





MANY VOICES, MANY JOURNEYS



STORIES FROM SIX PORTLAND FAMILIES



2020 COMMUNITY REPORT





MANY VOICES, MANY JOURNEYS

This year's Community Report focuses on six families whose journey brought them to Portland and how involvement with a Levy-supported organization empowered them along the way.

We thank them for sharing their stories, and for their contributions, talents and gifts that make our city stronger.



Dear Portlander:

The theme of this year's Portland Children's Levy Report: "Many Voices, Many Journeys" is a perfect time for us to reflect on Portland's strengths . . . and shortcomings. While our city is a welcoming and wonderful place for many, we must acknowledge its history of systemic and institutional racism that created a long legacy of barriers that remain to this day for people of color.

The Levy creates opportunities for children and families to overcome these challenges, and supports their success at home, in school, and in the community.

The Levy does this through partnerships that provide:

- Quality and accessible early childhood education so children are ready for kindergarten and families, including immigrant and refugee parents, can navigate the school system;
- After-school programs that are interesting so students stay safe after the bell rings and become lifelong learners;
- Caring and nurturing mentors who make a positive difference in the lives of children;
- Parent education and relief nurseries to empower the development of strong families:
- Academic and life skills support for children in foster care so they gain the strength and resiliency to face their future with confidence;
- Healthy and nutritious food to help families keep children fed so they can learn and grow.

This is an exciting time for the Levy. In the midst of a spring funding round, we are poised to partner with scores of programs that provide hope and opportunity, and a new Small Grants Fund that will improve equity of access for organizations that have not received Levy funding in the past. Initiatives like these are part of the Levy's "journey" as well; one in which we are thankful for your support.

Ted Wheeler, Portland Mayor

Chair, Portland Children's Levy Allocation Committee Mayor Wheeler@portlandoregon.gov



The Mayor shares lunch with Maddie at the LifeWorks NW, Children's Relief Nursery





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PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES THAT EMPOWER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ALONG THEIR JOURNEY

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY WITH PROGRAMS HELPING CHILDREN FROM BIRTH-24 TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL



THE PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY grew out of a need to make sure all children have access to the support they need to flourish.

Knowing that historical and institutional barriers, economic instability and systemic racism are key factors that explain disparities in our community, PCL support contributes to eliminating these racial and ethnic inequities through:

Educational and economic opportunities so all children can thrive

Preparation for school and positive early development







Advocacy skills for parents and caregivers

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Portland Children's Levy is overseen by a five-member Allocation Committee that meets publicly to make funding decisions. It is composed of one City Council member, one Multnomah County Commissioner and three citizen members appointed by the city and county

The Levy is audited annually by an independent firm with results published on our website: www.portlandchildrenslevy.org. An administrative cap of 5 percent means that proven Levy programs receive 95 cents of every dollar.

ALLOCATION COMMITTEE CURRENT MEMBERS

Ted Wheeler

Portland City Mayor
Allocation Committee Chair

Jessica Vega Pederson

Multnomah County Commissioner

Traci Rossi

Executive Director

Center for Women's Leadership

Felicia Tripp Folsom

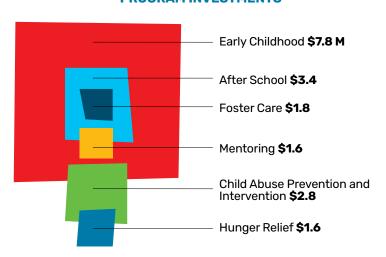
Empowering Leaders Executive Director
The Contingent

Mitch Hornecker

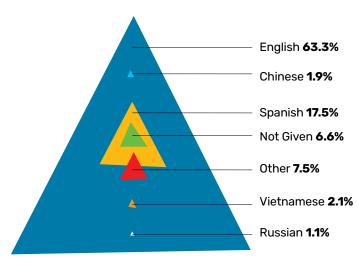
Principal

Modoc Consulting

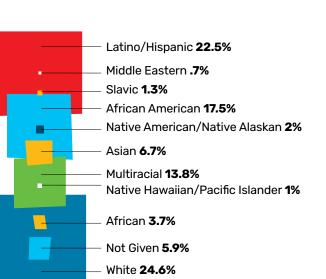
PROGRAM INVESTMENTS



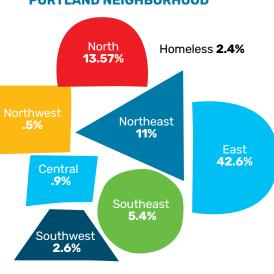
PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME*



RACE/ETHNICITY*



PORTLAND NEIGHBORHOOD*



^{*}These graphics represent the majority of Levy-funded programs that annually serve more than 12,000 children. They do not include Hunger Relief services that annually provide food to nearly 12,000 children, 53 percent who were children of color; at least 39 percent who spoke a first language other than English; and 53 percent who resided in East Portland.

