

PCRI Newsletter



A Shining Star in Our Midst!!!

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Antoinette Myers
Graduating Class of 2008

Every mother hopes, dreams, and prays that their child will excel and become all they can be. In the case of Antoinette Myers, she has truly answered her mothers prayers. Antoinette is the recipient of the coveted Gates Millennium Scholarship, a renewable scholarship that will pay the majority of her college expenses through a doctorate degree! Way to go Antoinette and mom Kathryn!!! When you talk to Antoinette it is quite apparent that she has had a very positive upbringing. She is kind, courteous and very humble; especially for someone who has achieved so much in her short lifetime. Antoinette is a Student Representative on the Portland Public School Board, she spent a summer volunteering for Easter Seals, and has worked at Sabin and Fernwood schools as a mentor. Her hobbies include writing poetry, belly dancing and art (see picture below). In fact,

some of her art was on display on Alberta Street and at City Hall. Antoinette will be attending the prestigious Scripps College in Claremont, California after her graduation from Grant High School on June 3rd. Her favorite subjects are English and Latin. Antoinette contributes much of her success to her mother. "I wouldn't be anywhere without my mom. I give credit to my dad too. But mom is the influence and motivation; definitely the best mom ever!!" In talking to her mother, Kathryn Earl, it was apparent that behind this bright and youthful young lady was a very proud parent. Kathryn still takes her to school each morning, makes her lunch, and makes sure she has everything to be successful. In fact, Antoinette has an 11:00 p.m. curfew. Kathryn gave praise to God for answering her prayers and to the community for their support. She said

"a community raises a child. There have been many sacrifices made to make sure Antoinette would be successful." As the head of her household, Kathryn moved her family to Portland from California, and with a mothers heart, continues to put her children before her personal desires. She encourages other parents to take



advantage of various programs offered by PCRI and the community. We applaud one of our own PCRI families; Antoinette for her success and her mother for raising such a wonderful and inspirational child!

*Congratulations
to
PCRI
on their
15th Year
Anniversary!*

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

PCRI to Celebrate 15 Years of Service

For 15 years, PCRI has had a mission "To preserve, expand and manage affordable housing in the City of Portland and provide access to and advocacy for services to our residents." This mission has been the driving force behind everything we do and has allowed PCRI to emerge as a strong, advocating organization with a list of major accomplishments beyond our greatest expectations. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board, Staff, and more importantly the residents who have made our rental units their homes. From our humble beginnings 15 years ago, we have made tremendous progress. PCRI was originally formed to acquire 355 properties that had been mismanaged by a slum lord who was taken to court by the Attorney General's Office and found guilty of racketeering. Our first task was to legitimize sales agreements for 83 properties making the families living in those homes the legal homeowner. The remaining 272 units of housing required major rehabilitation and renovations. It took years to get these properties repaired to PCRI standards. Those properties are now part of the affordable housing stock we rent. To date, we own more than 730 units of affordable housing to include the Albina Community Development Corporation Portfolio and the Urban League Plaza. For many PCRI residents who have grown up in the North and Northeast inner city communities, we represent the last opportunity to live in an affordable, single family home.



15 years of accomplishments takes time, commitment, community support, and planning. I challenge you, as individuals and families, to take the time, make a commitment, and plan for your future. As times are changing, so must we. Begin now to make plans that will prosper and benefit your family. Whether those plans include taking advantage of homeownership opportunities that have surfaced, getting out of debt, furthering your education, or volunteering in the community, make the decision to do it now. Developing a plan is the first step. Why not take that first step today!

UPDATE



Michael Parkhurst, new Board Chair at PCRI since January 2008. We appreciate his strong leadership and commitment.

Welcome!

15 Years of Providing Services to this Community,

Maxine Fitzpatrick

p.s. Don't forget to register to vote and VOTE!

When planning for a year, plant corn. When planning for a decade, plant trees. When planning for life, train and educate people. Chinese Proverb.

