white, and middle class. This is the case even though the Occupy Movement have identified, income inequality and the corrupt and predatory actions of big banks, are hitting communities of color the hardest.

In pondering the potential reasons for this disconnect, I thought that maybe the stress of unemployment and lack of opportunities are so draining in the "hood" that there simply isn't enough time or energy to join a rally. Or maybe, with more of a focus on racism's role in structural inequality, more people of color would join. Then, however, I thought



about a woman named Oseola McCarty from Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

In 1995 at the age of 85, Ms. McCarty, an African-American woman who earned a living washing and ironing other people's laundry, donated her entire life-savings, \$150,000, to the University of Southern Mississippi to give black chil-

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dren the chance she never had to attend the previously segregated university.

Her actions inspired many and led President Clinton to award her the Presidential Citizens Medal. Oseola McCarty's only wish was that she be allowed to attend the graduation of the first recipient of the McCarty Scholarship. She developed a friendship with that stu-

dent Stephanie Bullock, and died a few months after Stephanie's graduation in 1999.

I tell that story because it reminds us of the legacy of community service and philanthropy that have always been at the heart of the black community. There is no way we could have survived the hardships of slavery, Jim Crow, the Great Depression and the Great Recession

without leaning on one another — whether that meant assisting travelers on the Underground Railroad, or sharing food with an out-of-work neighbor. Giving back has always been front and center in the African-American experience.

The black church has led the way. Community "giving circles," where individuals collectively pool their resources and decide what

projects to fund, are on the rise. For years, philanthropic organizations such as the National Urban League, National Black United Fund and the United Negro College Fund, have been providing critical and in some cases, life-saving assistance to millions of African Americans. A new generation of African American philanthropists is also making a difference, people like Oprah Winfrey, Bill Cosby, and Alphonse Fletcher are empowering the most vulnerable to dream and create better tomorrows.

As we enter the holiday season, we should draw strength from that well-spring of compassion. We should remember, while public protest has its place, these African Americans that have walked through the doors of opportunity and achieved economic success have an absolute responsibility to make a difference and to give back.

Giving back can be in the form of time and talent as well as money. Occupy the Hood with whatever gifts you have. As Oseola McCarty put it, "If you want to be proud of yourself, you have got to do things you can be proud of."

Marc H. Morial is president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.