AFTER SCHOOL



A safe place for students to learn and have fun. Students gain self-esteem, confidence, and leadership skills with caring adults who provide academic support and fun activities.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, CONNECT AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM



"Often I have students or parents come to the beginning of Connect feeling that we will judge them for what they don't know, for their emotional upsets or what they have been told were their failures. Connect works to remove these stigmas that they are less than, or not enough and encourage them to believe that they are capable of anything they put their minds to."

> Linda McNamara, Neighborhood House Connect Program Site Director

A VOICE AND A JOURNEY FROM LIBERIA

Even though 9-year-old Keifala wants to be a scientist, sports and playground time is never too far from his mind either.

The third grader at Hayhurst Elementary attends the Neighborhood House, Connect After-School program where he can choose from a bevy of programs like arts and crafts, as well as homework help and other academic support. But there's also time to just be a kid and play with his friends.

"It's fun there. There is a lot of activities to do and lots of stuff that gets your heart going like running around."

His mom, Isata, is happy that she doesn't have to worry about her middle son being safe and nurtured during after-school hours while she is working as an Albina Head Start instructor.

"It teaches him things that we can't always do at home," she says, noting that he is reading above grade level is exceeding in his school studies. "He loves it and I love it," she says, adding that his 6-year-old brother Elyas is excited to be eligible to attend the program next year.

Born in Liberia, Isata spent time in a refugee camp in Sierra Leone before arriving in Portland 15 years ago. Her older son, Hamzar, a Wilson High School freshman, wants to be a firefighter, Keifala is aiming for a career in science, and youngest Elyas, dreams of being a police officer.

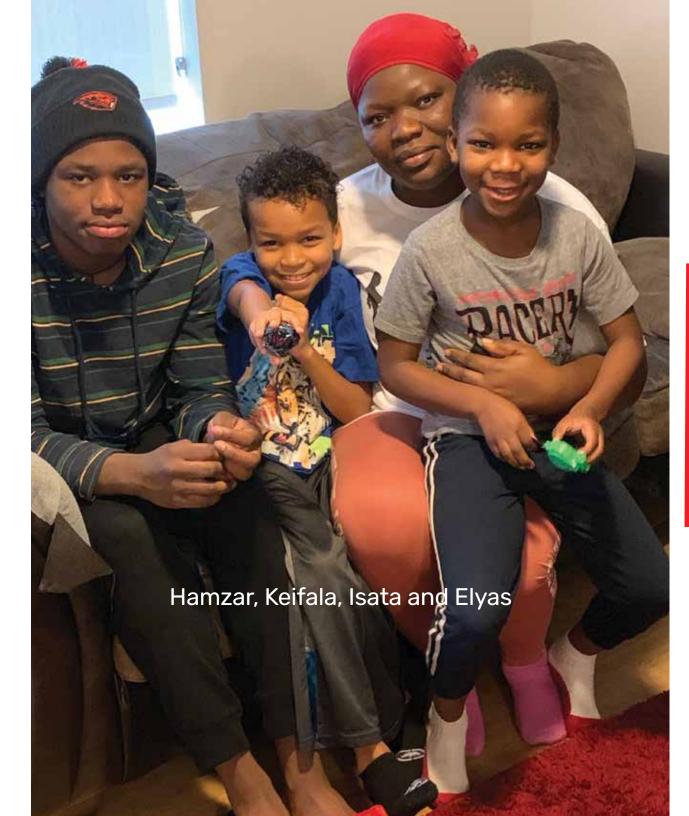
"We are happy here. My family is happy here."



"We love it here.

Especially when you know your kids are safe and happy."

Isata speaks three
Ianguages: English,
French Creole and a
Mandé dialect. Mandé
is a family of ethnic
groups in Western
Africa encompassing 40
Ianguages.







MENTORING



Positive, caring, consistent adult role models support students' engagement in school and help them realize their academic and life goals.

