

PCRI Newsletter



SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY....thinking beyond today!

Fall is a wonderful time of the year when the leaves are changing to different colors and falling to the ground. I can remember as a child, walking home from school, kicking the yellow, green, brown and orange leaves with my feet. These days I no longer take time out for the simple pleasures that playing in the leaves can bring. For me, as it probably is for you, many of the real concerns facing us today stifle the "care free" days of yesterday. With the high cost of food, gas, and clothing, it is often a challenge to make ends meet. However, with every challenge there is also an opportunity! I encourage you to take time out and explore the opportunities that come your way each and every day. In this issue of the PCRI newsletter, we have outlined many programs and services available to help you make it through the fall and winter months. We have included information on such programs as energy assistance, holiday programs for children, opportunities for homeownership, and much more. Take a few minutes to investigate what is available right here in this community....you will be surprised! SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY! Make plans for the New Year! Get involved in the community! Volunteer at the neighborhood school or help the non-profit of your choice! Take a computer or personal finance class! All of this is available right at your fingertips. As Mother Teresa once said "Life is an opportunity, benefit from it." PCRI hopes you have a happy and prosperous holiday season!!!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Director's Corner</i>	2
<i>Property Management & Maintenance News</i>	3
<i>Resident Services</i>	4
<i>Homeownership & News You Can Use</i>	5
<i>Community Resources</i>	6 & 7

**Congratulations
to PCRI
AOCDO
Community
Development
Organization
Of the
YEAR**

THANKSGIVING MEALS AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY

If you, your family or someone you know is in need of a place to have a sit-down thanksgiving dinner, several organizations will be open to serve you. Listed below are a few:

- * Blanchet House of Hospitality—serving dinner November 23rd from 12-2pm at 340 NW Glisan. Open to all.
- * St. Francis Dining Hall—serving dinner on November 22nd at 3:30pm. 330 SE 11th. Open to all.
- * Trinity Episcopal Church—serving dinner November 22nd, noon, 147 NW 19th Avenue. Open to all.
- * William Temple House North—serving dinner, 1-4pm November 22nd, 7600 N. Hereford. Open to all.



PCRI Staff Celebrate Thanksgiving

PCRI does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, national origin, familial status, disability, or legal source of income. We comply with all federal, state, and local laws concerning discrimination.

PCRI does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities. For compliance officer Contact PCRI (503)288-2923, Fax(503)288-2891, TDD#711

The Director's Corner

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish each and every PCRI Resident a very Happy and Prosperous Holiday Season! It has been a pleasure serving as Executive Director at PCRI for the past 14 years. As I take a few moments to reflect upon what has transpired during the past 11 months, I am extremely encouraged! PCRI has been able to seize many opportunities that have come our way. We have made major strides in advocacy for affordable housing as well as been the recipient of several awards. Just last month PCRI was selected as the Association of Oregon Community Development Organizations (AOCDO) 2007 Community Development Organization (CDO) of the Year. This is such an honor for which we are quite proud.



On another front we received financial support that makes our work in the affordable housing arena possible. Funds were received from the



Homebuilders Foundation (\$5,000) and from Oregon Association of Realtors Home Foundation (\$5,000). Both of these grants were made available to support our Homeownership Program, a program we offer to residents that prepares them to purchase their first home. Additional funding in support of the homeownership program came by way of the Bureau of Housing and Community Development. The Minority Homebuyer Assistance Collaborative (MHAC) of whom PCRI is a partner, received funding to provide direct financial assistance to individuals and families who have prepared for homeownership but lack funds for down payment and closing costs. The MHAC has been able to assist five families to date through this program. Another community partner, Greg Washington of Hasson Company Realtors is pictured to the left presenting a check for \$6,750 to PCRI's previous Board President, Phil Damiano.

As a non-profit organization we are always looking for opportunities to partner within the community. We rely heavily upon funding that comes from private foundations including the city, state, federal government, and local banks that help in our efforts to develop new units of affordable housing as well as maintain the current portfolio. The work on this front is never ending. Just this month we are finishing up the work we began at the Urban League. If you have not had the opportunity to drive by the Urban League Plaza and view the facelift to the building, both inside and outside, take the opportunity to do so. We are proud of that accomplishment too!

As we come to the close of another year, I encourage each and every one of you to take time to reflect on your accomplishments during the past 11 months and start now making plans to move your family closer to the goals and aspirations that have so long been stored in your mind and in your heart. **SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES** that come your way in the New Year. Develop plans now to make your dreams come true!!

