

Heart

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"She went and said a prayer, and the answer came back quick," Olive-Beltran said.

Olive, who was African American, became Oregon's first heart donor at a time when organ transplants were still rare. His other organs — including his cornea, lungs and kidneys — were also

about organ donation. She is a board member of Donate Life Northwest, and got involved with the organization in its infancy, appearing at events and working with the media to talk about Bobby's story and answer questions about organ donation. Olive is still in contact with Merrell's

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transplanted, though his family has not gotten to know the recipients.

But they did become close to Wesley Merrill, a 44-year-old White man from Battle Ground, Wash., and his family. Both families, it turned out, were Seventh-Day Adventists, and Arsdale would sometimes have them over for vegetarian soul food.

Olive's family also immediately took the opportunity to educate the public about organ transplants.

"At the time of the transplant, [my mother] worked at Boise-Eliot School. She would bring Wesley to school and she would say Wesley was her son," Olive said. Children would try to puzzle out how a Black woman could have a White son, and then Arsdale and Merrill would tell the story of how they got to know each other.

Merrill passed away in 1990, and Arsdale died in 2012, but Olive-Beltran continues to work to tell the families' stories and to educate the public

mother, who currently lives in Arkansas, but wants to move back to the Northwest.

Bobby's birthday was Feb. 12, and Belinda said his family tries to do something every year to honor him and to raise awareness about the importance of becoming an organ donor.

This Saturday there will be an event from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Aspire, at 2601 SE 160th, to honor Bobby's life, raise awareness about organ donation and raise funds for Donate Life Northwest.

In addition to encouraging people to list themselves as organ donors, Olive said she wants organ donors to let their families know so they are prepared to make the decision their loved ones would want if and when the time comes. The family is also working to start a Bobby Olive Family Foundation to spread awareness about organ donation.

"It doesn't seem like 30 years. Time goes so fast," Olive-Beltran said.

Food

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million acres of land in 1900. By 1980, there were less than seven million acres farmed by Black hands. He said there was a historic flight from the South and

States Commission on Civil Rights, "The Decline of Black Farming in America," predicted there would be no Black farmers by the year 2000. In the

“Black Americans did not want to farm — not because of farming, but because of Jim Crow law. They were being lynched

farming, which was too closely associated with slavery and sharecropping.

Threats and violence prevented small independent Black farmers from keeping their land. A Black woman in the audience told Hill that her family left land they had owned because of a racist lynching.

"Black Americans did not want to farm — not because of farming, but because of Jim Crow law. They were being lynched. My own father left Alabama, [where] we had land, to get away from lynching. His cousin was lynched on our property," she said.

In 1982, a report from the United

years between 1982 and 1987, more than one-third of the nation's Black farmers went out of business.

Black farmers were also denied the support and equipment that White farmers received. The Pigford v. Glickman class action lawsuit alleged racial discrimination against African American farmers by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Disenfranchised Black farmers were denied farm loans and assistance from the USDA or given smaller amounts and heavier restrictions than White farmers of a similar background.

Settled in 1999, almost \$1 billion has



PHOTO COURTESY OF RANDALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Children's Hospitals Photo Exhibit

This photograph, commissioned by Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel was selected for the 2015 Children's Hospitals Photo Exhibit, a national competition administered by the Children's Hospital Association. The photo, titled "Leave the Past Behind," shows 18-year-old Marta Nunez using art therapy. Marta suffered a spinal cord injury resulting from a car crash and persevered through months of rehabilitation at Randall Children's Hospital. The Children's Hospitals Photo Exhibit will be on display to the general public at Randall Children's Hospital Feb. 5 through 29 in the lobby of the hospital. Learn more about the exhibit online: <https://www.childrenshospitals.org/Newsroom/Photo-Exhibit>

Housing

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will be used in the next five years, members gave an official presentation of the document at city hall this past Wednesday.

Committee chair Bishop Steven Holt called the council's adoption of the plan "a significant moment" in the history of Portland.

The plan works across four areas of concern in the Interstate Urban Renewal Area: preventing displacement, creating new homeowners, creating rental homes and land acquisition.

Some of these dollars have already been put to work in the form of home repairs throughout North and Northeast Portland, with the bulk of the grants being awarded to African American-owned households.

The biggest portion of the monies, \$4.5 million, has been set aside for redeveloping land owned by Portland Housing Bureau between Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard and Cook Street and Ivy for "family-friendly" affordable housing.

The number of homes created, and households assisted, is expected to total around 450.

To ensure that families most directly affected by gentrification get first dibs on these new developments, the committee has in-

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cluded a "preference policy" that would track award dollars based on the amount of urban renewal activity that occurred where they lived.

"For example, if you are a family member, grandparent or parent or yourself, who appears on the list of homes that were taken by eminent domain or condemned by the city in order to do urban renewal actions in the past, that would be in a priority ranking," committee member and PSU Pro-

not address race outright.

Fritz called the preference policy "groundbreaking," but expressed concern over how families will be chosen.

She noted the high number of people who have been displaced in the urban renewal area, which stretches from around the Lloyd Center area to the St. John's neighborhood.

Read the full story at
TheSkanner.com



During the work session, it was asked how Black farmers would improve food scarcity and access. Panelist Ja-maal Green, who is finishing his Ph.D. in Urban Studies at Portland State University, said Black farmers would have insights into the needs of Black food consumers. He said the ability to have SNAP benefits accepted at farmer's markets came out of food justice work.

been paid to 13,300 African American farmers and is the largest civil rights settlement to date. In 2010, Congress appropriated an additional \$1.2 billion to settle another 70,000 claims of racial discrimination.

Hill sees a shift back towards Black farming. While African Americans are only two percent of all farmers, their numbers are steadily growing as the total number of farmers in the U.S. is decreasing.

Black farmers have stronger collective organization now. There is a Black Farmer and Agriculturalists Association and a National Black Farmers Association. There are meetings such as the Black Farmers and Urban Gardeners Conference and the National Black Farmers Association Conference.