PCRI News

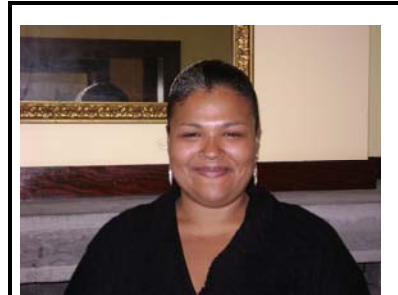
Please join us in welcoming Yvette to PCRI!

When you come to our office located at 6329 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. the first face you see will be that of Yvette Dreher. Yvette is our new Administrative Assistant who now fills the position Angela Benjamin vacated when she was promoted. Yvette has more than 15 years of experience providing support and customer service and has a passion for helping people. "I enjoy working for an Organization that allows me to be compassionate, resourceful, and a mentor for those in need" says Yvette. Welcome to PCRI!



Yvette Dreher
Administrative Assistant

Angela has been promoted!



Angela Benjamin
Property Manager

In October of last year Angela Benjamin was promoted to the position of Property Manager. She joins Kimberley Mason in the Property Management Department assuming the properties previously managed by Mary Lucero. "In my new position as a property manager, I get to work even closer with the residents that I've come to know when I was the administrative assistant. I am passionate about my new career and will strive to make a better connection with all of you" says Angela. Angela has been with PCRI on a full time basis since July, 2006. She has provided excellent support to the residents as well as the staff. We are confident she will continue to be a "shining star" in her new position.

Charles Funches has joined the staff of PCRI!

Charles Funches is the most recent addition to the staff at PCRI. Charles is an AmeriCorp Volunteer who will be assisting with our Homeownership and Individual Development Account (IDA) Programs. Charles joins us with more than 14 years of experience in banking with extensive knowledge in mortgage lending and financial services. He states "My focus and purpose is to serve my community. I look forward to sharing the knowledge that I have obtained with every PCRI future homeowner and those who are seeking positive guidance and knowledge of the home buying process." Join us in welcoming Charles!



Charles Funches
Homeownership & IDA
Programs

Looking for 50 residents....

During the months of June and July, PCRI will hold Focus Group Meetings for the purpose of identifying the most important needs of residents living in PCRI housing. The Resident Services department wants to make sure we are supporting your needs in the best possible way. Consider participating in these Focus Group Meetings and letting us know your needs, aspirations, and desires. This information will be used to help us develop future programs and services that can benefit you. Each person who participates in our focus group meetings will receive a special **"thank you gift"** for your time. Contact our office at (503) 288-2923 to get additional information.

Homeownership

Upcoming Events



Are you interested in Homeownership? If so, join us! PCRI is holding a Homeownership Kickoff Meeting on Thursday, May 22nd at O.A.M.E., 4134 N. Vancouver from 6:30 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. You will be able to get information regarding the homes PCRI is building that will be sold to PCRI residents at below-market prices, find out about the matched savings account that turns \$1 of savings into \$4, learn about other programs that exist in the community to help with down payment and closing costs, and find out how to participate in PCRI's Homeownership Program! Reserve a seat today by calling Deborah at (503) 288-2923 to sign up. Be sure to let us know if you will require childcare. Enjoy some good food and hopefully win a door prize as you learn about our programs.



\$\$\$ to Assist with Home Purchase

Are you prepared to purchase a home within the next 6 months and have sufficient income to pay a monthly 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.



IDA Program

PCRI has been approved to offer the IDA (Individual Development Account), a matched savings program that provides \$3 for every \$1 you save. You can use savings in this program to buy your first home, start a business, go to school, repair or modify your existing home, or purchase equipment or technology in support of an employment plan. If you are interested in finding out more about this program, contact our office at (503) 288-2923.

Homebuyer Club

Come join our Homebuyer Club. The Club meets once a month to prepare for homeownership. During the month of January, Phyllis



Gaines from Portland Development Commission (PDC) discussed the Oregon Bond program as well as PDC's new down payment assistance program. In February, Earline Penson with Coldwell Banker was our guest speaker. She provided a virtual tour of homes available in Portland from \$150,000 to \$200,000. She also provided packets of information and discussed different ways a Real Estate Agent can help you locate a home. Each month we have a different topic. Sign up to be a club member by contacting Deborah at (503) 288-2923.

