

Connected

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outs — an upswing by any measure.

“Women, for this particular call, are significant because we will be attempting to approach many of the young ladies in our community who are also impacting the males’ behavior,” said Connected founder John Canda.

He says the group is ready to schedule a meeting on the women’s program, even as the group is seeking more volunteers.

“Initially I made the call to 100 men, which we’re working on and I’m glad to say we’re growing toward our goal numbers,” he says.

But shortly after the initial call for participation Canda says he started receiving messages from women who felt left out of the effort.

“And I absolutely had to apologize and say, everybody is invited always, but specifically I wanted men to come forward because they have the problems, or, more difficulty, with showing up.

“If they want to be involved in the first project they can, but I wanted to specifical-

ly make a call for women and make the same appeal but different — to work specifically with the young ladies,” Canda said.

Canda stresses that all volunteers are welcome to participate in Connected in any way they wish, but that the group started recruiting male volunteers first for a reason.

“Fathers have just not been present — for many different reasons — that is not intended to disrespect anyone. I know that every situation is different,” he said.

“However increasingly, internationally, we’ve heard about fathers being absent, or not taking a particular interest in their children and abandoning families.

“Most of the young people that I have worked with in the past 25 years — sadly that fact has been in the forefront, that they’ve grown up without fathers,” Canda says. “Which, in my mind, and others believe, is a cause for a lot of the delinquency that we see.”

Canda said that typically women are already present in the lives of the young

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Connected volunteers at the Lloyd Center.

people.

“The relationships that I’ve seen most young people have, particularly young men, have been with women in their family, and so they tend not to have the same problem relating to and with, women,” Canda said. “Fathers, or men on the other hand, I think have been the cause of many things happening — and not happening — in the lives of children.”

Canda says Connected will continue to walk through Holladay Park Friday nights from 6 to 8 p.m., but he hopes the new female volunteers can fan out through the city to build even stronger relationships

with young women.

“We have some different things in mind,” Canda told the Skanner News this week.

Canda says about 75 women have stepped up so far.

“So that translates into lives of the young people, and I see it in their eyes,” he says.

Find out more on Connected’s Facebook fan page, in person at Holladay Park on Friday evenings at 6 p.m., or by emailing Canda at johncanda@comcast.net.

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Latay

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of Oregon. The family is very knowledgeable on the blood disorder, but because symptoms often start as fatigue, infections, and episodes of pain, it used to be difficult to determine the cause.

“Now that Latay is older, she knows how to handle it,” Tiffany said. “She knows what to look for, and so do her school teachers and friends.”

With a rare blood type, donating means a lot to Leonard. He said rare blood donations provide a great benefit because it’s hard for hospitals to find matches for patients with rare blood types. Leonard said, “If you don’t give, the chance of matching blood is much more difficult.”

Diane Lamberth is Latay’s grandmother, and said she feels fortunate. “Latay has never had to wait for her blood type during an emergency,” Diane said. Because of that, the family is grateful for blood donors. “Somebody stepped up to donate,” Leonard said.

“We are big advocates of the Red Cross and donating blood and anything we can do to help — we’re there,” Tiffany said. Latay’s family has done just that; volunteering for numerous blood drives and outreach events.

Last summer, Latay and her family held the Red Cross parade banner for Northeast Portland’s “Good in the Neighborhood” event. Even more recently, the Allen Temple CME Church held a dedicated blood drive in Latay’s honor. “Faith-based drives like these help get the word out to the community, friends, and family,” Tiffany said.

“People should give blood — you might

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blood, Bone Marrow, and Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor Registry Drive is Saturday, Jan. 21 from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Red Cross Portland Donor Center, 3131 N. Vancouver Ave.

not be able to give a thousand dollars, or ten thousand dollars, or a fifty-thousand dollar benefit, but everybody can try to give blood,” Leonard said. “The thing about blood is, it’s not black or white, it’s not Asian or Hispanic, it’s about all people helping each other.”

Latay is not alone in her rare blood type. Donated blood is needed to help save the lives of organ transplant patients, cancer patients, accident victims, premature babies, and others. Although ethnicity does not necessarily determine blood compatibility, blood transfusions from blood donors of the same ethnic background help recipients avoid complications. African Americans sometimes have subtle differences in red

blood cell proteins, increasing the likelihood that a suitable blood donor for a recipient will be someone with a similar ethnic background.

Every day, thousands of patients with leukemia and other life-threatening diseases search for a marrow donor who can make

their transplant possible. 70 percent will not find a match in their family and will turn to Be the Match Registry, the largest and most diverse registry of volunteer marrow donors in the world. Each year, 10,000 patients need a marrow transplant from an unrelated donor, but only half receive one. Be The Match Foundation needs your help to make sure every patient counts! Visit their website at www.marow.org, or call 1-800-MARROW2 (1-800-627-7692).

More than 112,560 people are currently awaiting an organ transplant, 55.04 percent of whom are minorities. One donor can help save more than 50 lives; yet 18 people in the United States will die today awaiting an organ transplant. Donate Life Northwest urges people to help save lives by joining the Donate Life Northwest Organ, Eye and Tissue Registry. For more information about the registry, visit www.donatelifenw.org, or call 1-800-452-1369.

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DHS

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called, “Even the Best Foster Homes Can’t Replace Family Support.”

The initiative comes after the DHS moved to restructure its top leadership in 2009, bringing in former state Sen. Margaret Carter as a deputy director and Tina Edlund as deputy director of the Oregon Health Authority for planning and policy implementation.

Carter, in particular, was brought on to shake up the system.

“She will also help lead the important work we are doing to protect and enhance the safety and security of children, seniors and people with disabilities, and to directly address and correct the over-representation of Native American and African American

children in our foster care system,” Oregon DHS Director Bruce Goldberg wrote in a staff memo about the changes at the time.

The 2009 Casey Family Foundation’s annual Status of Children report marked Oregon as the state that removed more children from their homes than any other.

The report that year found 27,485 investigations into alleged mistreatment or neg-

Raise Me Up’s new Facebook page includes links to media coverage, volunteer events and training opportunities around Oregon, all focusing on reducing the number of kids in foster care

lect, but only 10,421 were verified by state investigators to be abuse or neglect; 40 per-

cent of these children taken into the foster system were adopted out of their homes.

Oregon statistics for years have shown that African American and Native American youth are disproportionately removed from their homes and placed into foster care, even though studies have shown their parents are no more abusive than white parents.

According to the DHS, Oregon’s rate of out-of-home placement for children is about 10 percent per 1000 children, compared to the national rate, which is 6 percent.

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