

Spring 2007

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LINN-BENTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

Family Self-Sufficiency

2007 Women in Trades Fair

Have you dreamed of working in the building trades? Would you like to learn about education and employment opportunities?



The 15th Annual Women in Trades Career Fair will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2007. The event offers free parking, free childcare, and free admission and no advance registration is required for the public. This unique career fair is the best place for women and youth to learn about education and employment opportunities in the building trades.

Opportunities include:

- **Hands on workshops** demonstration a wide array of careers taught by tradeswomen role models.
- **Union and open-shop apprenticeships** in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, sheet metal, heavy equipment operation, and other trades.
- **Community College training programs** in auto mechanics, machine technology, drafting, building inspection, construction, welding, and more.
- **Employer-sponsored apprenticeships** with Portland General Elec-

tric, Bonneville Power Administration, Oregon Department of Transportation, TriMet, and other top-rated companies.

- **Highway and Transportation construction careers** with the Oregon Department of Transportation and related apprenticeships and employers.

When: Saturday, May 5, 2007, 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Where: NECA / IBEW Electrical Training Center, 16021 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97230 (directions available at www.tradeswomen.net)

Participant of the Quarter

Every one of us has had challenges that we were able to overcome. Then there are the battles that we have to put aside and come back to later. We may have a lot of different reasons why it happens, but the most common cause of unaccomplished challenges is when we are given challenge after challenge without reprieve or breaks. Some people thrive on confronting life and make it second nature to take care of business without another look, overcoming what they perceive as just another task. So it is with our great pleasure to recognize a participant who has overcome so many challenges and can honestly say she was just taking care of business. Amanda Gasset has obtained financial aid, started school at LBCC, found childcare for her daughter and managed to maintain a household and all of this in less than 5 months, plus she started from ground zero, absolutely no income! Amanda is a great example of what can happen when someone puts their mind to accomplishing their personal goals regardless of where they start from.

FSS Updates

Why in the world do we have you complete an FSS Update every three months???

HUD requires us to have quarterly contact with each family on the FSS Program. This is a great way for us to keep track of the goals you've completed and adjust any that may have changed. Rather than require each family to meet with us every three months, we ask that an FSS Update be completed instead. We understand that families may have a busy schedule and don't have time to come down to the Housing Authority every three months. When you get your FSS Update, please return it by the deadline to make sure you are in compliance with your FSS Contract. You may complete the form in writing, by calling your FSS Coordinator, or emailing the information to us.

Anna Benson, 918-7313, annab@L-bha.org Paul Deatherage, 918-7317, paul@L-bha.org

Hayden Giving Fund

We are very excited to have the Hayden Giving Fund working with the Family Self-Sufficiency Program once again this year. Last summer the Hayden Giving Fund provided a Hayden Home to one FSS family with a zero-interest 30-year loan in one of their new development in Albany. Trisha Mayer was selected to receive this once in a lifetime opportunity. What an amazing program! Trisha had dreamt of home ownership and is now enjoying her new home.

Trisha, engaged to Travis, has a 14 year old daughter and 16 year old son. Soon after moving into their new home, Trisha and Travis learned that Trisha is pregnant with a girl. Congratulations!

Trisha's children enjoy playing with their new dogs and visiting Grandma just



down the street. Trisha and her family feel blessed to live in a safe neighborhood, knowing that her children are now happy.

We look forward to working with the Hayden Giving Fund this year!

I see myself living in a wonderful place. It fulfills all my needs and desires. It's in beautiful location and at a price I can afford.

-Louise L. Hay

Do you have concerns about money? Are you tired of your money troubles?

Financial Fitness is a free 12-hour class that has been developed to help people learn about how they spend their money and how they can overcome their questions, fears, and concerns to take control of their finances. Financial Fitness can give you the keys to financial independence and a better life. You will have a clearer understanding of your resources and how they can work for you.

Of course, there is no quick fix. We don't promise you prosperity and we will

not cure all your financial problems. We can provide you with tools to make the most of the money you have and set goals like buying a house, building your savings and making a plan for your financial future.

Taking the first step can take a lot of courage. The Financial Fitness program is entirely safe, professional, confidential—and FREE. LBHA and Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services (WNHS) established this program to help

people of any income find a way to better understand and manage their finances.

Contact your FSS Coordinator or WNHS at 752-7220 or www.w-nhs.org for a schedule of classes.

Reminder—this class is required for all FSS Participants. If you haven't taken this class, please register for one of the 2007 sessions and let your FSS Coordinator know which one you will be taking.

Graduate Success Story

Tracy joined the FSS Program in June 2002.

“When I first started the FSS Program, I was barely working and then I lost my job. I was behind on all my bills, had no food, and was going to lose everything. I got depressed and there wasn't anything good that was happening to me. Then with a lot of hard work I got a new job. I found the help I needed to get my daughter her medications, food on our table, and my bills slowly started to get paid.

Thanks to the people I worked with in the FSS Program and other programs, I was able to get my life back on track.”

Tracy graduated from the FSS Program early, in March 2007. With over \$5000 in escrow, Tracy will be paying off her car and putting the rest aside to save for home ownership. Tracy is continuing to monitor her



credit and make her monthly payments on time to ensure she will be ready for home ownership in the future.

Tracy will be returning to college in the fall, working towards becoming an RN.

Way to go Tracy! We are very proud of you!