

Friday, June 11, 2004

Why we need to invest in the next generation of community leaders
Our Children, Our Future

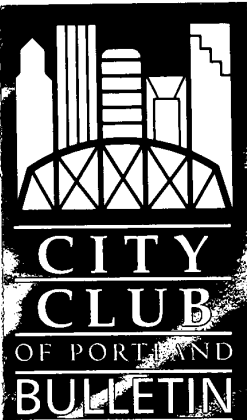


On June 11, City Club welcomes Jack Levine, a nationally recognized child advocate, to identify key policies that keep kids safe, promote their early learning potential and provide parents the tools they need to be responsible. Levine believes when it comes to kids, it's not whether we pay, it's when. Failure is much more expensive than success. Reducing risk factors and enhancing opportunities for educational achievement is good for children, public safety and the economy.

Levine, founder of Florida-based Advocacy Resources, served for 25 years as president of Voices for Florida's Children. He holds a master's degree in child development and family studies from Purdue University. In addition to working as a teacher and urban youth counselor, Levine currently advises The Family Institute of the College of Human Sciences, Florida State University and was a founding member of the Florida Commission on Responsible Fatherhood.

A graduate of Leadership Florida, Levine was the first recipient of Leadership Florida's Distinguished Alumnus Award. He has been honored with the Florida Juvenile Judges' Media Award, the Voice for Children Award from the Children's Home Society of Florida, and in 1990 was named Floridian of the Year by The Orlando Sentinel.

AT THE MULTNOMAH ATHLETIC CLUB (1849 S.W. Salmon St.)
Doors open at 11:30 A.M. Program begins at 12:15 and concludes at 1:15 P.M. Register online at www.pdxcityclub.org. Luncheon reservations and cancellations, call (503) 241-9242 by 2 PM Wednesday, June 9. \$16 members, \$18 nonmembers. Coffee/tea tickets are \$5 at the door. General seating is free for members and \$5 for nonmembers.



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Upcoming
Friday Forum:

June 18, 2004
State of the Counties, with Multnomah County Commission Chair Diane Linn and Washington County Commission Chair Tom Brian

AT THE MULTNOMAH ATHLETIC CLUB

Friday Forums this quarter are sponsored by:
**PacifiCare
Portland General Electric
Zimmer Gunsul Frasca**

City Club Mission:
To inform its members and the community in public matters and to arouse in them a realization of the obligations of citizenship.

According to Children First for Oregon's **2003 Report Card on the Status of Children**, Oregon has seen a troublesome decline in child well-being. After reaching the state's highest grade ever in 2002, a B-, the overall grade in 2003 dropped to C-.

- F Family Financial Stability** *Child poverty is at its highest reported rate since 1994; more than 140,000 Oregon children live in extreme poverty.*
- D Health** *10% of children under age 18 lack health insurance; more than 80,000 children go without health insurance on any given day in Oregon.*
- C+ Early Care & Education** *Availability of child care remains low (18 slots per 100 children) and often costs more than 10% of income.*
- C Youth Development & Education** *Drop-out rate low, state proficiency assessments wavering and substance abuse similar to 1990 levels.*
- B+ Safety** *Confirmed cases of abuse & neglect have declined, but reports have increased by nearly two-thirds; violent crime continues to decline.*

Source: www.childrenfirstfororegon.org