



# Celebrating BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Miracles Club Program Director Maleka Taylor (right) and Wellness within Reach Administrative Coordinator Makda Berhane oversee programs focused on improving health outcomes in the African American community, from the nonprofit club's Miracles Central location at 1306 N.E. Second Ave.

## Keeping the Focus on Health

Community steps up to continue programs

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Miracles Club, a Portland non-profit dedicated to substance abuse recovery services and permanent hous-

ing of recovering addicts, most from the African American community, is now managing health initiatives for the black community at large that were previously run by the African American Health Coalition, which dissolved last year.

“Obviously the programs were pertinent to the African American community,” said Miracles Club Program Director

Maleka Taylor. “And so we got together behind closed doors and did a bunch of legal stuff so that when they dissolved we were able to take on their programs.”

The efforts include Wellness within Reach which distributes affordable exercise passes to the Charles Jordan and Matt Dishman Community Centers—Portland Parks & Recreation facilities in

north and northeast Portland respectively—and a Diabetes Prevention initiative.

The exercise passes promote good health practices and are being distributed from the club's second location, Miracles Central at 1306 N.E. Second Ave. to self-identifying African American resi-

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