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Nonprofit helps homeless, youth

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nieweather told the Portland Observer he'd like to develop a "houseless workforce program" to help homeless people have a base of operations to look for jobs.

"We want to be able to employ them, and put some dignity back in their lives, for those who desire it," he said.

Currently, volunteers from Minnieweather's Straightway Services meet every Friday morning at homeless camps at Delta Park and along Interstate 5, bringing food and supplies to people in need. Much of the blankets, tents, rain gear and other items distributed to support them are received through Multnomah County, he said.

"We also have boots and clothes and hygiene and medical kits, a big array of stuff," he said.

Minnieweather said his group distributes about 150 bags of supplies each week.

Covid has also put many people into quarantine, adding new challenges.

"We're working with Care Or-

gon and Multnomah County on Covid relief, and have contracts with those who are quarantined," he said. "We help with grocery shopping and laundry."

Right now his group is helping out 11 people who are quarantined, he said, and more help is needed. Donations to Straightway Services can be sent to P.O. Box 11871, Portland, OR 97211.

Minnieweather's faith guides his efforts, he said, a faith instilled in him by a strong mother.

"My mama said you may be crazy enough to lose everything, but if you lose Jesus, you've lost your mind," he said, "and you must seek what you are looking for."

That's why he was motivated to hold the event in Pioneer Square, he said.

"I want to get in front of people and say I'm not here to raise issues, but this should be a beautiful place to raise your children, but I'm scared to see my kids go out the door. Kids are getting killed on the streets every day. This is a bad place to be, but it shouldn't be, so let's reclaim it."

Smith Announces Run for Congress

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page.

Smith pointed to her life experience of fighting for the marginalized and said she will take that same drive to Washington.

"Let's make history together," she said.

Smith worked for Sen. Ron Wyden out of his Portland office for more than 20 years before being elected to the Multnomah County Commission. She moved to Oregon where her family had roots to attend Oregon State University after graduating from high school in Michigan where she was raised.

She earned high marks for advocating for the elderly and for youth as a commissioner where

she increased funding for local programs, but then her political career came up short in running for the Portland City Council in 2018 against JoAnn Hardesty, another member of Portland's African American community. Last year, she narrowly lost to Dan Ryan in a special election to fill the term of the late Nick Fish.

Oregon will pick up a sixth seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in the next Congress because of an increase in population based on the 2020 Census. While the boundaries for the new office have yet to be determined, there is no residency requirement under the Constitution for the office holder other than they live in the state they represent.

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