IRCO'S MENTORING PROGRAM



"I'm glad I work with youth here because they bring me their problems with friends and teachers and I know exactly what they're talking about."

Ashika Bharati, RIM coordinator

A VOICE AND A JOURNEY FROM NEPAL

For 16-year-old Sabitra, IRCO's Refugee and Immigrant Mentor (RIM) program is a place where the specific pressures and pitfalls of being a teenager seem to fade away.

Born in Nepal, she arrived in Portland in 2013 after spending years in a refugee camp there. The RIM program provides structure, support and a friendly place where she can turn to for help for everything from school to family life.

The Cleveland High School sophomore frequently reaches out to RIM Coordinator Ashika Bharati. She also was a student at Cleveland and understands the challenges that Sabitra and other RIM students face. It wasn't too long ago that she, too, was a refugee having to learn to navigate a new culture, a new language and a new country just like Sabitra.

Another positive influence in Sabitra's life is her mentor Becky Morton. She says RIM allows her and Sabitra to connect in a way that makes sense.

"I feel grateful that Sabitra and I were matched together. She is a kind, smart person who cares deeply about her family and friends. I think it can take a while for teens and adults to build a friendship, but I feel that Sabitra and I have a really positive connection at this point. I appreciate that this program allows for that investment to really happen. I'm glad that I can be there for her if she ever needs my help or support."

Sabitra wants to go to college and pursue a career in healthcare, perhaps as a nurse, so she can improve life for others – a dream she has been gravitating toward after seeing loved ones in need of medical help.

"In my home I have seen people sick and it makes me sad. I want to be able to help them someday."



is very helpful. If I don't
understand something in
school, after coming to RIM
I have seen my grades get
better and better."

"इर्ची'स को मेंतोरिंग प्रोग्राम धेरैं हेल्प्फुल छ। मैले स्चूल मा नाबुजेको कुराहरु रिम प्रोग्राम मा बुज्र सक्छु। मेरो ग्रदेस राम्रो हुदै जादैछ"।



Sabitra





CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION



Empowering the development of strong families. Children thrive when parents gain parenting skills and are supported in their role of parent.

EL PROGRAMA HISPANO CATÓLICO



"I love all my families, but S is one of my favorites. I have seen her grow so much; she has been just wonderful and is so dedicated."

Biatriz Vazquez Rivera El Programa Parent Child Specialist

A VOICE AND A JOURNEY FROM MEXICO

When "S" came to El Programa Hispano Católico more than a year ago she was unhappy and deflated after leaving a difficult relationship with her former partner.

"I felt like a person who was destroyed and in pieces," she says, reflecting on that dark time in her life. "This program has been a total blessing."

S fully committed herself to both the Levy-supported El Programa Parent-Child Intervention Program, as well as the larger UNICA program which included twice monthly support classes, a trauma recovery-empowerment program and home visits with her three sons.

Through her hard work she has gained newfound confidence, while forging a stronger and closer relationship with her children. She has become a better communicator with honed parenting skills that allow her to stay patient, even with three growing boys, and their home life is more relaxed and calm.

"I feel like a different person now. I see the difference in my three kids," she says, adding that their grades have improved, along with their attitude about each other, and her. They are no longer isolated from other family members and with the support of relatives, there is a lot more laughter in their house and a lot less stress.

The empowerment that S has found is something she wants to share with others, as she intends to go to school and one day open her own food cart that would employ other women whom she has met through the program. She has "big dreams" that she won't be dissuaded from.

"I came here after many, many years of fear – it was in every part of my life and in my heart. I thought life was fear, but that has been replaced by knowing that organizations like El Programa are coming from a place of love. That is so healing."



"I now believe I am worthy. I am beautiful." "Ahora creo que soy digno. Soy

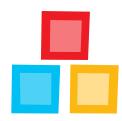
hermosa."







EARLY CHILDHOOD



Helping children prepare for kindergarten. Early childhood programs lead to better reasoning and language skills as well as healthy social and emotional development.

PPS CRESTON HEAD START



"The education is not just for the children, it's for the parents too."

Qing Hua Tan, Xin's family Service Worker from Head Start

A VOICE AND A JOURNEY FROM CHINA

The PPS Creston Head Start is a family affair for Xin Liu. Her third daughter, 5-year-old Kelly, is currently a student there, following in the footsteps of both older sisters.

"They all really love to go to Head Start," says Xin, who is from the Guangdong province in southern China.

