



the HomeFront

A newsletter for REACH residents

Volume 16 Issue 2

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CONTRIBUTORS

Peter Blanchard
 Austin Erdman
 René Davison
 Debbie Lowder
 Molly McGlone
 Joan McGuire
 Matt Moor
 Lauren Schmidt
 Hazel Schnider
 Erica Tucker
 Julie Wang
 Joseph Wickstrom

Seeking Work? There is help!

It's no secret that the job market is certainly not what it was three years ago. For many people finding employment was not something that they needed much help with. Well times have changed but the good news is that there are several resources in the community which can assist with job leads as well as classes to better your chances of attaining employment in this competitive market.

REACH is in the process of developing its job search services, focusing on the needs of the long-term unemployed and underemployed. We will feature short workshops designed to rebuild confidence and create momentum for your job search. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.

Central City Concern currently has an Employment Access Center that may be very helpful to individuals who want help developing their computer basics as well as job search skills. Anyone who wants to take advantage of this only needs to contact the EAC to schedule an orientation. Once you have completed the orientation there are several core services available such as a resume lab, Job Search and the Internet Classes, Basic Microsoft Computer Skills, and overcoming obstacles to employment.

The state of Oregon has three separate Worksource centers in the metro area which provide an array of services for those seeking work as well as a place for perspective employers to seek employees through the I-match computer system.

These centers have a bilingual staff which caters to the Spanish and Russian speaking communities as well as programs to assist people experiencing disabilities.



If you have any questions about employment services you are always encouraged to ask your Resident Service Coordinator for information. We know that times are a bit tough and we want to help you stay confident and succeed in your goals.

■ Central City Concern Employment Access Center
 2 N.W. 2nd Ave. Portland, Oregon
 Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday
 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Fridays
 503-226-7387

■ Portland - WorkSource Portland Metro SE
 7916 S.E. Foster Rd., Suite 104
 Portland OR 97206
 503-772-2300

■ Portland - WorkSource Portland Metro Central
 30 N. Webster St. Suite E
 Portland OR 97217
 503-280-6046

■ WorkSource Portland Metro Columbia Express Center - Multnomah County
 4610 N. Trenton St.
 Portland OR 97203
 503-943-5600





Financial Health

It's Your Money — Go Get It!

Tax season is upon us once again. REACH hosts a free Tax Aide Site on Saturdays from February 5th until April 9th. Come to the Ritzdorf Court Apartments, 1225 SE Belmont, on one of those Saturdays and sign up on the waitlist from 8:30-10am. The site is first-come, first-served. Trained volunteers will be on hand to complete your taxes by e-file.



programs available to low-income households:

Earned Income Tax Credit:

If you earned income last year, you may be eligible for a larger refund. Families with two or more children get the largest amount of money back, but single people are also eligible.

Child Tax Credits: Your child care expenses may offset the tax you pay and/or increase your refund. You also get a tax credit for taking care of your children.

Education Credits: Student in 2010? There are several different credits you are eligible for, or you may be able to deduct the tuition and other expenses you paid, resulting in lower taxes.

If this time is not convenient, call Julie Wang to find a site and time that works for you, **503-501-5736**.

Bring:

- your W-2s
- Any 1099s
- Your picture ID and Social Security card
- A copy of last year's return (if you have it)

If you have children, bring their Social Security cards and any info about child care expenses from 2010

There are several special credit

Energy Assistance Resources

Every winter there is great demand for help with utility bills. Before considering applying for energy assistance, please do what you can to conserve energy and keep yourself warm. If you still foresee that you will need help, apply as early in the season as possible. Persistence is required to obtain energy assistance. Listen carefully to all phone messages and follow instructions. If you get a busy signal, continue trying. If you are told there is no more money available, ask when the new funding will be received, and call back at 8:00 AM on that date. Some funding is only available with a shut-off notice. With persistence, most eligible people get assistance after a few weeks. It is more difficult late in the winter season and early spring, as the funding begins to run out. It's best to plan a lean budget in the winter and think of back-up plans because energy assistance is not guaranteed.

Resources in Multnomah County

Fish Emergency Service

503-233-5533

Community Energy Project

503-284-6827

YWCA of Greater Portland

503-721-6760

Impact Northwest

503-988-6020

Neighborhood House

503-246-1663

Human Solutions

503-548-0217 or 503-405-7875

SnowCap Community Charities

503-674-8785

Self Enhancement Inc.