"From what we get we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life." Arthur Ashe

Property Management

Home Maintenance Reminders

The rainy season is upon us and with this rain comes several problems that may surface.



Several helpful hints are listed below:

Leaky basements—make sure your downspouts are all running away from your home and the gutters are cleared of all debris. These two items are the number one reason that basements begin to leak during the winter months. If you are unable to check these items, contact our office and place a work order. Also, basements are not to be used for living quarters. We cannot guarantee your basement will not leak. We recommend you place all items stored in the basement on pallets to protect them from any damage that may occur as a result of a leaky basement. As always, be sure to call in a work order for any basement leaks.

Mold—if you experience a mold problem, contact our office immediately. During the winter months we close up our houses tight. Periodically opening windows and doors for circulation can prevent the buildup of mold.

Roof and plumbing leaks— need to be reported immediately.

Winter Items—Contact our office during regular business hours to place a work order to have furnace filters replaced and gutters cleaned.

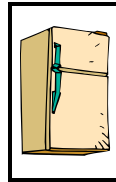
Maintenance Emergencies!!

When you have a maintenance emergency after hours, call (503) 599-3935. Leave your name, nature of the emergency, and a number where you can be reached. The maintenance technician on call will respond. To ensure that all emergencies receive a timely response, we ask that non-emergency requests be called into the PCRl office at (503) 288-2923 during regular business hours.

Inspector's Corner

With the holidays approaching, it is important to notify the maintenance department regarding any appliance issues. People seem to wait until the last minute to call work orders in and this leads to the possibility of parts not being available to complete the repairs for you in time for that Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner.

Refrigerators: If you see water collecting under your crisper drawers or on the floor in front, this indicates a problem with the defrost drain system. If this is not taken care of quickly, it can lead to serious problems including the warming of the interior of the refrigerator.



Ranges: Any elements that are working, but stay red when turned to the "medium" setting, is an indication the infinite control switch needs to be replaced. Also, the use of foil to cover drip pans or the bottom of your oven should never be used. Foil is a thin, metal product that conducts electricity and easily flakes off. The foil can make contact with element electrical components and create a short which can pose a dangerous safety issue for the person using the range.



Smoke Alarms: In the majority of homes I inspect, I find one or more smoke alarms that have been disconnected or batteries removed. This puts you and your family at risk. If you need help concerning your alarms, please call and ask for assistance. You should test ALL smoke alarms once a month. 13 years ago, my family and I were the victims of a house fire and the smoke alarms saved us all. **BE SAFE!**



I hope you have a great holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Delane Guild, Property Inspector

Resident Services

Children's Holiday Card Contest



It is that time of year again!! Seasons greetings to all residents, supporters and friends. We hope this holiday season will be the best ever. In past years we have held a Holiday Card Contest for children in PCRI housing. We want to do it again this year. We need your children's creative holiday card designs for the holiday card cover. In order for your children to take part in the contest, the following applies:

- The artist must be a PCRI resident and between the ages of—3-5 years, 6-9 years, or 10-12 years.

•The design cannot be holiday specific, as we have a lot of holidays to celebrate! Beyond the privilege of having their art proudly displayed on our holiday cards, the winners will be awarded with \$50.00. We want to honor the creativity of PCRI children, so please encourage your kids to participate. There will be a winner for each of the above age groups, and each winner will have their own card displayed (so we will have three different holiday card winners!) Entries need to be received at the PCRI office no later than 5:00 p.m., December 3rd. The winners will be selected and the announcements made on December 10th. Come by our office at 6329 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to pick up an entry form for your child. **SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!!!**

Resident Services Survey

We need your help. PCRI would like to hold several focus group meetings, 1-2 hours in length, to determine what are the most important needs for you and your family in 2008. The information from these focus group meetings will be used in order to plan programs and provide services to the families living in PCRI housing. If you are interested in taking part in one of these focus group surveys, please contact Deborah at 503-288-2923. Individuals who participate will receive a special incentive for their time. **SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!!!**

Project Clean Slate

Are you aware that a program exists that has helped thousands of people regain driver's license privileges, expunge minor criminal convictions and get back on track to gain or upgrade employment, housing and other opportunities. On Aug. 15, Governor Ted Kulongoski signed into law House Bill 3054 which provides \$275,000, the first official funding for Project Clean Slate. Project Clean Slate re-opened enrollment September 1, 2007. If you have minor criminal convictions and court traffic fines and feel this program can benefit you, why not **SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY** to visit their website at www.projectcleanslate.com. A do-it-yourself packet is also available online.



