

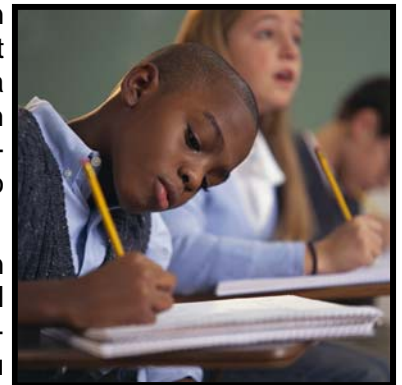
# PCRI Newsletter

## IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL FOR PCRI STUDENTS

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The number one job of your child at this time in his or her life is to be a good student. Whether they are in pre-school, elementary, middle, high school or college, they help themselves and their family when school becomes their priority. Getting a good start at the beginning of the school year can influence a child's attitude, confidence, and performance both academically and socially. Here are a few suggestions to help your children adjust more quickly to the new school year:



**Before School Starts**—Be sure your child is in good physical health. Get their physical and dental checkups and any school related health requirement done this summer. Review all information you get from the school from teachers, after school activities, bus schedules and school supplies. Mark your calendar for important dates, especially back to school nights and deadlines. Re-establish bedtime and mealtime routines (especially breakfast) a week before school starts. Turn off the TV and designate a clear place to do homework—older children in their room and younger children usually need an area set aside in the family room or kitchen so you can monitor, help and encourage them.

**The First Week**—Clear your schedule as much a possible to help your child get use to school and deal with any confusion and anxieties they may experience during the start of the new year. Make lunches the night before. Set alarm clocks. Leave Plenty of extra time for kids to get up, get ready and get to school. Praise children for getting up on time. Pin information on your little kids jackets so the bus driver knows who their parents are and where they are supposed to go. Put a note card in backpacks with after-school locations and supervision for your younger children. Review your children's school books. Send a brief note to your child's teacher letting him/her know you are interested in your child's progress and that you want to partner with them in your child's success and want regular feedback.

Lastly, give your children plenty of hugs...no matter how old they get!!!!!!

**Check out more resources for your children in this newsletter. Now breathe, and thank God that the summer will soon be over and the kids are going back to school!**

### Congratulations

### PCRI

**2007 Oregon Housing  
and  
Community Services  
Department  
Non-Profit  
Housing Preservation  
Award Winner!**

*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*

**Partnership**—The act of joining with another in an activity to accomplish a mutual goal. That is what we do here at PCRI—we partner with others who share our purpose. We do it as employees of the organization, and as individuals hoping to make a difference. Of course, working at PCRI is our job and we get paid for it. But, we work here at PCRI because we feel satisfaction from the difference PCRI makes in this community.



We have partners who share our commitment to affordable housing and who advocate with us. I am particularly excited about two new partnerships that PCRI has made. The first partnership is with Hacienda Community Development Corporation and the African American Alliance for Homeownership to form the Minority Homebuyer Assistance Collaborative. Another new partnership is the Housing Organizations of Color, made up of PCRI, Hacienda CDC, and the Native American Youth Association. Each of our organizations serve many people of color and we will come together to work on solutions to issues facing those communities.

I also consider each of you to be a partner. In the past I have encouraged each of you to participate in a worthy movement to create a dedicated funding source for affordable housing. I asked you to be a part of the solution to a big problem we have in this city and that is the lack of affordable housing. Speak up when the opportunity arises. After all, who can better represent you and look out for you but you? When it comes to having your say, you may not have an eloquent way of speaking but you know about the problem, you can speak and that's all that matters.

Once again, we are working to get a dedicated source of monies so that low and moderate income people can have a place to rent or own that is affordable. Please join us by letting your voice be heard on this and other community issues that are important to you. You have an important role to play in getting before decision makers and/or showing up for meetings. You can describe the hard choices between rent, heat, food, clothes and medicine you have had to make. Maybe you have had other challenges? Then, there are people who are even less fortunate. We must not forget the homeless population. We want to get homeless people off the streets, sleeping inside a home rather than outside on the streets.

Your partnership with us and with the community is important! Do you want to get involved in a movement that can help you and others? In addition to responding to our calls for your support when we need you, the Affordable Housing Now (AHN) movement is one way you can do it. Learn more about AHN at [www.cdnportland.org](http://www.cdnportland.org). Please do whatever you can to help the cause.

*Maxine Fitzpatrick*

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

- Arthur Ashe

# Property Management

## Home Maintenance Reminders



**Yard Work** - It's summer time and residents living in single family homes are responsible for maintaining their lawn as well as the bushes, shrubs, and blackberry vines. If you need help locating a contractor, you can contact Universal Landscaping at 503-890-8186; Boweivel Classic Cuts & Lawncare 503-890-4826 or Rose Landscaping 503-516-0427. Please understand that any arrangement you make with the contractor is at your expense. PCRI is providing contact information only.

