

# Family Shelter Opens in Former Strip Club

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ting our community like a punch in the face.”

Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury echoed Miller’s sentiments, “Our community prides itself on prioritizing our children and families,” she said. “But the fact that we so desperately need these temporary shelter beds in the first place leaves me devastated.”

Kafoury said Multnomah County had 3,000 school-aged children experience homelessness in 2014.

“I think it’s very important to recognize that many of the families that will find shelter here are experiencing the trauma of homelessness for the very first time,” she said. “These are our neighbors, our relatives, our co-workers, our friends. All of them are sleeping at the shelter because

they cannot find an affordable place to live.”

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales and Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who oversees the Portland Housing Bureau, were also on hand to help open the Family Center, and noted that more affordable housing needs to be built if we are going to end family homelessness in our community.

Human Solutions relies on dona-

tions to feed families at the center and keep the shelves stocked with basic necessities such as blankets, towels, pillows, toiletries and diapers. Dinner is served each night at 7 p.m., and there is an urgent need for hot meals. The Human Solutions contact for volunteers and donations is Outreach Coordinator Danielle Stirnaman. She may be reached at 503-278-1637 or dstirnaman@humansolutions.org.


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