Signing of Bill 3054

Healing Roots

Offers the following services with cultural sensitivity that are free of charge.

- * Advocacy
- * Domestic violence support groups
- * Parenting resources and education
- * Writing & Journaling workshops
- * Information/referrals to other services, such as financial literacy, medical help, bus tickets, food, etc.
- * Community celebrations that celebrate black women while honoring African and African American survivors of domestic violence and their children. Contact them at 503.595.9591 or email ollieb@bradleyangle.org.
- * Mental health support groups
- * Individual counseling
- * Youth programs
- * Resource Room (Internet, phone)

SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!!!

Homeownership

News You Can Use

Upcoming Events

PCRI will hold a follow-up homeownership meeting on Thursday, January 24th to reveal schematics and provide information related to the homes we are building and will be available to sale to residents at an affordable price. Please contact Deborah at (503) 288-2923 for additional information or to register for the workshop. Childcare will be provided if requested.



Assistance with home purchase

Are you prepared to purchase a home within the next 6 months and have sufficient income to pay a mortgage payment? If so, we may have funding that can help make your dream come true. There is a limited amount of money to help with down payment and closing cost assistance. Contact Deborah at (503) 288-2923 for further information.

Helpful Hints for Preparing to Buy a Home

Some things to consider in preparing for homeownership include: saving for a down payment, finding a home that you can afford, determining your monthly mortgage payments, and shopping for the loan product that is right for you. PCRI's Homeownership Program can help you with all of the above. We provide:

- Intake and Assessment
- One-on-one Homebuyer Counseling
- Basic Homebuyer Education
- Financial Fitness Classes
- Homebuyer Club
- Referral to community partner for 3:1 matched savings program
- Assistance with down-payment and closing costs (as funds are available)

SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!!!

Help with Water and Sewer Bills

If you are responsible for paying your water and sewer utility bills to the City of Portland, you may be eligible for financial assistance! Household income determines eligibility. To view the qualifications, go online to <http://www.portlandonline.com/water> and select the customer services tab or view the eligibility requirements below. The discount is \$73.71 per quarter for water and sewer rate payers. If you are eligible, please call the Customer Service Center at 503-823-7770 for more information. Once in the program, customers may qualify for leak and fixture repairs as well as crisis vouchers.

Income Eligibility Requirements*

Family Size	Monthly Income
1 person	Under \$1,611
2 people	Under \$2,117
3 people	Under \$2,602
4 people	Under \$3,098
5 people	Under \$3,593
6 people	Under \$4,089
7 people	Under \$4,182
8 people	Under \$4,275

For each additional person, add \$91.87 to monthly income.

** Income guidelines will change as of October, 2008.*

SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!!!

AFRICAN AMERICAN SKI CLUB

Portland's African American Ski Club has funding available to teach African American children and their parents how to ski. If you are interested, contact PCRI at (503) 288-2923. Hurry, there are only a few slots left.



Community Resources

Gift and Toy Programs:

Salvation Army-Moore Street: Adopt-a-Family Program intakes will be held on four Thursdays: Nov. 8th, Nov. 15th, Nov. 29th, or Dec. 6th. 9am-12pm First come, first served.

For families residing in the following zip codes: 97203, 97209-13, 97217, 97218, 97220, 97227, 97231 **Free

and reduced-fee school lunch qualification used to determine eligibility. Bring ID, proof of address and SS cards for each member of household. **5325 N. Williams Ave., Portland.



Salvation Army-Gresham: Christmas gifts and food box available to children 12 years old and under for residents in these zip codes: 97004, 97009 to 011, 97013, 97015, 97022 to 24, 97027, 97030, 97042, 97045, 97055, 97060, 97080, 97230, 97233, 97236 Signups begin the first part of November. Dates uncertain as they've just moved and are unpacking. People may wish to call first at 503-661-2704 **Must register in person** at their NEW LOCATION: 1313 East Powell, Gresham, Tuesday-Friday from 8:30-11:00am, 1-3pm. Bring proof of income, ID for each member of household requesting help, and proof of address.