**Trash Hauling** - Have you cleaned out your basement & garage but have no way of getting rid of unwanted items? If you are in need of hauling services, you can contact the above contractors, they provide this service as well. Again, you are responsible for this expense.

**Think Winter**—Call in maintenance requests before the Winter months in order to get your gutters cleaned and furnace filters, etc.

## 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 PCRI office at (503) 288-2923 during regular business hours.

## FOR RENT

(\$450/month)

Newly refurbished wheelchair accessible studio Apt.  
Security entrance, smoke-free building.  
Urban League Plaza, 2525 N Williams #5  
Contact PCRI at (503) 288-2923

## Inspector's Corner

This past September PCRI created a new position in the Property Management Department. This position is that of Property Inspector which I now hold. Before that I spent nearly 10 years doing work order repairs for this organization, so most of you will know me from the work I did in the Maintenance Department. In this section of the newsletter, I will discuss items that have come up during inspections of our properties that I feel would be useful information for our residents.



This edition's item is concerning surge protectors used by our residents to protect electronic equipment such as computers, televisions, etc. Surge protectors require a grounded circuit to work properly. If you have a surge protector plugged into a 2-prong wall plug or you have it plugged into a 3-prong plug that is ungrounded, your protector is rendered useless and will not protect your equipment from damage.

If you are not sure whether or not the circuit you are using is grounded, you can ask your work order technician to test the circuit and let you know its status. Or you can call me at the office and make an appointment and I will be glad to come out and do the testing for you.

A reminder: Prior authorization from your Property Manager is required before doing any changes or modifications to PCRI properties. This would include changing paint colors, removing or adding walls, adding or changing electrical circuits, landscaping changes, changing locks, and many other such modifications. Making changes to the property without authorization is considered a violation of your lease agreement. If you have any questions, please contact your Property Manager.

## Resident Services

### Sign up to be a ... **Thriving Family!**

Have you ever wished you could make extra income for your family by getting a better paying job or starting a micro-business? Well, dust off your dreams and become a member of the PCRI *Thriving Families* Program. PCRI is looking for 20 families who want to make their dreams for their families future come true!

As a member of the *Thriving Families* Economic Opportunities focus group, PCRI staff will provide assistance to you as you develop a plan of action, identify needed resources, and do the necessary work to make your family's dreams come true. Employment counseling and business start up assistance will be available to you.

Your family also has a very important part to play in carrying out your plan. The whole family benefits when you succeed! If you have middle and high school students in your family, they can create and implement plans too, based on their own hopes and dreams. Whether it's going to college or into a trade, getting a higher grade in an important subject in school or developing a talent they have, they will learn how to do it too!

An important part of carrying out your family plan is finding the right tools and resources to help you. Some of these resources come with the program but many others will come from your natural support circle of family and friends as well as community-based organizations. All of the *Thriving Families* will come together to encourage each other and to plan and carry out an annual community service project.

The 20 *Thriving Families* will be selected during the month of August. If you want to be one of them, fill out the application insert and mail it to PCRI by August 24, 2007. For questions call Allyson at (503) 288-2923.



PCRI resident Angela Benjamin and children Jaylon, Aminah and Jabril look forward to being a PCRI *Thriving Family*. In addition to working, Angela wants to start a micro-business.

## Legislature Increases Funds for K-12 and Head Start

The Oregon State Legislature approved a combined \$6.245 billion budget for K-12 education and a big increase for Head Start in 2007-09. "K-12 education is my top priority," said Rep. Chip Shields. "This budget is the best K-12 budget in well over a decade." The budget includes \$96 million to fund Oregon's pre-kindergarten Head Start Program. This allows the state to enroll 75 percent of eligible Oregon children and is a solid step in moving Oregon towards fully funding Head Start.

# Homeownership

## HOMEOWNERSHIP KICKOFF A huge success...

On May 24th, PCRI held a homeownership kickoff meeting that was attended by 45 residents interested in preparing to purchase their own home. During the meeting, information was shared about the benefits of becoming a



homeowner and how PCRI can help with the process. PCRI provides the following services to residents free of charge: Intake and Assessment, credit report, counseling on credit repair, referral to partner agencies for matched savings program and certified homebuyer education, and a PCRI Homebuyer Club. Consider joining the Homeownership Program and take advantage of the wonderful services available to you. For further information contact Allyson at (503) 288-2923.

## NEW COLLABORATIVE.....

### Results in Funding

The Minority Homebuyers Assistance Collaborative (MHAC) was awarded funding to provide direct financial assistance to an estimated 16 moderate income families seeking homeownership as well as homebuyer education and counseling. PCRI, Hacienda CDC, and the African American Alliance for Homeownership (AAAH) applied for and received approval by the Bureau of Housing and Community Development to provide second mortgage money at 0% interest rate in an effort to help reduce the homeownership gap that exists between majority and minority populations of homebuyers in Portland. "These small loans will provide a few buyers with the last layer of

financing they need to get into a Portland area home," said PCRI director Maxine Fitzpatrick. MHAC was formed this year to offer more focused services to the individuals and families each organization serves. Applications will be available in September for this loan program. Interested low and moderate income residents who feel this loan would make it possible for them to purchase a home in the next 12 months should contact Allyson at (503) 288-2923 for further details.

