



Portland area residents train in the construction trades thanks to Constructing Hope, a pre-apprenticeship program rooted in Portland's African American community.

Fostering Employment in the Trades

Program turns lives around; grows support

The city of Portland is investing \$100,000 to help the northeast Portland nonprofit Constructing Hope provide construction training and records expungement for low-income residents.

The recent grant will pay for the training of 50 community members in the skilled construction trades and add new records expungement services for people with a criminal justice history.

"Traditionally, people of color were disproportionately tarnished with a criminal record for minor offenses, including cannabis possession," said Pat Daniels, executive director of Constructing Hope. "So this grant will have a tremendous impact on Portland's communities of color."

Construction is one of the few industries that will hire people with a criminal record, but that

record can bar graduates from many projects, such as federally-funded contracts. Constructing Hope will help people reduce or remove their criminal records history and secure their driver's license in a timely manner.

The grant will help people like Robert Thomas. When Robert came to Constructing Hope, he was struggling to find a life direction after eight years in the criminal justice system. With custody of his 10-year-old daughter, it became even more important to gain the skills to better not only his life, but his daughter's.

Robert completed Constructing Hope's no-cost, 10-week pre-apprenticeship program last December.

"The day the program ended, I got a call to go to work" as a first-term ironworker apprentice with Local 29—earning \$22.25 an hour.

With this grant, Robert can potentially reduce his felony record to a misdemeanor and qualify for desirable contracts such as Port of Portland and the Port-

land airport."

Last year, Constructing Hope placed 65 previously unemployed or underemployed Oregonians in new careers with an average starting wage of \$18.50. Community members from low-income households seeking no-cost construction training can learn more by visiting constructinghope.org or call the organization at 503-281-1234.

Stepping Up for the Homeless

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meal. "I had about 30 people that contacted me and about 18 who served," Harris said. "We put together a menu and delegated what everybody would bring. Our goal was to get people to respond and spread the word."

It obviously worked, to everyone's delight, and there was more than enough food to go around.

"They could have as many servings as they wanted and we had food left over and to make

sandwiches the next day," Harris said.

The shelter at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Killingsworth is run by Transition Projects and was only one of two of their shelters that did not have a meal scheduled to be served on Thanksgiving Day. But thanks to the added effort, shelter residents got two Thanksgiving meals in one week. On Monday, a Thanksgiving meal was also delivered to shelter residents by the Daniels Memorial Church of God in Christ.

HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

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MONDAY - FRIDAY	SUNDAY
12 Midnight - 3 A.M. MIKE SHANNON	12 Midnight - 3 A.M. MIKE SHANNON
3 A.M. - 7 A.M. TOM JOYNER	3 A.M. - 6 A.M. TOYA BEASLEY
7 A.M. - 10 A.M. TONI TERRELL	6 A.M. - 12 NOON SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL WANGELA
10 A.M. - 1 P.M. REV. AL SHARPTON (KEEPING IT REAL)	12 NOON - 1 P.M. HIGHLAND C.C. LIVE BROADCAST
1 P.M. - 3 P.M. KENNY SMOOV	1 P.M. - 4 P.M. PAPA SMURF
3 P.M. - 7 P.M. D.L. HUGHLEY	4 P.M. - 12 Midnight DOUGLAS WILLIAMS
7 P.M. - 9 P.M. PAPA SMURF	
9 P.M. - 12 Midnight MIKE SHANNON	

Rev. Al Sharpton
10am - 1pm

Tom Joyner
3am - 7am