

# THE OREGONIAN

## VOTERS GIVE GREAT GIFT TO CHILDREN

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In November 2002, *Portland* voters passed the *Portland* Children's Initiative. This was an incredible gift from voters to the children of *Portland*. Faced with a bleak economic forecast, lost jobs and a war on terrorism, voters sent a message that, no matter what, "children are our priority."

This message was not missed by the *Portland* Children's Initiative originator, City Commissioner Dan Saltzman. Saltzman worked with city and county officials to put political biases aside and bring much-needed funds to proven programs for at-risk youth.

With state coffers short of funds, *Portland* will still be able to provide intervention and prevention strategies for these children. In the long term, the *Portland* Children's Initiative will save millions of dollars that would eventually be spent on abused and neglected children and eventually the juvenile justice system.

I thank the mayor, City Council, county chairwoman, commissioners and community partners and *Children's Investment Fund* director Andy Olshin for keeping the faith of *Portland* voters.

MAGGIE MILLER Executive director  
Citizens Crime Commission  
Northwest *Portland*

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