503-240-0828

IRCO – Asian Family Center

503-235-9396

Native American Youth and Family Center

503-972-2463

The Salvation Army

503-239-1264

Individual Development Accounts (IDA)

An IDA could be the right fit for residents who want:

- To buy a home
- To start or expand a small business
- Post-secondary education

Each \$1 saved is matched by \$3, up to \$3000 in a 6-36 month period, for a combined total savings and match of up to \$12,000.

Developing a habit of savings takes practice, discipline, knowledge, a positive attitude and the right tools. REACH makes IDAs available to highly motivated residents who are committed to improving their financial health through rigorous planning and goal attainment. Participants are required to complete training on managing their personal finances and training specific to the goal they will purchase with their IDA account funds.

To find out whether an IDA is right for you, attend the IDA info session on Monday, April 11th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Ritzdorf Court Community Room (1225 SE Belmont Ave.). Reserve your seat by calling Julie at **503-501-5736**.



Get On The Free Ticket List

REACH often gets free tickets to a variety of events and performances around the Portland area. If you would like to have a chance at getting your hands on some of these tickets, you will need to have an email address in order to receive an announcement when tickets are available. Tickets are given on a first come first served basis. It will be up to you to contact REACH as soon as possible as ticket go fast. Once you have received tickets your name will move to the bottom of the list.

To get your name on the Free Ticket List, contact Debbie Lowder at dlowder@reachcdc.org.

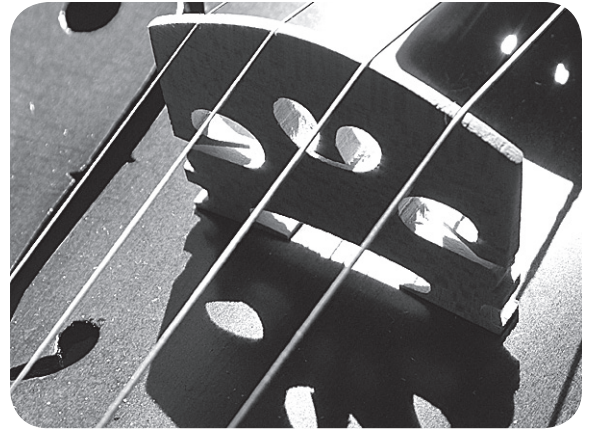
Farmers Markets and SNAP

Did you know you could use your SNAP funds at area farmers markets? You are able to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as any other non-ready to eat item at all six Portland Farmers Markets, as well as some community markets as well. You receive \$1.00 tokens for every dollar you authorize from your Oregon Trail card and use them as you would use cash. This offer is good at select locations.

Many of the markets do not open until May or June, but there is one that is year round- Peoples Co-Op 3029 SE 21st Ave, Wednesdays 2:00pm-7:00pm, and one that opens mid-March-PSU: SW Park Ave & SW Montgomery St, Saturdays 8:30am-2:00pm. For more information on when the other markets will open, visit <http://www.portlandfarmersmarket.org/>.

\$5 Concert Tickets - Music for All

Twelve of Portland's classical music groups are offering \$5.00 concert tickets for select performances, subject to availability, now through July 2011 to anyone who receives food stamps (SNAP) and has the Oregon Trail Card.



Q & A Guide

Q. Who can buy \$5 Tickets?

A. Anyone who receives food stamps (SNAP) and has the Oregon Trail Card.

Q. How many tickets can I buy for \$5 each?

A. Two per Oregon Trail Card, but ask the performing group if you can buy more.

Q. Where do I get \$5 tickets?

A. Contact the group. They will tell you where and when you can buy them. (Some groups will sell \$5 tickets only in advance and some will sell them at the door.)

Q. How do I buy the tickets?

A. You must show your Oregon Trail Card at the time of purchase and pay with cash or credit card. SNAP credit on the Oregon Trail Card cannot be used for purchasing concert tickets.

