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'City of Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Students from Ockley Green Middle School in north Portland volunteer to help run the school's Dragon Mart, a free food bank benefiting kids who don't have enough to eat as well as assisting other families and people in the entire neighborhood. The students pictured are (from left) are Shamaya Daniels, Addyson Razo, Beatrice Pierson and Ilyarah Moteley.

In-school Grocery Feeds Families

Benefits go to entire neighborhood

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It all started because of a mutual concern: Kids who don't have enough to eat. After some brainstorming last spring and more planning, the solution has come with the opening of Dragon Mart, a free grocery at Ockley Green Middle School serving students, their families and people who have food insecurity.

Kyle Camberg, executive director of the Sunshine Division nonprofit, along with Jeffery Temple of Fred Meyer teamed up with Joyce Olivo of Self Enhancement,

Inc., and the result is a full mini-size store, called Dragon Mart, with both fresh and packaged food items. Volunteers help with selections, but there are no cash registers.

"The likelihood kids will come into a food pantry is pretty small," Camberg said. "But Jeffery and I and Ockley Green started talking and decided, we think we can get together and make food accessible for kids and the neighborhood, and it very quickly turned into this."

Dragon Mart is situated in the Sun School portable building behind Ockley Green, located at 6031 N. Montana Ave., and is open from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays for families and students from the school and its elementary feeder schools, Chief Joseph and Beach. On Thursday, also

from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., it's open to anyone.

Camberg's organization, the Sunshine Division, was started back in the 1920s as a relief organization for police officers who lost their jobs during the Great Depression, and carries on to this day, providing food and clothing for anyone in need at two locations, 687 N. Thompson St. and 12436 S.E. Stark.

Temple, director of public affairs for Fred Meyer, said the goal of Dragon Mart -- to relieve food anxiety not only for students but for those in the neighborhood in need -- is also a goal of Freddy's.

"This is a great project and we're excited to underwrite and fund it," Temple

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Justice Disparities Persist

Fairness of legal system challenged

Racial and ethnic disparities in Multnomah County's criminal justice system continue as a persistent problem where black and Latino people are overrepresented at nearly every stage of law enforcement, from arrests to prison terms, according to a new report released Monday.

"The prevalence and persistence of these disparities undermines the notion of 'justice' in our criminal legal system, concluded the report by the Oakland, Calif.-based W. Haywood Burns Institute.

The study was done to update figures from a 2015 county report and was instituted as part of a safety and challenge grant to promote equity and reduce disparities from the MacArthur Foundation.

According to the new figures, members of the local black population were 8.3 times more likely than local white residents to be in jail pending trial in 2019, and 4.8 times as likely as whites to have a case prosecuted, and 4.6 times as likely as whites to have a case resulting in conviction.

Latinos fared better, but were still 1.8 times more likely than whites to be in jail pending trial in 2019, 1.3 times as likely as whites to have a case go to trial, and 1.2 times as likely as white people to have a case end in conviction.

Black adults also had longer stays in jail. In 2019, white adults averaged 11.9 days in jail, while black adults averaged 16.8 days, Latino adults averaged 17 days, Asian and Pacific Islanders 13.5 days, and Native Americans 14 days.

Some progress for racial equity was found for the total number of people of color in the justice system, finding that it decreased over that period and the relative likelihood of receiving a prison sentence for those individuals also decreased.

But Multnomah County District Attor-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4