Salvation Army-Portland Tabernacle – Christmas Assistance: Food box and a few gifts per child up through age 12 (possibly age 14), available to residents of the following zip codes: 97002, 97020, 97032 to 36, 97068, 97070, 97201, 97202, 97204 to 06, 97214 to 16, 97219, 97221, 97222, 97232, 97239, 97266, 97267 **Sign ups begin in person on Wed., Nov. 2nd through Mon., Dec. 3, Monday-Friday from 9am-11:00am and 1 pm -3 pm** at 1712 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Call 503-239-1224 for more information.

St. Andrews Community Center: Adopt-a-family program signups will begin November 1st. *Sign up in person at 806 NE Alberta Ave., or call 971-244-0339, 9am-1pm Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri.* Must live in parish boundaries: From Interstate-5 east to NE 25th Ave., and NE Killingsworth to NE Shaver on West side of MLK. On East side of MLK, South to North boundary is Ainsworth to Mason.

Community Cycling Center

Hundreds of bikes to be given away in December to low-income children ages 3-9 years. Helmet included. **Must live in Portland or Vancouver area. **MUST BE REFERRED** by a partnering agency such as social service agency, school, or church that can verify that child is from a low-income family. Call PCRI and we will refer your child.

Toy and Joy Makers - Portland Fire & Rescue Toys for children ages infant through 13 years old. **For families living WEST of 82nd Ave. Call request line at 503-231-TOYS (8697) 9AM-3:30PM, Monday through Friday, **STARTING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH** Request must come from legal guardian, and family income must qualify for free school lunch program.**

East County Toy and Joy Makers

Toys for children ages 1-12. For families EAST of 82nd through Gresham to Corbett. Includes residents of Corbett, Fairview, Gresham, Wood Village, Troutdale or Portland EAST OF 82nd ONLY. **Call request line at 503-665-7037, 9am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday., **STARTING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH** Same eligibility requirements as Portland Fire & Rescue Toy AND Joy Makers above.**



Community Resources

Food Box Programs

St. Vincent de Paul

Requests for food boxes will be taken beginning the week of Nov. 12th through Dec. 15. A **special phone** line to handle these requests will be used: **503-595-2292**, Mon.-Fri.; 10 am to 2 pm.

Sunshine Division – Portland Police Bureau: Holiday Food Box **Call 503-823-2102 beginning Tuesday, November 13th** Must have children ages 18 and under living at home, or be on Social Security or SSDI. No income qualification, but cannot be receiving holiday assistance elsewhere. One box per household. **Must reside west of 122nd Ave.** Must be at home to receive food box delivery on Saturday, December 15.

Metro Church of Christ — 150 Christmas Food Boxes will be available. Call 503-667-0234 beginning Dec. 1st. Orders will fill quickly. Zip code areas include 97230, 97233, 97236, 97024, 97030, 97060, 97080. Call for additional information.

Christmas Meals

Salvation Army-Rose Center for Seniors: Christmas Luncheon for Seniors, Thursday and Friday, December 20th & 21st at noon. 211 NE 18th Ave., Portland \$4.00 per person ***Reservations are required*** - Call 503-239-1221.



Blanchet House of Hospitality: Christmas Day, 1-3pm, 340 NW Glisan 503-226-3911. Open to all.



Christmas Meals—Cont'd

City Team Ministries: Christmas meal served on 12/15 at 6pm. 526 SE Grand, Portland. Open to all.

First Baptist Church: Christmas meal served on 12/21 from 2-4pm, 909 SW 11th Ave., Portland. Open to all.



Portland Rescue Mission: Monday, December 24th, at "4 or 5pm" 111 SW Burnside. Open to all. 503-227-0859.

NW Portland Ministries: Holiday meal on Christmas Day, 12-1:30pm, Temple Beth Israel – 1972 NW Flanders, Portland. 503-413-5529 Open to all.

Sisters of the Road Café: Customer Appreciation Day – Free meals all day. Friday, Dec. 21st at 133 NW 8th - 503-222-5694.

St. Francis Dining Hall: Christmas Meal served at 3:30pm on Monday, December 24th - 330 SE 11th, Portland. Open to all.

Family Holiday Breakfast at Salvation Army Rose Center for Seniors. December 22nd. Call 509-239-1224 for exact time and reservations (There are two seatings.) 211 NE 18th Avenue. Families welcome. Sponsored by Portland Tabernacle and Harbor Light.