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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lynda Williams (left) and her mother Thelma Williams welcome the volunteer help they received to make much-needed home repairs. The volunteer effort was part of the many community service projects associated with Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

Repairs Save Home

Contractors inspired by MLK Day of Service

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A long time resident and senior member of Portland's black community just got some much needed home repairs from volunteers who gave back in recognition of the day of community service that's become a tradition of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Thelma Williams, and her caregiving daughter, Lynda Williams stood on the front porch of their North Albina Avenue home in early January to welcome the assistance they received from the Neil Kelly Co. and the Community Energy Project.

Cold air gusts through the small

house due to a common problem afflicting many older Portland homes: poor insulation, especially around the windows.

The home is just one of hundreds that are serviced every year through the non-profit Community Energy Project, but in this case, much more extensive repairs were needed beyond what the agency can normally afford.

Thanks to Neil Kelly, the lead contractor to volunteer, along with Clean Energy Works and Energy Trust of Oregon, the home will get weather proofed, making the rest of the harsh winter months more bearable and less costly.

Later this week, dozens of pro-

fessional workers will volunteer to help fix the aging roof, drafty windows, and other structural problems.

Without this kind of public/private collaboration, many homes, especially black-owned homes and others occupied by disadvantaged residents, would easily become too expensive to maintain for their owners.

Older community members are especially susceptible to the damages afflicting aging homes, and with so many young people of color fleeing the inner city, many older black and Latino homeowners are

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