

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

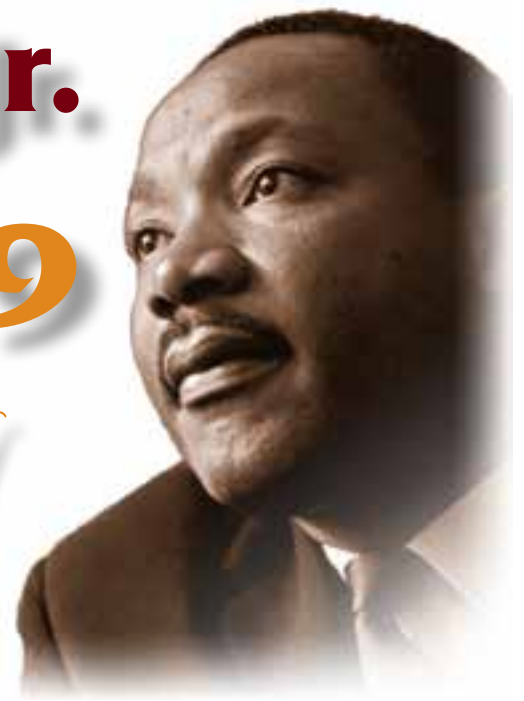
49 *New Legacies and Allies in King's Path*

years of community service



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Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Sam Sachs, creator of the non-profit The No Hate Zone, has successfully pushed for local and state governments to adopt equitable hiring practices inspired by the Pittsburgh Steelers' "Rooney Rule," which compelled NFL teams to interview at least one ethnic minority for leadership positions. Sachs most recently was successful in getting Multnomah County to adopt a version of the rule, called The Gladys McCoy Standard, named after the first elected African American woman to serve and later chair the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners.

'No Hate Zone' breaks bread and barriers

Safe Space Creator promotes diversity

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Sam Sachs has been battling racism his entire life. By promoting equity and diversity through his work as a former Army veteran, football player, law enforcement officer, and later as Human Rights Commissioner for the City of Portland, he's made a name for himself.

He's spearheaded an effort for local and state governments in Oregon to adopt variations of an equitable hiring standard, for example, known as The Rooney Rule, in which at least one ethnic minority must be interviewed for leadership roles.

Sachs, who has a bachelor's degree in Black Studies from Portland State University, was an intern for former state Sen. Avel Gordly, the first African-American woman to be elected to the Oregon State Senate, during her last term in the late 2000s. He's also helped in the effort to eliminate Native American Mascots in all Oregon K-12 schools.

Monthly dinners with members of law enforcement and people of color, aimed at improving community relations, was also initiated by Sachs and Noho Marchesi, Sach's friend and owner of Noho's Hawaiian Café at 4627 N.E. Fremont St. Marchesi provides the space and meals free of charge for the dinners. The restaurant dons Sachs' No Hate Zone decal in its window, a signifier that the restaurant is a safe space for those escaping violence and discrimination from white supremacists and other hate groups.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11