

New Lifeline for Foster Youth of Color

Agency focuses on culturally-specific care, services

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In response to African American children being overrepresented in Oregon's child welfare system, a new foster care agency led by a black executive is working to close that gap by providing culturally specific foster care services and recruiting new foster parents of color.

Incorporated in 2016, and licensed a year ago, Youth Unlimited, Inc. is working with some of the Portland black community's most vulnerable kids, helping place black foster children into the hands of highly qualified foster homes of color.

The agency considers itself a "treatment foster care" organization, where foster parents volunteer at least 10 hours each week to teaching life skills to their foster children.

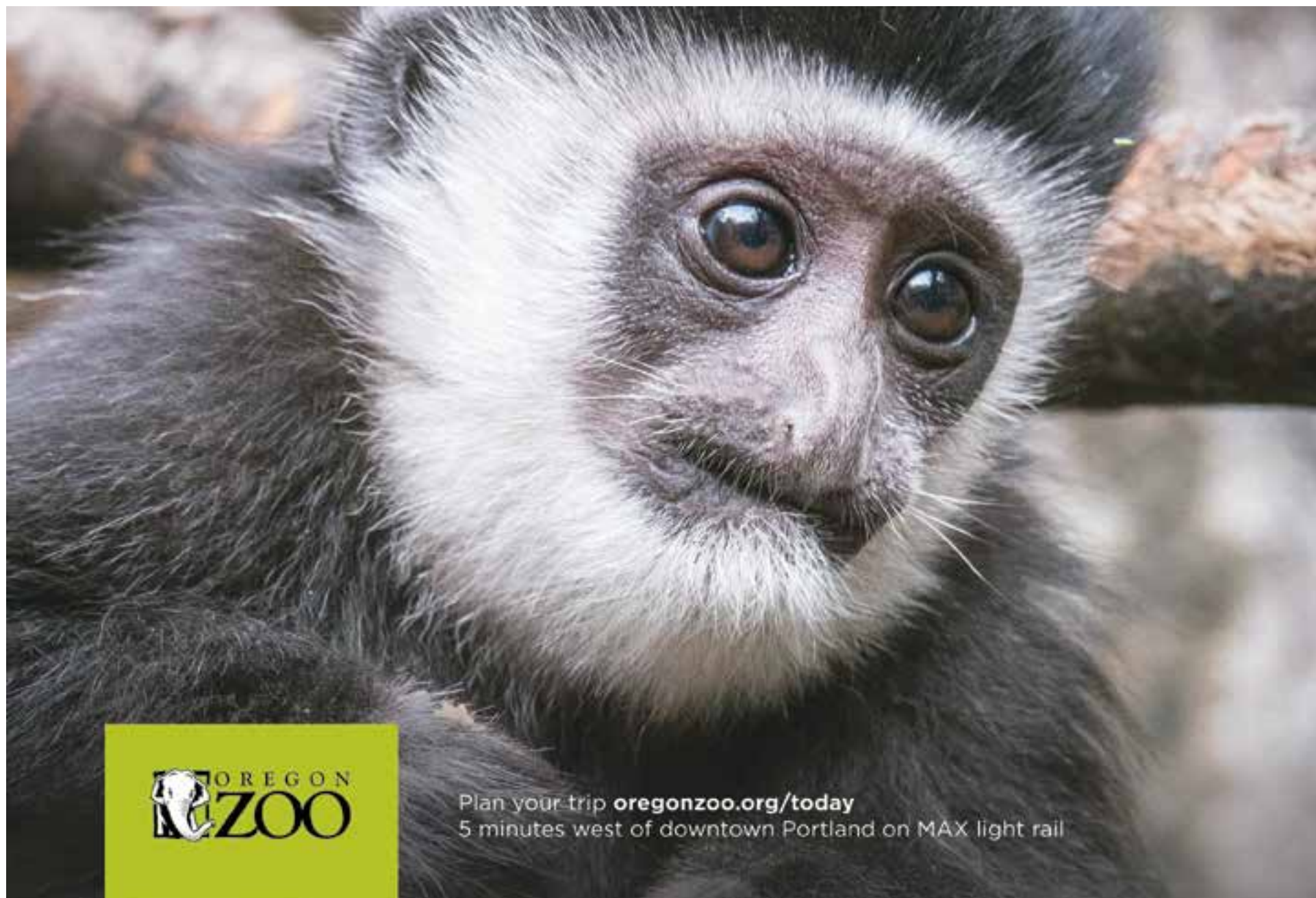
Many of the children come in with behavioral or health issues that need to be addressed, Youth Unlimited found-



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April Johnson (left), the chief executive and founder of Youth Unlimited, a foster care agency that is focused on supporting foster youth of color, and Denzel Davis, one of the agency's foster dads, pose in front of the agency headquarters in Gresham.

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