Head Start offers a high-quality early learning preschool experience to prepare Kelly for kindergarten next fall, while also assisting her parents with better ways to interact with their daughter; navigate the school system; and forge connections and share resources with other Chinese immigrant families.

Xin says she has gained as much as her children – they curl up with books nearly every night and she has learned to read and spell English along with them. The family also has adapted to the American style of education.

"Here in the US there is more freedom and more ways for children to learn."

Xin's family Service Worker Qing Hua Tan says many of the parents she works with appreciate the education they, too, have received while their children attend Head Start.

Head Start staff say the program prepares children as they transition to kindergarten by building confidence and developing school readiness skills. By enhancing a child's emotional and physical growth, and linking families to key community services, the program paves the way for student success in school and beyond.

"If we can help with one step – with the step they can make a jump – and Head Start is that first step," says Qing.



"I try to change and learn from my kids as they go to school."

在我孩子上学的 同时,我努力学 习不断改变。





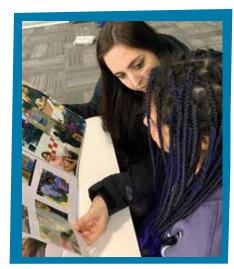


FOSTER CARE



Supporting the well-being and development of children and youth in foster care. Programs work with children and youth to strengthen academic and life skills and assure the presence of caring adults.

BOYS & GIRLS AID PERMANENCY PREPARATION



"I am so grateful to this program and proud of the growth the children have made."

Christine, DHS caseworker

A VOICE AND A JOURNEY TO A FOREVER FAMILY

Shadow, Acaccia and "A" giggle as they pour over their "Life Storybooks" filled with photos, stickers, and mainly, happy memories. They laugh at the funny faces they made in summer camp pics; they smile when looking at the Disneyland ticket stub; they reminisce when seeing the faces of loved ones.

The books have been an integral component of the siblings' healing process, as they reflect where they started, where they're at and where they're heading in the Boys & Girls Aid Permanency Preparation.

The program empowered them in their journey to find their forever family and learn to navigate the complicated balance between birth and foster family, build and maintain connection with all the important people in their lives, and develop a loving network of permanent supports.

"I like to remember all the fun times I had," says Acaccia, a high school sophomore, along with her freshman-age sister A.

For Shadow, a high school junior who loves to think "outside" the box and is drawn to creative writing, poetry, song writing and rap music, the program has provided strength and inspiration the past few years.

Acaccia has grown more confident and willing to try new things while A is enjoying her school cooking class and recently tried out her new culinary skills for her family as she made a full breakfast of pancakes, bacon and eggs.

Boys & Girls Aid staffers say a unique aspect of the program is its youth-led component, which allows case managers to cater to each child's needs.

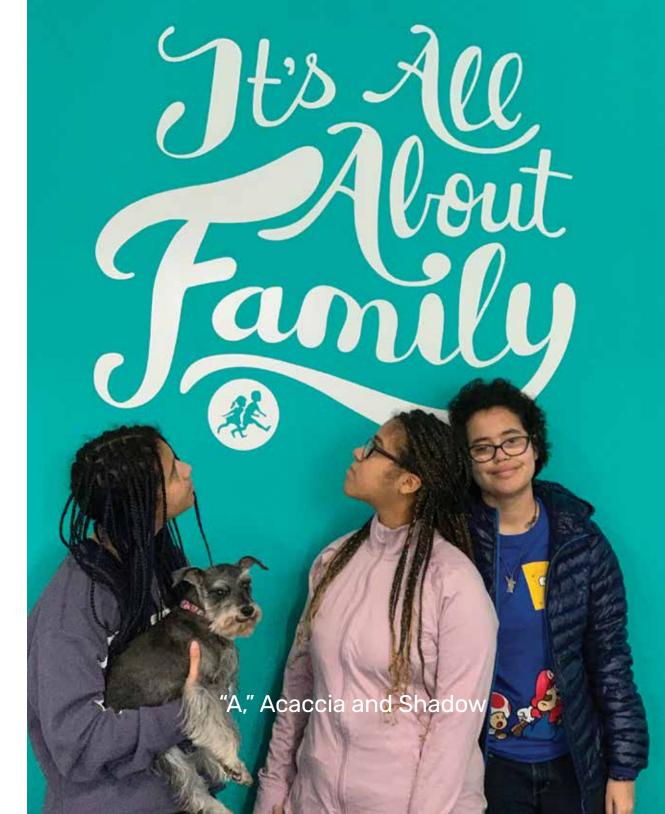
"We just follow their lead and give them support as they tell their story," says Boys & Girls Aid Permanency Specialist Susan Midland. "They are in control."

