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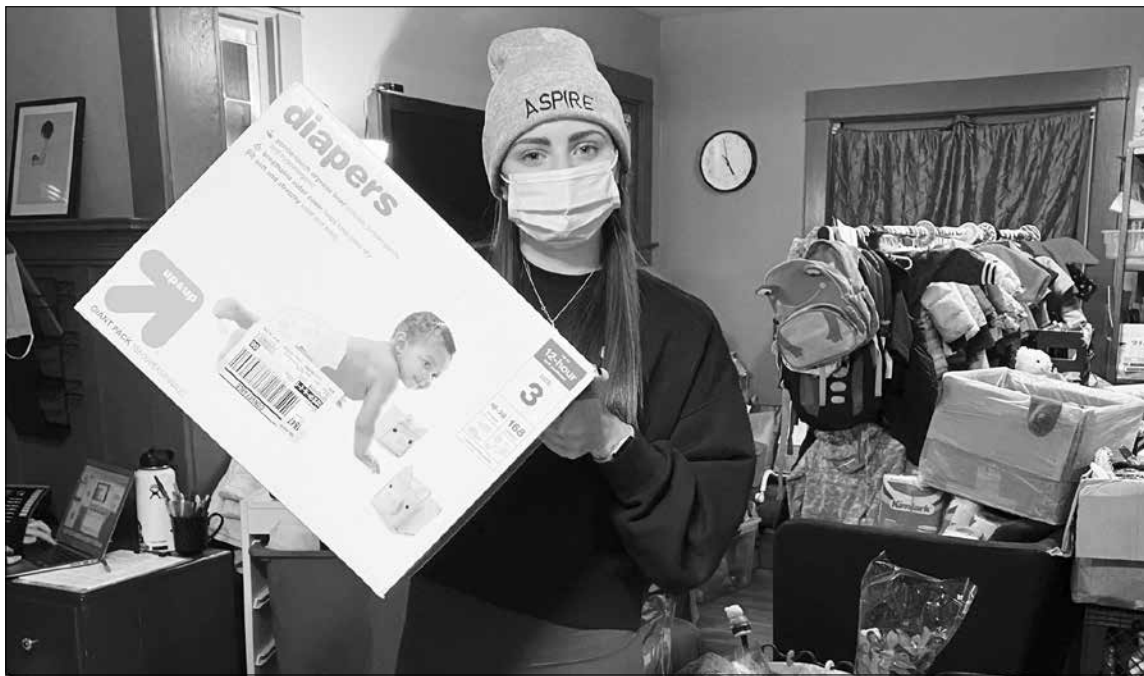
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LOCAL NEWS

'Safe Moms, Safe Babies'



Free diapers and baby supplies are made available to young families impacted by COVID-19 with the help of Jane Stockbridge, one of the interns working at the Mother and Child Education Center, 1515 N.E. 41st Ave., a home that was converted into a free resource center for pregnant moms and new mothers. It is one of four Northeast Portland organizations receiving donations of over 2,000 diapers and baby supplies to be distributed to families impacted by COVID-19, the wildfires and economic hardships.

Supplies go to families impacted by COVID-19

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

Four northeast Portland organizations have received donations of over 2,000 diapers and other baby supplies for distribution to families impacted by COVID-19, the recent wildfires and other economic hardships.

"This is a huge blessing. Just one box of diapers goes a long way," Maura K. White, executive director of the Mother and Child Education Center, told the Portland Observer.

Working out of a converted home at 1515 N.E. 41st Ave., the Mother and Child center is small, a grassroots nonprofit staffed mostly by volunteers that provides free resources 6 days

a week for pregnant moms and mothers.

White said the center has been able to remain open during the coronavirus pandemic by following public health safety procedures and operating from the open space of the center's front porch.

The other organizations receiving baby donations are the Genesis Fellowship Church Food Pantry, Friends of Seasonal & Service Worker and the Northeast Emergency Food Program. The help was made possible because of the efforts of another nonprofit, the National Urban Housing & Economic Community Development Corp. (NUHECDC) which launched the "Safe Moms, Safe

Babies" drive to provide free diapers, baby wipes, shampoos, talc-free powders, baby washes, and lotions to needy families.

Carlene Jackson, NUHECDC Board President, said the help is badly needed, citing the more than 400,000 Oregonians who have lost their jobs because of the coronavirus outbreak.

"This is a bit beyond NUHECDC's usual mission of fighting poverty by providing affordable housing, free skill training, and job placement, but we are all feeling the pain and impact of the coronavirus and wildfires, Jackson said. "It is important for us to step up to the plate and be part

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Dynamic Justice Activist Joins PSU Walidah Imarisha to lead Center for Black Studies

Walidah Imarisha, Portland author, teacher and criminal justice activist, has recently been hired full-time by Portland State University's Black Studies Department as an assistant professor and the new director of the Center for Black Studies.

Ethan Johnson, who chairs the Black Studies Department, said the activist and writer is a welcome addition to his department.

"She is a super dynamic person and I am so pleased to have her in Black Studies," Johnson said.

Imarisha has also taught creative writing in the masters of fine arts program at Pacific



Walidah Imarisha

Northwest College of the Arts, at Stanford University, Portland State University and Oregon State University. She also created the Oregon Black History Timeline, available on YouTube, exploring key moments in Oregon black history.

She also continually connects with people who are incarcerated in Oregon, connecting with Black leaders within the prison system. Her years of volunteer activism in the state's prisons led her to write "Angels with Dirty Faces: Three Stories of Crime, Prison and Redemption," which won the Oregon Book Award in 2017.

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