Q. Which concerts have \$5 tickets?

A. Check with the individual group to find out when their concert is and if \$5 tickets are available.

Oregon Symphony	orsymphony.org	
Portland Opera	503-241-1802	
Oregon Ballet Theater	obt.org	503-2-ballet
Chamber Music Northwest	cmnw.org	503-294-6400
Friends of Chamber Music	focm.org	503-224-9842
Portland Piano International	portlandpiano.org	503-228-1388
Portland Baroque Orchestra	pbo.org	503-222-6000
Portland Youth Philharmonic	portlandyouthphil.org	503-223-5939
Portland Chamber Orchestra	portlandchamberorchestra.org	
Portland Symphonic Choir	Pschoir.org	503-223-1217
Cappella Romana	cappellaromana.org	
Portland Vocal Consort	portlandvocalconsort.org	503-209-7539

Summer Camp Info

Each year REACH partners with local camp providers to bring information and special discounts to kids living in REACH housing. To help you get the information as soon as it is available, we will be providing camp information on our website at www.reachcdc.org/youth as it becomes available to us. This

document will be updated regularly, so please check back often for a newer version.

We will also be holding 2 information and application sessions here at the REACH office: Wednesday, March 30, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm and Thursday April 7, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

It is not necessary to wait for these

sessions in order to apply for summer camp. Many camps fill quickly!

If you have any questions please contact Peter at pblanchard@reachcdc.org or 503.501.5732.

Following is a list of camps that are already enrolling at the time of writing – please look for updated information on our website.

■ Camp Namanu

Cost: Varies by camp, \$135-\$795. Scholarships available!

Ages: 1st-12th Grade

Contact: www.portlandcampfire.org

Description: Apply by April 1st. Registration requires deposit of \$125, but if you are applying for a scholarship, the deposit is refundable if no scholarship is given.

Registration should be completed through the web site, but you can get a paper copy of the scholarship form by contacting Peter.

■ Community Cycling Center:

Cost: \$275/week, limited scholarships bring cost to \$70, based on income & free/reduced lunch eligibility.

Scholarship applications available online March 1st.

Enrolling now, until filled.

Ages: 6—15 years old.

Contact: 1700 NE Alberta, 503-288-8864 or www.communitycyclingcenter.org

Description: Learn how to fix bikes, as well as urban riding. Each morning spent learning about bikes, & the afternoons spent riding around Portland. For more information or to apply, visit www.communitycyclingcenter.org.

■ Friends of Tryon Creek Nature Camp:

Cost: REACH kids pay only \$10 for day-camp and \$20 for Overnight! (Normally up to \$295). Registration open February until filled.

Ages: Pre-K (4 yrs) through 8th grade.

Contact: 503.636.4398 or www.tryonfriends.org

Important: Apply online at <http://www.tryonfriends.org/nature-day-camps/>. When applying, there is a box to check indicating that you are requesting a scholarship. Check this box, and then put "REACH" in the comments box or email sandi@tryonfriends.org and tell her that you are a REACH resident and would like the REACH discount rate. A credit card is required to apply online, but if you follow these steps you will only be charged the REACH rate.

■ Oregon Zoo Day Camps

Cost: \$117 - 352/week. Scholarships available by need (see below).

Ages: 4 - 15

Contact: 503.220.2781 or www.oregonzoo.org

Description: Half-day and full-day camps available. Information is available at www.oregonzoo.org. Tuition assistance forms available by contacting Peter or contacting the zoo at 503.220.2781 and request a tuition-assistance form. Assistance for these camps is given on a case-by-case basis while funding lasts, so apply soon!

■ Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls:

Cost: Limited number of scholarships for \$10/week. (normally \$375)

Ages: 8-17 years old

Contact: 8900 NE Vancouver Way, 503.445.4991 or www.girlsrockcamp.org

Description: This is a day camp for girls around the world, to learn the basics of creating & playing music. Camps fill fast, but REACH has 5 spots reserved. For more information visit www.girlsrockcamp.org. Contact Peter to see if any of the REACH discounts remain and for instructions on how to claim one.

■ Saturday Academy

Cost: \$75 and up, many scholarships available directly through Saturday Academy.

Ages: Grades 2-12

Contact: 503.200.5858 or www.saturdayacademy.org

Description: The sky is the limit to what you can learn at Saturday Academy! Classes range from animation to robotics, from anatomy to metal casting. Other classes are photography, math, college search, & more. Programs are designed to give students real-life, hands-on learning experiences.

Oregon Health Plan is still accepting new reservations

Are you uninsured? You may qualify for the Oregon Health Plan! OHP provides free or low-cost health coverage to a limited number of low-income Oregon adults who do not have health care insurance. Because so many Oregonians need access to health care, OHP is adding people to their program through a lottery system. To get your name on the list for the lottery, you can either fill out a request online at www.oregon.gov/DHS/open or sign up by phone at 1-800-699-9075.

