

Prophet of the City's Streets

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his life upside down. He fell into isolation and drugs. He lost touch with his family, his wife, his home, and his job working as an Aerosmith technician. "Nobody could help me," he said.

With no purpose or direction, Mubarak says he threw darts at cities pinned on a dartboard to choose his next destination. In each city he visited, he'd flood businesses with his resume to find work. His housing could not be sustained, leaving him to pack his few belongings and move to the streets.

Mubarak trained himself to depend on no one but himself. He saved money until he skipped on to the next city. Eventually, Mubarak landed here and found a reason to stay.

In Portland, a city Mubarak calls "a hub for travelers," the street-savvy nomad began listening to the problems of people living on the streets.

The homeless were struggling to get by with high rents, overcrowded shelters, and nowhere to legally sleep or camp. There were few, if any public toilets, or shelters that allowed children.

"It costs \$700 a month for an apartment in Portland. What if you work at McDonalds?" said Mubarak. "Isn't it a human right to relieve yourself?" he continued. "Where are you going to go? You get caught going outside three times and you're a registered sex offender."

As witness to the mistreatment of homeless people in

Portland, Mubarak became motivated to act. "We need help," he recalls thinking, "We need to help the homeless."

He began fighting for the basic rights that all humans are entitled to, whether they can afford to live in a house or not. "These are humans here," he said. "We want to be treated like everybody else."

Mubarak began to speak out and educate. He started using

and food. Once they have those, there's no excuse not to be productive." With limited resources, the organization helps people find work and housing.

At least 30 people have found housing in the last year, said Mubarak, who has lived indoors for two years now, but spends many of his days helping run the Right 2 Dream Too camp.

People look as the homeless as failures. If you're not providing to the capitalistic system you're called a waste, stereotyped as rapists, no-goods, and drug addicts.

— Ibrahim Mubarak, a founder of Portland's Right 2 Dream Too

the word houseless instead of homeless.

"Saying we are without a home is like saying we are without a heart," he said.

Mubarak started Right 2 Survive, an advocacy group to teach people without housing that they have constitutional and civil rights. From that, rose Right 2 Dream Too, a permanent camp for the temporarily houseless to live.

Using a vacant lot on the corner of Northwest Fourth Avenue and Burnside Street, Mubarak and Right 2 Dream Too volunteers provide food, and a warm, sheltered place to rest for up to 90 people a day. In a year and 2 month span since its opening, more than 2,000 people have been served.

"People need two basic needs," said Mubarak, "Sleep

those who have a home. The American Dream doesn't pan out for everyone; he said, but everyone has the right to dream.

"If you reach for the stars and land on the moon, you're not a failure," he said. "Just because you're not in a house, you're not a failure. Failure is

not seeing, low aim is."

Mubarak is a resource for the people walking in the vicious circle of the city. He offers them a way out.

"Homelessness may not be the place for you," he says, "I can show you a different way, but you have to help yourself," he says. "Be better than yourself. Do it for yourself."

Albina Ministerial Alliance

City-Wide Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Service



Theme:

Remember! Celebrate! Act! King's Dream for Our World

Speaker: Dr. Yvette Alex Assensoh

Vice President for Office of Equity and Inclusion, University of Oregon

A CELEBRATION IN SONG, POETRY, DANCE AND WORD

When: Sunday, January 20, 2013, 5:30pm

Where: Maranatha Church
4222 N.E. 12th Ave
Portland, Or 97211
(503)288-7241

Sponsor by: The A.M.A., the oldest and largest Ministerial Alliance in North and Northeast Portland.

In Loving Memory

Helen Marie Lawson-Tanner



A memorial service for Helen Marie Lawson-Tanner will be held Saturday, Jan. 19 at 3 p.m. at Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church, 238 N.E. Mason St. She was born May 29, 1924. Sunset was Jan. 8, 2013.

Survivors include her son, George W. Brown; grandchildren, Lori Brown, Yulonda Chapman, Cesario Chapman and Marcel Roshto; great grandchildren, Kiara Sanders and Christopher Hunt; sister, Jean Blocker; brother, George W. Lawson; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

You're gone but never forgotten. We miss and love you dearly!

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