For now, the program helped the children to feel more settled and connected to their family while also maintaining loyalty and connection with their birth family. They also have a clearer understanding of what it means to be in a permanent family that's not their family of origin, along with the security of knowing they won't be moved around in the system anymore.

The Boys & Girls Aid program has helped the siblings develop their unique sense of identity and family, easing their transition from where they've been to where they're going.



"The program has really helped me become stronger. I think it's helped all of us get stronger."







HUNGER



Getting healthy and nutritious food to children and families. Children who have consistent and nutritious meals can engage positively in school activities, concentrate on learning and have healthy growth.

MEALS ON WHEELS/PEOPLE MEALS 4 KIDS



"The program is a perfect fit for a family like Iryana's. She has a busy life here and it is difficult for her to get to the store, so it works well."

Meals 4 Kids Program Coordinator Maritza Perez

A VOICE AND A JOURNEY FROM UKRAINE

When long-time Meals 4 Kids volunteer Sue arrives at the outer Southeast home of Iryana and her children with fresh produce and staple items, the younger ones are especially excited and call her "babushka," the Russian word for "grandma."

"It's an excellent program," says Sue, who has been delivering food to Iryana and some of her neighbors for the past five years. "And the people are so wonderful."

For Iryana, the delivery of necessities such as fruit, grains, meat and dairy, has been instrumental in allowing her to cook healthy and nutritious meals for her seven children who range in age from 6 months to 15.

The program operated by Meals on Wheels People provides home meal delivery for families with barriers to accessing other sources of emergency food.

Every family served by the Meals 4 Kids program lives at 185% of the federal poverty level or lower, and are experiencing food insecurity. Some like Iryana and her family, also live in an area where grocery stores are few and far between.

An emigrant from Ukraine who arrived in Portland nine years ago, Iryana loves to prepare traditional, home-cooked meals for her family and says Borscht, a classic beet soup, is her specialty. "I have a big family and I have to cook a lot, so yes, I have to like to cook," she says with a laugh.

Volunteer Sue says she has seen first-hand how the Meals 4 Kids program has filled a gap for many families, as well as forge important connections with volunteers. She drops by to say "hi" or deliver a treat to a happy child outside of her meals delivery schedule.

"It's so important and it's made a big difference for the children I

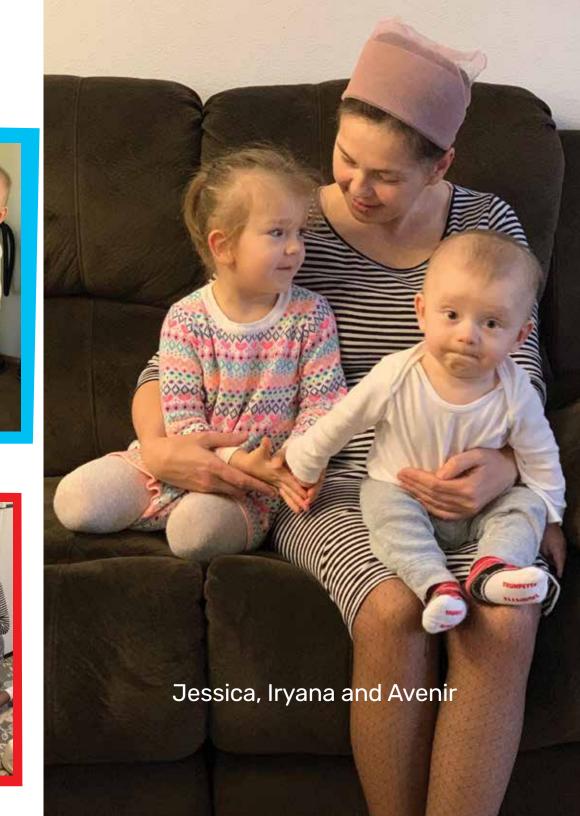


"It's very good support for me and my family."

"Это очень хорошая поддержка для меня и моей семьи."











