Serving together in faith

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24

Central to the ministry and witness of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) is a conviction that we are called by God to love and serve our neighbors. As the 2012 Annual Report makes clear, during this past year we found new and expanded ways to connect different parts of the Christian community to one another, as well as to other parts of society in common service and community-building.

Everyday, EMO makes real that faith matters and has transformative power. Thanks to faith-filled people and communities, people living with HIV/AIDS, refugees and immigrants, victims of domestic violence, families without housing, and children who are hungry have renewed hope for the future.

Thanks to people of faith with big visions for the future of God’s creation, issues related to the environment are on our church and state agendas. As a result, we can live confidently that issues such as global climate change, clean water and healthy foods will be part of the church’s mission. And thanks to lay and clergy alike, captured by the Gospel vision and Jesus’ prayer that “they all may be one,” destructive divisions in society are named and fall to the power of unity that unites, rather than divides, our society.

As this report reminds us, our mission is carried out through the faithful efforts of a multitude of religious denominations and congregations, as well as the generosity of time, talent and financial resources of thousands of individuals. Through these and many other ecumenical and interreligious efforts throughout the state, EMO makes visible the healing and transformative power of faith and hope-filled collective action.

The quality of Oregon’s future is indeed dependent on our commitments to the well-being of our neighbor’s health and wellness today. On behalf of the communities and people that make EMO such an extraordinary organization, we thank you for your faithful support and give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve in ministry for the well being of God’s people and creation.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Dr. David Massey    David A. Leslie
President    Executive Director

Environmental Ministry

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2:15

Our Environmental Ministry programs connect, inform, inspire and empower people, congregations and religious institutions to work for justice and the care and renewal of the earth. We foster an awareness that care for creation is integral to a life of faith.

Environmental Ministries

Yelena Hansen, Russian Oregon Social Services
Howard Kanyon, Northeast
Emory Food Program
Russ Miller, Food Services
Jenny Pratt, Second Home
Lindsey Raus-Hunt, HIV Services
Caroline van der Haren, SOR Immigration Legal Services
Vesta Villa, Sponsorship Coordinator

Environmental Ministries

Jenny Holmes, Director
Alicia Watson, Outreach Coordinator

Public Policy Advocacy

Jan Ellers, Public Policy Advocacy Associate

Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) carried out our Environmental Ministry mission of earth stewardship in 2012 with the third annual Earth Care Summit, “Make a Positive Impact,” drawing over 200 people form around the state. Other educational opportunities included workshops for congregations caring for watersheds and wildlife and on public lands stewardship as a faith issue.

Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership’s (IFFP) creation of innovative partnerships for just and sustainable food systems was recognized by the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger with its “2012 Harvest of Hope Award.” Last year, IFFP enlisted eight culturally-diverse members of the Rockwood community of Gresham to complete 235 surveys for a grassroots food assessment. In October, we held the first “Food Justice” fundraiser with award-winning writer Tracie McMillan, author of The American Way of Eating.

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) advocated last year for full disclosure on the impacts of coal export and a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; we also held a faith community forum on coal exports in St. Helens, the site of a proposed coal port. OIPL generated 250 comments from people of faith on the EPA Carbon Rule to reduce global warming emissions from power plants.

Emory Food Program’s “Farm to Congregation” project focused on increasing access to healthy and affordable produce for everyone, while also providing opportunity for small farmers, especially new and immigrant farmers, at sites like the farm stand (above) outside the Muslim Community Center.

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Public Policy Advocacy
And what does the Lord require of you . . . but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

EMO’s public witness and advocacy work addresses issues to support the marginalized, poor and voiceless. We are a consistent faith presence at the Oregon Legislature, and we also train and engage congregations of people of faith that they may participate in this important aspect of our ministry.

Last fall, EMO held “Envisioning an Ethical Economy.” The participatory workshop gave students and young adults an opportunity to discuss their vision of an economy that provides both opportunity and protects health, human rights and the environment.

Thank you to the 1,455 donors and foundations (listed on these pages) who gave $1,016,595 to EMO in 2012.

Last year, our Public Policy priorities included preserving and/or expanding funding for safety-net services for those at risk of hunger and homelessness, economic justice, health care, immigrant rights, expanding revenue, and death penalty and criminal justice reform.

During the 2012 Legislative Session, EMO worked actively with key allies to defend critical safety-net programs. As a result, a proposed cut to refugee resettlement services in Oregon was reduced by $350,000, and funding was maintained for the general fund food program (emergency food), school breakfast and lunch programs, and summer meals for kids. Key policy measures that EMO helped to pass include foreclosure reform (SB 1552) and creation of the Oregon Health Care Exchange (HB 4164A).