A Special Thank You to...

State Farm Insurance



Amanda Heck from State Farm Insurance (center) presented a check to Maxine Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, (left) and Deborah Turner, Homeownership Coordinator, (right) for \$5,000

in support of our Homeownership Program. Money from this grant will be used to help prepare PCRI residents as they transition from renting to homeownership. Please join us in thanking State Farm insurance for such a generous contribution and for supporting this community!

Community Resources

Youth Programs, Activities & Summer Jobs

YOUTH FAIR....coming

May 27th! PCRI will host a Youth Fair at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (O.A.M.E.)



located at 4134 at N. Vancouver Avenue starting at 6:30 p.m. This fair is for youth from ages 12 to 18. Come find out about Summer Jobs, Summer Programs, and youth activities available in the community.

There will be a **\$10 gift certificate** for the first 50 youth who sign up. Call PCRI at (503) 288-2923 to reserve a spot today!!! The fair is open to youth living in any of PCRI owned housing.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Boys and Girls Club—programs in 5 key areas: health and life skills, character and leadership development, the Arts, sports fitness & recreation, and education & career development. After school as well as lots of summer programs for kids ages 6-18. Snacks and other food provided. Contact them at 503-282-8480.

IRCO—contracted with the City of Portland to provide 70 paid internship jobs for youth ages 16-20. Also have other programs for Immigrants and Refugee families. Special Youth Gang Prevention Program and special employment program for youth who have had problems with the law. Phone number is 503-234-1541.

Salvation Army—"We Feed Kids" Program which includes free hot breakfast and lunches for children ages 1-18; basketball camps for girls and boys ages 5-14;

and "Mending Holes" program for high school credit recovery; this program may also include some college credits. Contact them at (503) 493-3925.

SEI—provides a comprehensive, culturally relevant program for youth ages 8-25. Emphasis on academic support, arts experiences, recreation activities, community service and leadership training. Contact them at 503-249-1721.

Urban League—Summer Academy for middle school students (academic based enrichment program) and summer programs at George Middle School for George Middle School Students. Contact them at 503-280-2600.

Youth Employment Institute —Located at 1704 NE 26th Avenue—offering the "Passport to GED Program" concentrating on the completion of your GED & employment readiness and teen parenting programs. Contact them at 503-280-1058.

Portland Youth Builders—(PYB) is a non-profit organization that provides educational, vocational, and leadership development programs for low-income men and women aged 17-24.

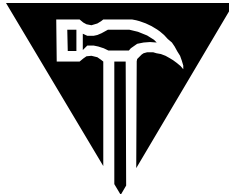
SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are lots of scholarships for minority youth that are not being applied for. If you would like a list of these scholarships, please contact our office at (503) 288-2923 or come by our office at 6329 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Monday thru Friday between 8:30-5:00.

Property Management

Home Maintenance Reminders

PCRI's Maintenance Crew wants to ensure that all residents have a safe and secure place to live with their families. If an emergency comes up that endangers your health and safety, please use the emergency pager process. **Emergencies are:**

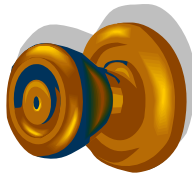


- * No heat, no hot water
- * Severe leaks and flooding
- * Break-ins
- * No electricity
- * Leaky roofs
- * Toilets that are clogged and unusable

In case of emergency, call 503-599-3935. Leave your name, address, 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 PCRI offices at (503) 288-2923 during regular business hours.

WORK ORDERS—please contact our office during regular business hours for non-emergency work orders. We always want to know if your home is in need of repair. Certain types of repairs, if prolonged, become very costly to repair and can impact other areas of the home. Call our office at (503) 288-2923 to place a work order.