Healthy Kids

Do your children need health care? Check-out the Healthy Kids program, which provides free or affordable health care for children 18 and younger. All children in Oregon are eligible for this program—your family's income will determine whether the coverage will be free or low-cost. Unlike the more limited Oregon Health Plan, there is no lottery system for Healthy Kids—there is room in the program for every child in Oregon who needs health care. Call 1-877-314-5678 to have an application mailed to you or to ask questions. To apply online, visit www.oregonhealthykids.gov



Other Health Care Options in the Portland area

If you don't have insurance and need health care now, you can access a variety of safety net clinics around the city that provide free or sliding-scale medical treatment. Portland's Coalition of Community Clinics is a network of organizations providing health care to the uninsured. The coalition can assist you in finding the help you need. Visit their website at www.coalitionclinics.org to learn more about your options, or call them at 503.546.4991.

Health Care for All Oregon

Why do so many Oregonians lack access to health care? Is there anything we can do to fix this problem? Members of Health Care for All Oregon, a statewide advocacy group, believe that change is possible. This spring they are presenting the Oregon legislature with a bill that would create a publicly funded, privately delivered health care system to cover all Oregonians. The bill is called "Affordable Health Care for All Oregon Act." So far many organizations have endorsed the bill, including Elders in Action, the Oregon Education Association, and the Community Alliance of Tenants. You can learn more about the bill and how to support it at www.healthcareforalloregon.org



Northwest Children's Theatre Preview!

REACH has free tickets available for families to go to the preview nights of the Northwest Children's Theatre and School's performance of "Go, Dog, Go!" based on the book by the same name.

BARK by popular demand! This award-winning musical is a fun-filled world of doggy delight with crooning canines that dance AND drive. Like a popup book that comes to life, these dogs delve in with gusto! A barking cast and howling tunes make this show a tail-wagging good time. Woof!

This show is geared toward younger audiences and runs a bit shorter than most NWCT plays.

Preview night is Friday, March 18th. The show begins at 7 p.m. at 1819 N.W. Everett St. Go to <http://nwcts.org> for more information.

To reserve your tickets, contact Peter at (503-501-5732 or pblanchard@reachcdc.org. Priority given to families with children (others may call the week of the show to see if any tickets remain).

The NWCTS has asked that we remind you to respect the cast and the other audience members by not using your cell phones during the show.

Stop Domestic Violence!

Are you passionate about ending domestic and sexual violence? The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1978. OCADSV is made up of programs across the state of Oregon, serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Their mission is to raise awareness about or regarding violence against all women and children, and to work towards non-violence through leadership in advocacy, public policy, training, resource development and social change.

What do they do?

Provide technical assistance, training, public education to local crisis centers and their communities; engage in systems advocacy; and support multi-disciplinary efforts to develop agency protocols. These activities promote recognition of sexual assault and domestic violence, enhance systemic responses to victims and their



families, and support innovative approaches to ending domestic and sexual violence.

OCADSV views the commitment to social change as necessary to end violence against women and children, as well as to end oppression of all people. They are committed to supporting and involving underserved communities as well as upholding standards for anti-racism work.

Join the effort

For more information on the following, contact The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. (503-230-1951 / volunteer@ocadsv.com)

- Volunteer at your local domestic violence or sexual assault program.
- Find shelters and services in your area.
- Join public awareness activities.
- Learn how to advocate for systems change!

REACH Resident Services Coordinators

As some of you may already know, there have been some moves within the Resident Services Department. Your Resident Services Coordinator is listed below:

Albina Corner	Erica Tucker	503-546-1662	Powell Blvd	Austin Erdman	503-501-5729
Admiral	Rene Davison	503-445-0909	Prescott	Austin Erdman	503-501-5729
Beacon Manor	Joe Wickstrom	503-231-0585	Rex Arms	Matt Moor	503-546-0951
Dresden	Matt Moor	503-546-0951	Ritzdorf	Joe Wickstrom	503-231-0585
*Fir Grove	Rene Davison	503-445-4066	Rose	Molly McClone	503-542-4880
Floyd Light	Erica Tucker	503-546-1662	Scattered Sites	Austin Erdman	503-501-5729
Grand Oak/Wilshire	Matt Moor	503-546-0951	Station Place Tower	Hazel Schnider	503-473-9960
Laurelhurst	Matt Moor	503-546-0951	Taylor Apts	Joe Wickstrom	503-231-0585
*Maples 1 & 2	Rene Davison	503-445-4066	Twelfth Ave. Terrace	Rene Davison	503-445-4066
Marion St	Joe Wickstrom	503-231-0585	Walnut Park	Matt Moor	503-546-9665
McCuller Crossing	Erica Tucker	503-546-1662	Westshore	Joe Wickstrom	503-827-4128
Patton Park	Erica Tucker	503-546-1662			

