

NEIGHBORHOOD PROSPERITY INITIATIVE

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

Email

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ Clarence Lurkins	5848 N.E. 42 <sup>nd</sup> Ave Apt 97218	clarence@straightpathinc.org
✓ Lurkins		

## *Our Staff*

Currently, we have five committed board members:

Clarence Larkins

President

Veronica Robinson

Vice President

Jay Weston

Treasurer

Amy Hetlage

Grant Writer

Melanie Rutschman

Secretary

Clarence Larkins is currently mentoring the individuals in our program.



This is part of the parade at our 2011 Back-To-School Event.



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[www.straightpathinc.org](http://www.straightpathinc.org)



*Restore families and build strong family values through the provision of living wage employment and mentoring for ex-offenders, low income individuals, and those who want to turn their life around.*

**CALL 503-284-6520**

Submitted by  
Clarence Larkins  
4/3/13

# *S t r a i g h t P a t h , I n c o r p o r a t e d*

## *About Us*

Straight Path, Inc. was launched in January 2009. From living and working in the Portland Metropolitan area, we have recognized a need for positive restructuring of families and individuals whose lives have been significantly affected by negative inner-city life. Clarence Larkins, the founder and president of Straight Path, Inc., has lived in Northeast Portland since 1964. Throughout that time he has seen the neighborhood change dramatically.

He has noticed a huge trend in negative family cycles, where, for instance, a parent will be heavily into the drug world or gang violence and may end up incarcerated, and then the children grow up and continue that same lifestyle. We are committed to breaking those unhealthy cycles and empowering individuals and their families to move forward in a healthier and more positive direction in life.

## *Events*

We go the extra mile for families and individuals that are involved in career training and those who have graduated training programs.

Straight Path, Inc., puts on three yearly events to bring the community together and to show support for those who are making an attempt to change their lifestyle.

### **CAREER FAIR**

We host a career fair in May. We title it "Fresh Chance" because our focus is for those who are in need of a second chance. We have some of Portland's top companies that participate in this career fair:

City of Portland, Oregon Department of Transportation, Local 290 Plumbers & Steamfitters Training Center, NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center, Waste Management, B&G Builders, Inc., Burgerville, WorkSource Portland Central, Weston Buick KIA GMC, Morel Ink, Delphina's Bakery, New Seasons Market, and Providence Health & Services.

Most of these companies have owners and representatives that serve on our Advisory Board.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT**

In August, we have a Back To School event where we partner with 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Street Fair. We provide backpacks and school supplies to the children of our participants and provide them with the opportunity to march in the parade.

### **ADOPT A FAMILY EVENT**

In December, we have an Adopt A Family event, where we adopt 15 families from apprenticeship programs in the area. We bless them by purchasing gifts for the children.

## *Moving Forward*

Our ultimate goal is to open family resource centers in the Portland area for families that are involved in career training. Our hope is to open the centers in Northeast Portland and Gresham. Currently, we are working on fully staffing our corporate office on Northeast 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. We have the support of the Portland Development Commission to help with the development of any property, if needed, in the Portland area.

## *Solutions*

At Straight Path we act on the belief that "if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem." We help remove roadblocks to success by providing mentoring relationships, job retention services, recreational activities and meeting places as well as access to job training, daycare, and after-school programs.

Straight Path, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Contributions are deductible. If you would like to donate, please do so through our Paypal account at: [www.straightpathinc.org](http://www.straightpathinc.org) or mail a check to: 5848 NE 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97218

Testimony of  
Brian Stewart, JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
Portland (OR) City Council  
Wednesday, April 3, 2012  
2pm, Item #299

Mr. Mayor and the Commissioners of the City of Portland:

For the record, my name is Brian Stewart, Community Relations Officer, for JPMorgan Chase. I've been with the firm, and its predecessor institutions, for 25 years, working within the City of Portland and around the State of Oregon.

One of our philanthropic priorities is to provide cities and regions with the tools and resources to strengthen economic development plans that identify employer demand, industry trends and opportunities for innovation.

That priority is one of the main reasons that we became involved with the **Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative** in early 2012.

- We were excited to meet with the **Nonprofit Association of Oregon** and the **Portland Development Commission** to discuss the aspects of the plan.
- We were able to help launch the Initiative by convening other funders, allowing them to learn more about the plan and the respective neighborhood groups.
- We were able to provide the first private financial support, \$50,000 in 2012.
- We encouraged other financial investment which would leverage the City's resources. Other early investors included **NWNatural** and the **East Portland Action Plan**. These investments were followed by a significant investment from the **NW Area Foundation**.
- We continue to work with businesses and not-for-profit organizations in the identified neighborhoods, providing additional resources for their projects.

JPMorgan Chase is proud of our investment strategy that will help build a skilled workforce and create jobs through investment in small businesses and we are excited to be a catalyst of the ***City of Portland's Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative***.

April 3, 2013

Dear Portland City Council,

I am writing in behalf of my support of the Portland SBDC. I have co-owned a small business in NE Portland since 2003. My business is a retail clothing store in the Alberta Arts District. Beyond the two owners, we employ 1-2 part time people. In addition to our employees, we hire a variety of small businesses (CPA, Bookkeeper, Maintenance Workers) to keep our business running. Last year we received a PDC scholarship and began working with Leslie Hildula of the SBDC, and the gains have been substantial. We became aware of the program specifically geared toward retail management, and began the 10 month course. Since the start of our work with the SBDC and the Portland Development Commission, we've made substantial storefront improvements to our business, increased our inventory capacity, increased our salaries, and secured a business Line of Credit. Our business grew 10% from the previous year, and we look forward to the gains and growth of 2013, under Leslie's guidance.

Please consider how invaluable the SBDC is to the unique business climate of Portland.

Thank You,

Allison Wykhuis  
Frock Boutique  
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Portland, OR 97211  
[503-595-0379](tel:503-595-0379)