



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dorothy Rodriguez-Anderson, a local woman with a passion for helping those in need, wants to bring a much-needed women's shelter to Vancouver, where their currently is no such service.

# Helping <sup>the</sup> Homeless

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and be dumped back on the streets is more than they can bear," she said. "Without someone to care, they turn to drugs so they don't have to feel or deal with the trauma. Instead, the women just live on the streets."

She adds that the only men's shelter in town houses sex offenders, where the girls are "sitting ducks."

Poverty is a women's issue across the world and in the United States, and according to the National Woman's Law Center, nearly 6 in 10 poor adults are women, and nearly 6 in 10 poor children live in

families headed by women. Poverty rates are especially high for single mothers, women of color, and elderly women living alone. Women's shelters are critical to the stability and welfare of women, particularly mothers and domestic violence survivors.

Anderson knows that ongoing grassroots action is needed through every step of the process to keep the homeless issue in front of local, state and federal representatives.

She would welcome even more signatures to shed light on the problem. To sign Anderson's petition, visit [thepetitionsite.com/823/129/285](http://thepetitionsite.com/823/129/285). To donate to the project, visit [gofundme.com/zm4mqbg](http://gofundme.com/zm4mqbg).

# Fund to Support Minority Entrepreneurs

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Kate Brown and Business Oregon, the state counterpart to the PDC.

A request for information was issued by the PDC last week to identify and select a professional manager for the fund, who will be expected to raise an additional \$1.75 million from private investors and foundations to meet a \$3 million goal for the initial capital in the fund's first year.

Officials said the fund will invest between \$20,000 and \$50,000

each in startups founded by under-represented groups in a variety of industries. Mentoring and business advising services will accompany each investment.

"The Inclusive Startup Fund represents the Portland Development Commission's ongoing commitment to support and cultivate entrepreneurs from underrepresented populations," said Patrick Quinton, the organization's executive director. "We're eager to take this next step toward providing better access to capital for startups

with diverse founders."

"Our local startups play an important role in job creation and economic progress here in Multnomah County," added Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, a member of Portland's African American community, who pushed forward the amendment that secured the county's portion of the funding. "So we are very proud to provide funds that will support the growth of underserved entrepreneurs in the region."

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