

Rosewood

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heart for this," Salazar said. "We come from the streets and we want to make a difference. We address human trafficking, gangs and we mentor our youth."

Antoine Thomas, creative director for the Rosewood Initiative, says the café offers a safe place for young people to find support and fun activities. Often parents are working hard to provide for the family's basic needs and they are not at home, leaving children and teens without an adult for long periods.

"Kids need reassurance and they need to know people are concerned about their wellbeing and that they want them to thrive," he said.

"I see so many kids who go to school but after school they are on their own and have nothing to do and nowhere to go. I'm talking about 18 and up too. That is where the focus

should be."

Alaniz wants to focus on empowering women and girls, often left out of outreach efforts because young men are seen at most risk of committing crimes and hurting one another.

"All those outreach workers are men," she says. "And women who have been battered and abused and prostituted, they resent men. It's a circle of sickness."

"I come from that lifestyle and when it's a woman who reaches out, then you can say, 'I've walked in your shoes, but you can be where I am now.'"

Katherine Anderson, a crime prevention specialist at the city who volunteers with the police crisis team, says she too believes that women and girls need more attention. "The women's needs don't get addressed," she said. "When you

think of a gang member you think of a man, but right behind that man there is a woman. I've seen so many women, who are behind the scenes and they are taking care of children, and you can see where it is going for those children."

Don't miss Are You Ready? Focus East and event to bring support and services information to East Portland. Sponsored by The Skanner News and Highland Christian Center, the event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday Oct. 15 at Highland Christian Center, 7600 N.E. Glisan St. For more information call 503-285-5555 ext. 501

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A family wage, and the benefits that go with it, not only strengthens families, but also allows our communities to become stronger, more cohesive, and more responsive to their citizens' needs.

Our family wage agenda reflects our commitment to people working in the building trades, and to workers everywhere. In this small way, we are doing our part to help people achieve the American Dream. This dream that workers can hold dear regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, creed, or religious beliefs.

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10-12-11



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YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL LEADER

Cascade AIDS Project (CAP), is seeking a Youth Advisory Council Leader to run four health-advocacy youth groups within four Portland high schools. This is an AmeriCorps HOPE position. Please visit <http://cascaidaids.org/about/employment> for complete posting.

10-12-11

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Please submit a resume with cover letter and references to: steve.bernet@co.benton.or.us or Benton County Human Resources, 408 SW Monroe Ave., Suite 103, Corvallis, OR 97333. Please see www.co.benton.or.us for full position description and compensation information.

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