For the fall election, we distributed over 8,000 copies of EMO’s 2012 Voters Guide to Oregon Ballot Measures.

Thank you to the following sponsors:

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Ecumenical/Interreligious Dialogue & Peacemaking

... that they may be one. John 17:21

Our interfaith education and theological dialogue programs help congregations and individuals deepen their own commitments and better understand their neighbors. Each year, EMO offers workshops, discussions, lectures, presentations, celebrations and prayer vigils to celebrate Christian unity, foster interfaith relations, and explore ethical and moral issues. We also sponsor the Collins Lectures, an annual event designed to provide an opportunity for clergy and laity to explore issues related to religion and social ethics.

Our annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner was attended by over 400 guests. The awardees included “Eccumenist of the Year” Mary Jo Tully, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Portland, honored for her many years of promoting ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and fostering understanding and respect among faiths in the region.

EMO was actively involved with the 2012 Wildgoose West Festival in Corvallis—the West Coast version of the Celtic spirituality-inspired Wildgoose Festival. The event combined music, conversation, storytelling, opportunities for activism, and celebrating community in a faith-based, spiritually-enriched setting.

EMO hosted a workshop We Will Speak Out, featuring regional church leaders and Rick Santos, president and CEO of IMA World Health. The workshop focused on the religious community’s response to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

We extend our deep appreciation for the generosity of our partners

In 2012, EMO provided internships for 24 young adults from Concordia University, George Fox University, Lewis & Clark Law School, Portland State University, University of Portland, Warner Pacific College, and Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

EMO makes every effort to ensure accuracy. Please contact us at (503) 221-1054 if you notice an error.
Community Ministry

For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in. Matthew 25:35

Our Community Ministry programs exist to serve communities in crisis and people in need. Our diverse programs provide nutritious meals, affordable housing, social support, and integrated refugee and immigration services. EMO’s programs help people put their faith into action by addressing human needs in their communities throughout the state.

Affordable Housing

EMO has a long history of developing and advocating for affordable housing and is dedicated to filling the housing needs of those less fortunate.

- The Patton Home (pictured right), a single-room occupancy residence, provided affordable housing during 2012 for more than 63 individuals who were in recovery from substance abuse, transitioning from homelessness, or striving to maintain their personal independence.

- Second Home—a community response to the housing needs of unaccompanied, homeless youth while they attend Beaverton high schools—facilitated housing arrangements last year for 10 students with volunteer host families.

- In 2012, Shared Housing provided affordable housing opportunities for 474 individuals through a referral and matching service, bringing together those who need affordable housing with people who have homes and need help with rent, household chores or personal care.

Hunger, Nutrition & Social Services

Serving communities in crisis and people in need is central to EMO’s basic human needs programs.

- In 2012, Food Services/Delizioso Catering prepared 40,951 nutritious meals—many prepared with fresh produce grown in the Patton Home garden—for clients at the HIV Day Center and Daily Bread Express, residents at the Patton Home and students at local schools.

- Last year, HIV Services offered assistance for 323 people living with HIV/AIDS who made 8,276 visits to the Day Center for meals, counseling, computers, phones, laundry, clothing and showers. Over 31,200 client meals were delivered by The Daily Bread Express to home-bound individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

- The Northeast Emergency Food Program provided nearly 600,000 pounds of nutritionally-balanced food and 50,000 items of clothing to over 11,000 people in critical need during 2012.

In 2012, nearly 900 volunteers helped EMO serve the needs of over 57,000 Oregonians.

Refugee & Immigration Ministries

Our Refugee and Immigration Ministries offer comprehensive and compassionate services to thousands of refugees and immigrants in the Portland metro area.

- Russian Oregon Social Services gave assistance to 2,917 Russian-speaking refugees and immigrants in 2012, including domestic violence services, breast and cervical health education, mental health counseling, ESL and computer classes, citizenship training, legal and tax assistance, dental care and more.

- Last year, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) provided resettlement services for 330 refugees and 17 asylees—the majority came from Cuba, Iraq, Bhutan and Burma—and assisted them in their adjustment to a new life in the Portland metro area.

- In 2012, SOAR Immigration Legal Services provided low-cost immigration representation to more than 2,000 immigrants and refugees in application processes and expanded the New Americans Initiative, allowing us to offer free legal and educational services to low-income immigrants in Portland, Hillsboro, Hood River and Woodburn.