



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volunteers, interns and workers at the CASH Oregon office in Lloyd Center help low-income Oregonians prepare their taxes for free and help eligible recipients claim an Earned Income Tax Credit. Pictured (from left) are Pina Chipen, Alexis Hopson, Gilberto Elena, and Myrna Andrade-Booker. The program will be open through April 17 at over 50 locations in the Portland metro area.

## Cash in Hand

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through the program for the first time this year after hearing about it from word of mouth. They said a refund like the Earned Income Tax Credit would really help them out financially.

"The reason I came is because it's free. I usually go to H & R Block, but it's a \$300 something dollar fee," Syoziatro said.

Between CASH Oregon and AARP Tax-Aide, \$54 million in Earned Income Tax Credits was made to eligible clients in Oregon last year, according to the non-profit's annual report. Over \$21 million of refunds were issued in the tri-county area of Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas counties.

The tax filing deadline is April 17 and the free tax preparation sites will be open for services through that time, except Fridays. But come early, Adams said, because the service is first-come first-serve. And be sure to bring a photo ID, Social Security card, the tax IDs of all who you are filing for, your employers W-2s and other documents related to your income, as well as tax-related expenses for the year, and last year's tax return, if you have it.

At Lloyd Center, which is the largest CASH Oregon site in the state, the hours are posted as 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday, and 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays. The offices are located on the third floor near the food court.

You can find CASH Oregon's other locations by calling 2-11 or visiting [cashoregon.org/locations](http://cashoregon.org/locations). The website also has links to free resources in order to file taxes yourself from home.

## Meeting on Gang Violence

Laurie Palmer, a black community activist who started a local organization to address the root causes of gang violence invites members of the community to an upcoming meeting to explore and advance efforts to combat the influence of gangs and reduce violence.

The session will be held Wednesday, April 11, from noon to 2 p.m. in the community room of the Human Solutions/Rockwood building at 124 N.E. 181th. Palmer is the founder of the "Go Get Your Child" (GGYC) community coalition she started after her own son was injured in a shooting. She is also an inspirational speaker and a "Women in Transition: life coach."

The meeting will focus on strengthening community net-



Laurie Palmer

works and building ties with non-violence, locally-based organizations and explore honest challenges in the efforts to make our communities safer.

For more information, call Palmer at 503-927-9753 or email [lauriepalmer39@yahoo.com](mailto:lauriepalmer39@yahoo.com).

## Free Legal Services Day

In an effort to help low-income individuals apply for jobs, attain housing, and regain their driver's licenses, a free legal services day will be held at the Rosewood Initiative in Gresham on Friday, April 13, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The non-profit, located at 16126 S.E. Stark St., will provide the opportunity for people to meet

with an attorney and earn a waiver of fines and fees they owe, if they show proof that they completed non-court-mandated community service or recent treatment. Individuals can also see if they're eligible for expungement of old cases or address any outstanding warrants.

For more information, call 503-208-2562.

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