

PRESS CONFERENCE 2nd ALERT**Wednesday, September 22nd, 2010, 2:00 PM****13 Salmon Family Shelter, 1034 SW 13th Avenue**

Date: September 20, 2010
To: Local Media
Re: Winter Services to Expand for Homeless Families
Contact: Brandi Tuck, Portland Homeless Family Solutions Executive Director,
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**NEW APPROACH FOR SERVING
HOMELESS FAMILIES YEAR-ROUND BEGINS
ON PORTLAND'S WEST SIDE**

Portland, OR – September 20, 2010. Please join Multnomah County Commissioner Deborah Kafoury and Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish to celebrate a new year-round approach to providing day and night shelter for homeless families on the West side of Portland.

Thanks to Multnomah County and a coalition of faith-based and non-profit groups called the "Family Shelter-to-Housing Partnership," 25 shelter beds which used to be seasonal are now available, beginning September 15th, for homeless families year-round. Services include day shelter at 13 Salmon Family Shelter, hosted by the First Unitarian Church, and night shelter at Goose Hollow Family Shelter, hosted by the First United Methodist Church. Both sites are operated by Portland Homeless Family Solutions in partnership with Human Solutions which will provide permanent housing placement services. The "Family Shelter-to-Housing Partnership," funded primarily by Multnomah County, will provide 25 people in homeless families with the opportunity for safe and warm shelter that also connects them with individualized services to quickly end their homelessness.

Scheduled to speak:

Commissioner Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah County

Commissioner Nick Fish, City of Portland

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Executive Director Brandi Tuck, Portland Homeless Family Solutions

Reverend Kate Lore, First Unitarian Church, Social Justice Minister

Deputy Director Erika Silver, Human Solutions

There may also be an opportunity to speak with a family staying at the shelter, which opened on Wednesday, September 15th.

Background information: Every year, Multnomah County counts the number of homeless persons, including both persons who are receiving some kind of shelter services and persons turned away due to lack of space. For the past two years, both the number and the percent of people in families has been increasing as compared to homeless adults. Yet, the image many people hold of a homeless person is of a homeless single. In reality, in January 2010, 58% of all homeless people in Multnomah County were individuals in families.

This is why the opening of 25 year-round beds is being celebrated. In the past, these sites were only open for the 6 coldest months of the year, and now they are able to help families year-round. There are so many families who are struggling with homelessness right now, and with the conversion to a year-round program, they have an opportunity to help more families than ever before. The opening of 13 Salmon and Goose Hollow Family Shelters represents an increase in services to those most in need—homeless families.

“Last year, with this partnership, we were able to help 75% of our families find housing,” said Brandi Tuck, Executive Director of Portland Homeless Family Solutions. “This year, because we are able to offer more comprehensive and supportive services for a longer duration of time, we’re confident that we can help even more families find permanent housing and transition into self-sufficiency, “

Volunteers and people wishing to make donations are invited to call 503.915.8307. Families looking for shelter may call 503.595.9390.

Additional statistics and recent national trend data on poverty in the U.S.: On September 16th at 10:00 AM (EST), the U.S. Census Bureau released on their website preliminary data findings in a Current Population Survey (CPS). The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) <http://www.cbpp.org/> has many articles and detailed analyses of this preliminary Census data. In addition, the site has summaries and comparisons by state of poverty, income and health insurance data at <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=255>. For the CPS sample size for states to be big enough, it is necessary for most states to pool two years of state data together. So, the CBPP tables compare 08/09 to 06/07 in order to compare recession years to non-recession years, and will also show a comparison to 99/00, for longer-term trends.

The Coalition for Human Needs has a poverty webpage with lots of background information: www.chn.org/issues/poverty/index.html. And here is the link to instructions for getting at the Census data directly: http://chn.org/pdf/2010/Instructions_for_CPS2009_data.pdf.