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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dorothy Rodriguez-Anderson, founder and president of the My Life Directive Foundation, reaches out to Vancouver's homeless women population to offer much-needed support.

Helping the Homeless

Vancouver advocate petitions for women's shelter

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A local activist with a passion for helping those in need is working tirelessly to garner attention and resources for the homeless women of Vancouver.

Dorothy Rodriguez-Anderson has already rounded up local volunteers and helped gather a slew of donated food and materials for homeless camps. Her work as founder of the non-profit foundation My Life Directive has helped better connect Vancouver's homeless with each other and with her resources, and many residents in need have come to know her and rely on her for material supplies and emotional support.

Anderson, however, says she needs the city's help to move forward. She is asking the Vancouver City Council to help create a shelter specifically for homeless women. With over 40,000 supporters on her online petition, she is hoping community pressure will help bring resources to a local community

in need.

"Each night that I spend with these girls watching them struggle, afraid and uncertain, I keep asking myself how long they will continue to be ignored. It's horrific," Anderson said.

Astounded by the enormity of the problem, she cannot imagine overlooking the needs of people living on the streets. Because she too was homeless as a young teen, she has firsthand experience on what people face when they don't have a safe place to lay their heads.

Anderson says she wants Vancouver to create a women's shelter in specific because of the kind of violence women in particular find on the streets of the city. Homeless women are raped and beaten so often they don't even report it because they are victim-blamed when they do, she said.

"To be raped and then have to suffer a rape exam

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Fund to Support Minority Entrepreneurs

Jurisdictions join forces to raise \$3 million

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland's economic development agency, Portland Development Commission, has launched a startup fund specifically dedicated supporting and cultivating entrepreneurs from local African Americans and other underrepresented populations.

The Inclusive Startup Fund begins with \$500,000 contributions each from the PDC and Multnomah County, and a \$250,000 commitment by the state of Oregon through the office of Gov.

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