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EMO celebration honors leadership, service in Oregon

Every year, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) friends and supporters gather from around the state for the *EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner*—a joyful and informative recognition of the work of congregations, faith organizations and community leaders who have accomplished extraordinary things in Oregon. This year's dinner event, entitled "The Power of Hospitality," will be on the evening of Tuesday, May 25, at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland.

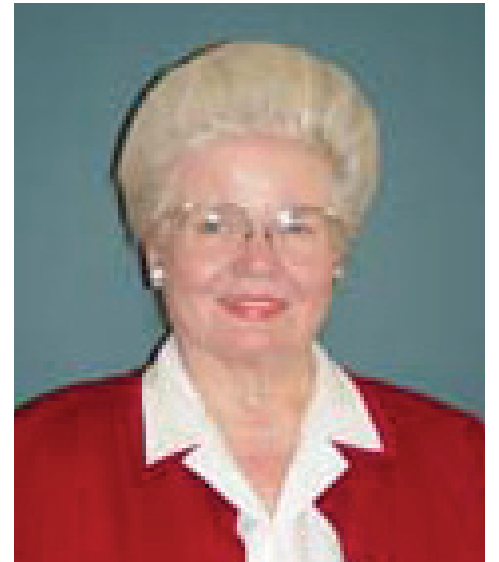
Providence Health & Services is our major sponsor, joined to date by Augustana Lutheran Church, the

Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell & George Crandall, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, DocuMart Macadam and Legacy Health System. Over 420 people attended last year's event, and this year tickets and tables are selling fast.

A silent auction, with the theme of rest and renewal, will feature travel packages, retreats, services, books, gifts and works of art. Proceeds of the auction will support EMO's ministries. A collection will be taken to support EMO's work throughout the state; all gifts will be matched dollar for dollar by the Collins Foundation.

Community leaders, organizations honored

Norene Goplen, public policy director for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Oregon Synod, will be honored as "Ecumenist of the Year." EMO is proud to honor Goplen for her catalytic community leadership in a wide range of issues affecting the most vulnerable in our society, including hunger, national disaster, homelessness and poverty, and challenges affecting small farmers and farm workers.



Norene Goplen, ELCA Oregon Synod, is named *Ecumenist of the Year*.

A founding member of the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger and creator of the Job Opportunity

Continued on page 8

Best practices forum highlights hospitality in the 21st century church

What does it mean to be a vital and faithful church in the 21st century?

Luis Lugo, executive director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, will be the featured keynote speaker at a "best practices" forum for church leaders. Lugo will outline the recent research his organization conducted on the changing face of religion in America, with a specific focus on the Pacific Northwest.

In a time when many churches are struggling to keep their doors open and people in our communities are suffering from the effects of the recession, this event is designed to build up our faith

communities by providing a venue for churches of every size, denomination and region to share how they are responding to the changing religious landscape in our state and the growing needs of our communities.

"Fostering Hospitality in the 21st Century Church" will take place on Tuesday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. This event will provide an opportunity for peer sharing, mutual learning and expanding networks of colleagues, as church leaders share how their congregations are creatively meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

The Rev. Paul Schroeder will begin the day with a Bible study on Hebrews 13:2, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." A panel of religious leaders including the Rev. Charles Lienert of St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Deborah Loyd, founder of The Bridge Church and adjunct professor at George Fox Seminary, and the Rev. Vicky Stifter of Riverside Community United Church of Christ in Hood River will speak about congregational and community responses to the changes in our society.

Facilitated breakout

sessions will provide an opportunity for all participants to share and learn about "best practices" on topics such as using technology effectively, community missions, changing demography and creative worship ideas. Session facilitators include: Todd and Angie Fadel, The Bridge Church; Steve Kimes, pastor, Anawim Community (Mennonite); Jesse Rice, author of *The Church of Facebook*; and the Rev. Brett Strobel, pastor, Christ United Methodist Church. Additional facilitators have yet to be confirmed. Churches are encouraged to bring teams of

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Let us build up each other

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other ...

1 **Thessalonians 5:11**

From March 19 to 22, I was in Washington, DC, for Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD), an annual conference on global peace sponsored by more than 45 Christian denominations, service organizations and justice advocacy networks. This year's theme was "A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees and Displaced Peoples."