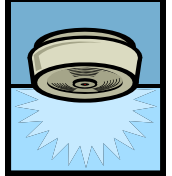
LOCK OUTS—lock outs are non-emergency calls. You will be charged \$75 if a maintenance technician is called to unlock your door. If you lock yourself out of your home during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., you can pick up a key at our office located at 6329 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. There is no charge for this. You must provide valid identification.



Inspector's Corner

With the recent change to Daylight Savings Time; it is also time to

change the batteries in your smoke detectors as recommended by the Portland Fire Bureau. The Housing Authority of Portland now requires that ALL smoke alarms have 10 year lithium batteries installed in every smoke alarm. PCRI does not provide smoke alarm batteries to occupied units. If you have questions about where to purchase these batteries, you can contact your maintenance technician or Marvin Dean, the Maintenance Manager. If you have smoke alarms that need batteries changed that you are unable to reach, please call the office and initiate a work order asking the technician to replace the batteries with ones you have purchased.



The Portland Fire Bureau also recommends that you test your smoke alarms weekly to verify that they are working properly. If you have an alarm that fails the testing, you should contact PCRI as soon as possible so a technician can come to your location and replace the alarm. A smoke alarm that gives off a short "beep" on a regular delayed interval is telling you that the battery is low in power and needs to be replaced. This can also occur in 120 volt models that have a back up battery in case the electricity goes out.

Smoke alarms are installed in your home for your safety and protection. They should never be disconnected. If you are having any problems with the detectors, please call PCRI so someone can investigate the problem.

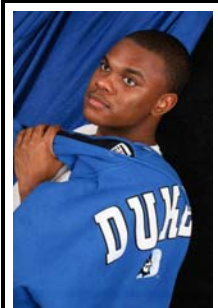


Have a great Spring season!

Delane

Community Resources

De La Salle North Catholic High School.....A League of their Own!!!



Julius Jones, on his way to Duke

What if we told you there is a private high school right in the neighborhood that not only prepares students for college, but had 100% of their 2007 graduating class accepted into college. Well, located at the corner of N. Interstate and Lombard, right on the max line is such a school. De La Salle North Catholic

High School serves a highly diverse student body comprised of about 55% students of color and 45% Caucasian. The school believes in the small schools concept which equates to a total enrollment of less than 300 students. Though De La Salle is a catholic high school, over 50% of students are non-catholic. Part of their curriculum includes internships at top rated business organizations throughout Portland. In fact, Julius Jones, pictured above, has been accepted at prestigious Duke University for the 08-09 school year. Do you know a student who would benefit from an opportunity at De La Salle North Catholic High School? Have them contact the Admissions Director, Lisa Gates at 503-285-9385 x 140.

Youth 18-31 interested in an Aviation Career?

If you have or know kids or Young Adults between the ages of 18-31 with a high school diploma....The Federal Aviation Association is taking applications for air traffic controller school. We all have kids and know



Aviation Career-continued

kids in the right age group (under 31) and with some effort they could reach a salary of over \$100,000 with benefits in about 3 years. You need only a high school diploma to apply and credit is given for college on the exam. They need to go to: [faa.gov http://www.faa.gov/jobs/job_opportunities/airtraffic_controllers/](http://www.faa.gov/jobs/job_opportunities/airtraffic_controllers/).

For details and to fill out the application immediately - even if they don't know if they'd want to attend immediately - it's the federal government and it may take them months to call. The key is to apply NOW. There will be a lot of retirements coming up rather quickly and they need to line up training to accommodate these openings. It's my understanding that the FAA rarely has an open application such as this and that the jobs are coveted. The person who shared this has a 28 year old daughter who is well into 6 figures and has plenty of time for travel/recreation and has started another career on the side.

Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.



If you're interested in exploring a career in the trades, check out Oregon Tradeswomen Inc.'s free classes. Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. is dedicated to promoting success for women in the trades through education, leadership and mentorship. Go to their website at tradeswomen.net or call them at (503) 335-8200 for more information.

They also have a special program

for girls!!!