## YOU AND YOUR CREDIT... Helpful hints

Most of us have made mistakes with our credit at some point in our lives. Repairing your credit is very important and can be accomplished if you are willing to take the time and energy required to clean it up! People with poor credit pay much more for goods and services over time than those with excellent credit. Mortgage loans, car loans, and credit cards all have interest rates based on your credit score. In fact, insurance rates, housing and employment can be affected by your credit. In order to find out what condition your credit is in, you need a copy of your credit report.

There are three credit reporting agencies that can help you with that. Each of these agencies is required to provide a free copy of your credit report once every 12 months. The three nationwide consumer credit reporting agencies are: Equifax, TransUnion and Experian. On the web, you can go to [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) to order a copy of your free credit report.

If you are interested in learning more about how to repair your credit, please attend the workshop PCRI is holding on Tuesday, August 28th at Park Terrace in the Community Center, 315 N. Alberta, from 6:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. Make the decision today to attend this very important workshop. The only cost to you is the time you invest!!!

# Youth Programming

## Join the PCRI

### Lego Robotics Team

PCRI youth ages 9-16 are invited to join the PCRI Lego Robotics Teams. Youth ages 9-14 for the NXT robotic team and youth ages 14-17 for the VEX robotic team. Club members will have lots of fun while learning how to put the robots together and compete with other robotics clubs throughout the city. Starting in September the teams will meet twice a week, once after school (3:30-5:30) and on Saturday (10-1) at the Maya Angelou Apts, 4106 N. Kerby. To get your children involved call Allyson at PCRI (503) 288-2923.

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## MONEY MANAGEMENT CLASS FOR YOUTH

Parents, if you are interested in having your middle and high school aged children learn how to manage money in an age appropriate way, contact Allyson at (503) 288-2923. If we have enough youth who are interested, we can have a fantastic class!



## Back Pack and School supplies for Middle and High School Students

Salvation Army SAL Block Party will be held Aug. 18th from 10 am-2 pm at Salvation Army -Moore Street Community Center. Health Screening

and sports physicals, too. Food and fun! **Students must be registered in order to receive backpacks with some supplies.** Call Jackie at (503) 493-3925 ext. 34 to register your students.

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**College bound Students** - Planning ahead is key to getting into college! Special classes may be required in order to get into the college of your choice. High school students need to meet with their counselor to create a class schedule that will fulfill those requirements. Make plans to be Involvement in leadership and service opportunities offered by your particular school. These extra activities will enhance your college application.

You should start taking the SAT exam at the end of your sophomore year. If you want to increase your score, the exam can be taken several times prior to your senior year. These scores are very important for admission into college. Students should check with their high school counselor in September to find out when the SAT test will be given during the year, when the SAT preparation courses will be offered, and any scholarships available to help pay for any fees that may be related to SAT preparation classes.

In the next issue we will talk about scholarships and other ways to finance your child's post-high school education or career training.

# News You Can Use

## Jobs and Training Opportunities

Youth builders is accepting applications for the upcoming August pre-program challenge. If you know of someone 17-24 years old, has dropped out of HS, and wants to get paid while they finish HS and receive job training in construction or computer tech, encourage them to apply.

- \* August 13<sup>th</sup> Pre-program challenge. Paperwork was due by 7/27 but call anyway.
- \* Oct. 22 – Pre- program challenge. Paperwork due Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>

Youth Builders Information session held every Thursday 1 pm at 4816 SE 92<sup>nd</sup>. Other information sessions can be scheduled by appt. Call Susan Whitmore (503) 286-9350 x254.

**Union Pacific is Hiring 3000 to 5000 people to fill all types of jobs that will be left vacant by employees retiring this year. They will do all the training for 14 weeks. 35k to 40k per year salary to start (K = THOUSAND) \$\$\$\$\$**

They're looking for people to fill positions all over the United States. If you know anyone who needs work let them know, they can apply online or go to one of the job fairs in their area. Go to the web address listed below to get locations and times....

[www.unionpacificjobs.com](http://www.unionpacificjobs.com)

<http://www.unionpacificjobs.com/>



## PCRI Calendar

### August

- 6-10** Maya Kids Angelou Art Week – (kids ages 7-12) 9-11:30 am. Monday –Friday at Maya Angelou Apartment Community Room.
- 11 PCRI Resident Picnic  
11– 4 pm at Park Terrace Apts.
- 18 Salvation Army SAL Block Party  
10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.  
Salvation Army-Moore Street  
Community Center
- 1-30** *Thriving Families* Recruitment Period –  
Call Allyson at 288-2923
- 28 Homeownership Club Meeting

### September

- 7 First day of School
- 15 Lego Robotics 4-6 pm Maya Angelou  
Community Room
- 17 *Thriving Families* Orientation Meeting