David Leslie

While there may have been unity of spirit and purpose among the EAD attendees about the need for immigration reform, I can report—probably to no surprise to you—that not all who were in the nation's Capital that weekend were of one mind on this issue. Out in force on the Capitol grounds were advocates loudly making their case against any type of reform, be it immigration or, on that particular weekend, health care.

It was clearly apparent that partisanship is still a force to be reckoned with in our nation. And sadly, not the type of healthy partisanship that is based on learned ideals and respectful debate. This was the type of hyper-partisanship that calls for further marginalization of undocumented immigrants, building of more border fences, increased mass arrests by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and stepped-up deportations, even if they rip apart families.

In this hyper-partisan atmosphere, some demonstrators spit on elected officials. Others subjected Congressmen John Lewis and Barney Frank to racial and homophobic slurs, as they made their way to the House of Representatives for the health care debate.

On Monday, March 22, I joined other religious leaders who met with Senator Harry Reid to discuss the steps needed to get immigration reform legislation introduced in the Senate. Others in attendance included Cardinal Mahony from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; the Rev. Jim Wallis of Sojourners; the Rev. John McCollough, executive director of Church World Service; the Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, president and general minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and representatives from the National Association of Evangelicals and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS).

"What if we created, say, a 'prayer party' movement in contrast to the 'tea party' movement?"

During our meeting with Senator Reid, we also discussed the divisions in our nation and how best to address them. It became clear to me during our conversation that we need to strengthen our commitment to the renewal of the moral inquiry centered on our interconnectedness rather than our divisions. As such, I found myself thinking that we need multiple places throughout our nation, where people of faith

can gather with others—not to shout one another down and carry on in disconnected monologues, but to support just and equitable solutions to some of our country's most difficult issues.

This led me to think, "What would happen if we approached these issues in a more prayerful manner? What if we created, say, a 'prayer party' movement in contrast to the 'tea party' movement?"

What would happen if we joined together in prayer seeking God's guidance—instead of seeking solutions to the issues of the day in popular slogans and one-liners? What would happen if we listened more attentively to one another's stories—instead of judging each other without any facts or real information about "the other"? And, what might happen if we really opened our hearts to God for guidance, seeking with truly open spirits the best way to respond to the needs of one another?

There have already been hundreds of prayer vigils throughout the country focused on immigration reform and other issues of importance. This more prayerful route is helping to build a movement within the religious community to support immigration reform in a way consistent with the principles of the National Council of Churches (NCC), National Conference of Catholic Bishops, National Association of Evangelicals, Church World Service (CWS) and National Hispanic Leadership Conference.

And in this spirit, the NCC and CWS leadership sent a pastoral letter on immigration to their respective member communions, President Obama

and members of Congress, urging support for comprehensive immigration reform. (Visit the NCC Web site to read the pastoral letter at www.nccusa.org/pdfs/HOCimmigration100216.pdf.)

And, what might happen if we really opened our hearts to God for guidance, seeking with truly open spirits the best way to respond to the needs of one another?

With a greater emphasis on the power of prayer, it is just possible that our nation's leaders from both parties can be moved to support stalled immigration reform legislation that will improve not only the lives of more than 12 million undocumented people currently in this country, but the life of our entire nation. And as death penalty reformer Sr. Helen Prejean noted at the end of the EAD, our prayers need to be not just the "nice" prayers that focus solely on the well-being of one another, but the prayers that actually motivate and strengthen actions of compassion and ministry that improve the world in which we live, thus truly making real our concern about each other's well-being.

We live in a time of great need. In response, let us join together in both prayer and action to improve the communities and the world in which we live. And let us do so guided by the Spirit of unity that promises to be the healing and transformative power that our world so desperately needs.

voice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

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Presbyterian Church (USA)—Presbytery of the Cascades • Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland
United Church of Christ • United Methodist Church
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Greeting cards benefit "That's My Farmer!"

Support "That's My Farmer!" in Benton County by purchasing greeting cards by local artist Jan Roberts-Dominguez. The cards feature vibrant watercolor paintings of fruits and vegetables typical of Oregon's agricultural bounty. Each box contains eight cards (two each of four images) and costs \$10 per box. To purchase, please call Victoria O'Nion at (541) 757-1988, ext. 307, e-mail thatsmyfarmer@gmail.com, or send a request to St. Mary's Catholic Church, 501 NW 25th St., Corvallis, OR 97330. Make checks payable to EMO.