*=new buildings



Getting Back to the Garden

Gardening is a healthy and timeless pastime, and REACH wants to enable and encourage gardening in REACH housing wherever it is practical. Gardens help provide food, beautify neighborhoods, and bring people together. And gardening can be great exercise for the body and mind. Here are some guidelines for gardening in REACH housing:

Responsibilities of REACH Staff

- Property Management staff will define specific areas for gardening.
- Maintenance staff will insure that landscape contractors do not disturb defined garden areas.
- Resident Services staff will manage the assignment of garden spaces and may provide educational support.

Responsibilities of Resident Gardeners

- **Get prior approval to garden** (this may involve participating in a building lottery) and garden only within the garden area approved for you.
- **Actively maintain your garden** by having plants in by June, regularly weed, water, and harvest during the growing season, and clean up your area by late fall.
- **Do not use any chemicals.** Resident services staff can provide information on alternatives to pesticides and herbicides.
- **Respect other residents' gardens.** Do not water or weed their gardens. Do not pick any flowers, fruit or leaves.

- **Follow any other specific rules established for your garden area.**

Violating gardening rules can result in loss of gardening privileges and possibly a lease violation.

Gardening Opportunities at REACH

- Raised beds or garden spaces are

currently available at Prescott Place, Marion Apartments, Ritzdorf/Rex Arms, Station Place Tower and Walnut Park.

- Container gardening is currently available at the Rose Apartments and the Westshore.
- Scattered Sites gardening will be available on a case by case basis, and must be pre-approved as a part of your lease. Most Scattered Sites with three or more units will not be approved for gardening.
- For further information, contact your Building Manager or Resident Services Coordinator.

Gardening Resources

The Growing Gardens program offers gardening workshops

Workshops are open to the public for a sliding scale donation of \$5-\$20. No prior experience is necessary. If you would like to attend a workshop, you can sign up by emailing Rodney@growing-gardens.org or by calling the office at 503-284-8420. They will provide the exact address and directions when you sign up.

- Garden Planning, Wednesday, March 23, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

- Gardening Basics, Part I: Thursday, April 14, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

- Part II: Saturday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- Container Gardening, Wednesday, May 18, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

- Southeast Portland Tool Library Residents of Southeast Portland can borrow gardening tools. Located at the corner of SE 28th Place and Harrison, in the St. David's Episcopal Church, in Southeast Portland, Oregon. Open only during these hours: Saturdays 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. & Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Changes in Property Management!

REACH has three new properties to welcome to the organization! REACH is now managing Fir Grove in SE Portland and Maples I and Maples II, both located in Hillsboro, OR. All three properties are for residents 62 or older.

With this expansion, we have also hired two managers! Please welcome Meg Richardson and Jamie Witham to the REACH family!

REACH is on the move

Space has gotten quite tight at the REACH office. About 18 months ago we had to move our Community Builders Program and Maintenance Office to another location. And we have grown more since then. We have looked for larger space in the SE Portland area where the main office is now. But we have been unable to find large enough space at a price we can afford.

With the building of our new project in South Waterfront area south of downtown, we have the opportunity to include sufficient office space to accommodate our current size and some room for growth. The move to South Waterfront would not happen until the end of 2012. In the meantime we are looking at our Property Management operations and evaluating several options for a satellite office/shop that would provide a contact location for residents in southeast Portland.

We'll provide updates on the new main office and plans for a satellite as construction proceeds on the new project in South Waterfront.



"Building Homes. Creating Communities"

HomeFront March-April 2011

Fair Housing Poster Contest is open to kids in first grade through eighth grade

Please help make the 13th Annual Fair Housing Poster Contest the best ever!

Your children, grandchildren, or clients' kids can participate. Ten winners will receive cash prizes. The Grand Prize winner's artwork will be featured in many of our materials throughout the year.

This year's theme is, "Won't You Be My Neighbor? Fair Housing for Everyone." The contest is open to kids in grades 1-8 and the deadline is March 17. Winners will be announced in April. See www.FHCO.org/contest.htm.