LEVY PARTNERS

Early Childhood Investments

Albina Head Start: three full-day Head Start preschool classrooms; N, NE & SE Portland

Albina Early Head Start: four Early Head Start classrooms and home-based Early Head Start services (home visits and parent/child groups); N, NE & SE Portland

Friendly House Preschool: full-day preschool for children from low-income families: NW Portland

Hacienda CDC, Portland Niños: home-visiting, parent/child groups with Latino families in Hacienda properties and Cully neighborhood

Impact Northwest, Parent-Child Development Services: home-visiting, parent/child groups and kindergarten transition support, NE & SE Portland

Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Child and Parent Success: home-visiting, parent/child groups with immigrants and refugee families; citywide

Latino Network, Juntos Aprendemos: weekly parent/child preschool groups for Latino, Spanish-speaking families; N, NE & E Portland

Metropolitan Family Services, Ready-Set-Go!: weekly parent/child preschool groups for families in Powell Butte Elementary area; E Portland

Morrison Child & Family Services: early childhood mental health consultation to teachers, families and children. including parenting education with childcare sites, preschools and home visiting programs; citywide

Morrison Child & Family Services, Listos Para Aprender: home-visiting, parent/child groups with Latino families; E Portland

Mt. Hood Community College, Community Childcare Initiative: childcare financial assistance for low-income working families; quality support for culturally specific inhome childcare providers; citywide

Mt. Hood Community College, Early Head Start: homebased Early Head Start services (home visits and parent/ child groups) and one Early Head Start classroom; E Portland Mt. Hood Community College, Head Start: two extendedday Head Start preschool classrooms; E Portland

NAYA Family Center: home visiting, parent/child groups for Native American/Alaska Native families; citywide

Neighborhood House: home-based early Oregon Prekindergarten services (home visits and parent/child groups);

Portland Public Schools Head Start: four extended-day Head Start preschool classrooms: E Portland

Hunger Relief Investments

Immigration and Refugee Community Organization, Hunger Relief: outreach for food donation and access to school-based hunger relief services; nutrition education: NE & SE Portland

Janus Youth Programs, Village Gardens: community gardening for vegetable production and food discounts at Village Market; N Portland

Meals on Wheels People, Meals 4 Kids: home meal delivery for children and caregivers with barriers to accessing other sources of emergency food; citywide

Metropolitan Family Service: outreach for food donation and access to school-based hunger relief services: nutrition education: NE & SE Portland

Oregon Food Bank, School-Based Food Pantries: food provision to school food pantries and summer food sites: nutrition education: NE & SE Portland

Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Investments

El Programa Hispano Católico, PChIP: parenting support and therapy for Latino families, with children 0-12, who have experienced domestic violence; citywide

Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization: inhome parenting education and support for immigrant and refugee families with children ages 0-18; citywide

Impact Northwest, PCTS: in-home therapeutic support for families, with children 0-12, who have experienced domestic violence; citywide

Janus Youth Programs/Insights, SEEDS: in-home parenting education and support for teen parents and their young children; citywide

Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center/CARES Northwest: assessment services and therapy for children, ages 0-18, for whom there are concerns of abuse; citywide LifeWorks NW, Children's Relief Nursery: classroombased therapeutic care for children ages 0-5, home visits.

LIfeWorks NW, Family and Community Alliance: in-home parenting education and support for families with children 0-18: citywide

parenting education and respite care; N Portland

The Pathfinder Network. The Center for Family Success: parenting classes and in-home parenting education and support for families with children 0-18, with criminal justice system involvement; citywide

POIC + RAHS, Young Parent Education Program: parenting education and support for young parents attending Rosemary Anderson High School/POIC; citywide

Salvation Army West Women's & Children's Shelter, **PChIP:** parenting support for families, with children 0-18, who have experienced domestic violence; citywide

Self Enhancement, Inc.: in-home and classroom parenting education and support for African American families; N & NE Portland

Volunteers of America, Family Relief Nursery: classroombased therapeutic care for children ages 0-5, home visits, parenting education & respite care; citywide

Volunteers of America, Gateway Child Care: drop-in child care for parents accessing services at the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services; citywide

Foster-Care Investments

Boys & Girls Aid Permanency Preparation: services to support youth in foster care, ages 10 and older, prepare for permanency: citywide

Friends of the Children - Portland: intensive, long-term one-to-one mentoring services for children in foster care grades K-12; citywide

Impact NW, Safe & Together: intensive home visiting services for children in foster care, ages 0-8; support for birth and foster parents; focus on reunification; citywide