Empoderamiento de la comunidad: Una base para la salud *Community empowerment: A foundation for health*

As the Corvallis Congregational Wellness Coalition (CCWC) continues to support changes in the policies and environments of congregations to make healthy choices for food and physical activity accessible to all, it is moving to the next level of community advocacy in its second year. In early February, CCWC collaborated with the Benton County Health Department “Voceros de Salud” program to hold an advocacy training.

Facilitated by the Multnomah County Capacitation Center, it was the first coalition event to be held entirely in Spanish. The majority of the CCWC members are native Spanish speakers, and they felt it was important to have the training to ensure that the community they are a part of and serve has a seat at the table.

The Capacitation Center supports

communities to identify and address their own most pressing health issues and empowers communities to advocate for themselves. They use a popular teaching method known as empowerment or Freirian education, which came from Paulo Freire, a Brazilian educator and writer. In popular education, the learning process begins with identifying and describing everyone’s own personal experience and values, formal and informal education alike. That knowledge is built upon through various activities done in groups. A debriefing process allows everyone to analyze the situation, seeing links between our own experience and historical and global processes.

This new understanding of society is a preparation to actively work towards social change. In fact, in popular education, the education process isn’t considered to be

complete without action on what is learned—whether it be on a personal or political level.

The Corvallis Congregational Wellness Coalition’s next steps include refining an action plan to effect changes in the environment and promote policies that help reverse the childhood obesity epidemic. The coalition also plans to bring Francisco Arguelles to Corvallis for a second advocacy event in Spanish. Arguelles is the co-director of Colectivo Flatlander, an organization that helps build a strong popular movement for social, economic and racial justice. This event will be held in the spring on a date to be determined.

For more information, contact Marcela Arredondo, CCWC coordinator, at (541) 757-1988, ext. 307.

Summit motivates congregations in Earth care efforts

On Feb. 1, 160 people representing 47 congregations packed into the Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center in downtown Portland to learn about being better stewards of creation. The goals of Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns’ first “Earth Care Summit” were to connect congregations with community organizations and learn about the various resources available to green congregations, as well as provide inspiration. Representatives from 28 environmental nonprofits, government agencies and local businesses were on hand to share their resources and answer questions.

The event kicked off with tours of the green features of the LEED certified building. This was followed by a keynote address with the Rev. John Pitney, complete with inspirational music. Several congregational case studies were highlighted throughout the evening, and resource professionals from the City of Portland and Tualatin Riverkeepers presented on the importance of watershed stewardship and what congregations can do to be better stewards. The



Photo credit: Danny Warren

Earth Care Summit participants discussed stewardship of building spaces during a round table session.

evening concluded with roundtable discussions on a variety of greening topics including sustainable purchasing, community gardens, and worship and creation.

Feedback for the event was positive. One participant said, “I liked the variety of speakers and topics, the inclusion of the folk music, and the yummy, filling feast of food.” Many who attended were interested in follow-up workshops, networking opportunities and a similar event next year, so stay tuned!

Congregational wellness tools coming soon

Over the past year, EMO’s Congregational Wellness Project has been working with Community Health Partnership (CHP), Oregon’s Public Health Institute, to design and test a health assessment tool, the Congregational Health Index (CHI). The CHI helps faith communities examine their environments to see what changes they can make to their policies, practices, building and property use, and their congregation’s culture and level of knowledge about wellness. The goal is to shift the environment so that healthy eating and physical activity choices become the easy choices for all in the congregational setting. The tool includes a guide for congregations to create an action plan for making improvements.

A total of eight faith communities in Portland and Corvallis have served as pilot sites, testing the CHI, and informing EMO and CHP about ways to improve the tool. Many thanks to Corvallis pilot congregations St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Iglesia Cuadrangular Emmanuel and Southside Community Church, and Portland pilot congregations St. Charles Catholic Church, Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Muslim Community Center and Maranatha Church of God for their hard work and invaluable input!

