

COMMUNITY HELPERS

SOLV bags \$400,000 gift

SOLV recently received a \$400,000 grant from **Meyer Memorial Trust** to open and operate the agency's first full-time office for recruiting and training volunteers, said executive director Jack McGowan.

The grant will allow the 31-year-old agency to hire a volunteer coordinator, Cleem Hart, and maintain the office for three years, McGowan said. The agency rallies tens of thousands of volunteers yearly for cleanup, fixup and restoration projects in hundreds of communities statewide.

Contact SOLV at 314 E. Main St., Suite 300, Hillsboro, OR 97123; 503-844-9571, or go to its Web site, www.solv.org.

Builder backs teen agencies

The Oregon-Columbia Chapter of the Associated General Contractors (named **R&H Construction**) of Portland to receive its Project With A Heart honor this year for renovating a former office space in downtown Portland into a transitional housing center for homeless teen-agers.

The project for **New Avenues for Youth**, a 4-year-old program that also offers educational, health care and counseling services, required a seismic upgrade and remodeling of a 40-year-old structure at Southwest 12th Avenue and Columbia Street.

Project construction costs were provided by New Avenues benefactors, the Portland Development Commission, private donors and in-kind contributions. R&H did the work at half the cost and donated money and office space. The estimated value of R&H's initial contribution is \$55,000, with an added \$30,000 donated at the project finish.

The project also involved a partnership between R&H and the

Portland Youth Builders program, which provides education, vocational training and leadership development to low-income teen-agers from North/Northeast Portland who have dropped out of high school. About 15 youths received training in building-trade skills from R&H mentors and assisted throughout the renovation.

Contact New Avenues for Youth at 503-224-4339, or online at www.newavenues.org. The Portland Youth Builders can be reached at 503-286-9850.

PGE fuels youth projects

Portland General Electric contributed \$15,000 to **Children First for Oregon**, a 9-year-old nonprofit child advocacy group.

The company has sponsored the group's statewide Families in Good Company Awards event, which has honored family-friendly businesses and employers for five years, said Marie Hoeven, agency spokeswoman.

For the first time, PGE also will sponsor Children First's eighth Annual Report Card on the Status of Children in Oregon, a widely used analysis of child development in a range of areas including education, health and abuse.

Contact Children First at P.O. Box 14914, Portland, OR 97214; 503-286-3904, or online at www.cfo.org.

— Osker Spicer

If you know of a grant or donation to a nonprofit group or project to note in Community Helpers, please call Osker Spicer at 503-221-8463, or e-mail the item to: helpers@news.oregonian.com, and/or fax it to 503-227-5306.

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