Janus Youth Programs/Insights, ECHO: intensive home visiting for teen parents where either the child or teen parent is in foster care: focus on reunification: citywide

NAYA Family Center: case management, advocacy & cultural enrichment services for Native American youth in foster care, ages 0-24; citywide

New Avenues for Youth, Avenues to College: college preparatory workshops, leadership development, and college Impact Northwest, Urban Opportunities: after-school housing support and case management; citywide

Self Enhancement, Inc.: case management, enrichment in foster care, ages 7-19; N, NE & E Portland

educational advocacy for children in foster care, ages 4-21; citvwide

After-School Investments

BRAVO Youth Orchestras: after-school youth orchestra program for youth in grades 2-5; N & NE Portland

Bovs and Girls Club. SUN Community School: after-school and summer academic support and enrichment at Margaret Scott Elementary; NE Portland

El Programa Hispano Catolico, Puentes Primaria: intensive academic support and cultural enrichment program for K-5 students at Wilkes Elementary; NE Portland

Ethos Inc.: after-school music education program at thirteen schools for students in grades 2 - 8; N & NE Portland

Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest: after-school program for girls focused on youth development at nine schools for students in grades 4 - 8; N, NE & SE Portland

Hacienda CDC, Expresiones: after-school/summer program providing homework support and enrichment activities for children in grades K-8 at Hacienda properties; N & NE

Human Solutions, LearnLinks: after-school program providing intensive academic support and enrichment activities for children in grades K-8 at low-income housing developments: NE & SE Portland

Human Solutions. Family Shelter: after-school enrichment program for youth experiencing homelessness; SE Portland Impact Northwest, AKA Science: after-school science program offered to youth in grades K-8 at SUN Community Schools; citywide

program focused on job readiness training for high school students; N & NE Portland

INSPIRE: intensive academic support and family

Youth, Rights, & Justice: Attorneys at Law, School Works: engagement for immigrant/refugee students in grades 4-9 at nine schools; NE & SE Portland

> Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, SUN **Community Schools:** after-school and summer academic support and enrichment at two schools; NE & SE Portland **Kairos PDX:** after-school enrichment program for youth in grades K-4: N Portland

> Latino Network: Second Step after-school and summer enrichment program for youth in grades K-3 at Rigler, Kelly and Cesar Chavez schools: NE & SE Portland

Metropolitan Family Service, SUN Community Schools: after-school and summer academic support and enrichment at two schools: SE Portland

NAYA Family Center: after-school, summer and school break enrichment activities for Native American/Native Alaskan children aged 5-18; citywide

Neighborhood House, Hayhurst Connect: after-school and summer intensive academic support services; SW Portland

Open School: intensive academic support, coaching and mentoring for high school students at three schools; N, NE &

The Pathfinder Network, Bounce Back: after-school program focused on supporting trauma-affected youth in grades 3-5 at 3 schools; SE Portland

Playworks, Junior Coach Leadership: after-school leadership program for children in grades 4 - 5 at nine schools: N. NE & SE Portland

REAP, Inc.: leadership development and support for youth in grades 4-6 attending Oliver and Parklane elementary schools: SE Portland

Saturday Academy: after-school enrichment program taught by professionals in the field at twelve schools for students in grades 1 - 8; N, NE & SE Portland

Self Enhancement, Inc.: intensive academic support and enrichment program for students in grades 6 - 8, focus on African-American children: N & NE Portland

Mentoring Investments

Camp Fire Columbia: after-school mentoring program for middle school youth at three schools: N & SE Portland

College Possible: after-school mentoring program to help low-income high school students prepare, apply for, enter, and graduate college; SE & E Portland

Friends of the Children - Portland: long-term, communitybased, one-to-one mentoring program for children grades K -12: citywide

Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization: community-based, one-to-one and group mentoring program for immigrant and refugee youth in high school; NE & SF Portland

NAYA Family Center: community-based mentoring supporting Native American/Alaska Native high school students' college and career pursuits; citywide

POIC + RAHS: school-based mentoring program for students at Rosemary Anderson Alternative High School; N & E Portland



MANY VOICES, MANY JOURNEYS

Last summer, the Portland Children's Levy partnered with a diverse group of local artists from IdeAL PDX, led by William Hernandez, to create this mural at Hacienda CDC's Salon Comunal building at NE 68th and Killingsworth.

Working with children from Hacienda's Expresiones after-school/summer program, the mural celebrates the history, culture, and many voices and journeys, of the Cully community.



