



Mississippi  
Alberta  
North Portland

METRO

Vancouver  
East County  
Beaverton



Ayasha Shamsud-Din and Talunaka Washington (center) of the Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF) visit the Oregon State Penitentiary to accept a 2017 donation of \$2,500 to purchase coats for children in foster care. The donation was raised by inmates of Uhura Sasa, an African American culture club at the prison. A new campaign to raise donations for coats for children is now underway.

# Giving Back; Making a Challenge

BY EARL McDONALD-WILKINS

In 2016, Uhuru Sasa, the African American culture club located inside the Oregon State Penitentiary, learned that Talunaka Washington, a child and community advocate with the Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF) and the daughter of Portland Observer Publisher Mark Washington was trying to raise funds to purchase coats for chil-

## Inmates reach out to help foster kids

dren involved with the Multnomah County foster care system.

Uhuru Sasa decided to hold a fundraiser inside the prison to help. In the first year, the club raised \$1,000; and Talunaka purchased 120 additional coats for children in our community. Last year, Uhuru Sasa raised \$2,500 and Talunaka was able to purchase

300 additional coats for children.

This year, Uhuru Sasa will hold its third annual fundraiser in October; and the club has issued a challenge to the Black Parent Initiative, Intel, Beneficial State Bank, OnPoint Credit Union and/or their chief executive officers to match whatever dollar amount Uhuru Sasa

can raise inside OSP. 100 percent of all funds will go to purchase winter coats and other clothes for children in need.

All financial contributions can be sent in care of Talunaka Washington, Dept. of Human Services, District 2 Volunteer Unit, 11826 N.E. Glisan St., Portland, OR 97220.

*Earl McDonald-Wilkins oversees community outreach for Uhura Sasa*