The Congregational Health Index will soon be ready to share with other congregations through a new Web site scheduled to launch in June. The site will also provide

Congregations to create healthy environments

A grant from Providence Health & Service’s Partners in Health Program will support the next phase of work for EMO’s Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership (IFFP) and Congregational Wellness work in Portland, Corvallis and statewide.

The grant will support congregations in expanding access to healthy food and safe physical activity for low-income communities. Goals and activities under the grant are to:

- Increase access to affordable, fresh food by partnering with local farmers and enabling consumers to use SNAP (food stamps) cards and WIC and Senior Farmers’ Market coupons to pay for items.
- Reach out to clergy and new congregations to share the Congregational Health Index (CHI) and other resources.
- Design a small grants program to be launched in fall 2010 to help congregations using the CHI bring action plans to life with improvements to their policies and practices or buildings and grounds, such as installing an active play area, bike rack or vegetable garden.
- Assist with two congregation-based food gardens.

For more information and to participate, contact Laura Raymond at (503) 221-1054, ext. 216, or lraymond@emoregon.org.

faith communities with ideas for putting their wellness goals into action, links to related community and national resources, words of inspiration from a variety of faith traditions, and tips on advocating for healthy environments. Congregations that complete a CHI assessment and create an action plan are eligible to apply for mini grants to implement improvements. Applications will be accepted in Fall of 2010 and awarded in Winter 2011; the call for proposals will be posted at www.emoregon.org.

4 Community Ministries

EMO's Food Services plants edible garden at Patton Home

Ever wonder what's cookin' at the Patton Home kitchen, home of EMO's Food Services and Delizioso Catering? If you've sampled the fare at one of our Community Ministries programs, an EMO meeting or a community event, you'll appreciate the gratitude expressed by our customers for the fresh and nutritious low-cost meals we serve. Students at the Portland International Community School, Nickerson School and Youth Progress frequently tell us they come to school for the food and stay for the education.

Every day, we prepare over 185 meals in our kitchen, including catering service, hot lunches for three alternative schools and the HIV Day Center, meals for Patton Home residents, and frozen entrees for our home-bound Daily Bread Express recipients. Serving up 925 meals per week on average requires a lot of groceries. Some we buy, some we get through donations and some we grow.

Thanks to the generous assistance of Ramsey Landscaping (503-258-7904) and salvaged materials from the Rebuilding Center, roughly 250 square-feet of underutilized land outside

the Patton Home kitchen has been transformed into a raised-bed vegetable garden, complete with a cold frame for seedlings. It doesn't get more local than that!

As you read this, a cornucopia of lettuces, tomatoes, peppers, onions, squash, kale, beans, peas, zucchini, berries and edible flowers are emerging from our fertile soil. We also hope to glean surplus from nearby community gardens.

In addition to supplying our kitchen with the freshest possible produce at the lowest cost, the garden can be used to educate students and community members about healthy and sustainable food practices.

While many food service programs operate with a box cutter and a can opener, we cook the old-fashioned way with a knife, cutting board, and hearty dash of love and care. We also compost and recycle our waste. While our process is more labor intensive, there is no doubt the resulting meals are more appetizing, nutritious and satisfying. As Alice Waters declared in her book *Edible Schoolyard*, "Good food is a right, not a privilege." Growing our own produce and employing volunteers will



Photo credit: Dirk Peterson

Garden beds and trellis outside the Patton Home kitchen are ready for planting. The fresh produce grown in the garden will be used for nutritious, low-cost meals prepared by the Food Services staff.

help us keep our meals affordable and our carbon footprint small.

If you want to combat hunger and promote food sovereignty in your community, please consider volunteering in either the Patton Home kitchen or garden. It's great fun, and we'd appreciate the help! To learn more, call Russ Miller or Dirk Peterson at the Patton Home kitchen, (503) 335-1116.

New City Initiative engages faith community in ending homelessness

On Saturday, April 24, Dr. Susan Holman and C. Paul Schroeder will be the featured speakers for the opening and orientation of the "New City Initiative."

The New City Initiative is an exciting new partnership between Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and JOIN (www.joinpdx.com), a Portland-area nonprofit supporting people in their efforts to end their homelessness. The aim of the Initiative is to engage faith communities in ending homelessness.

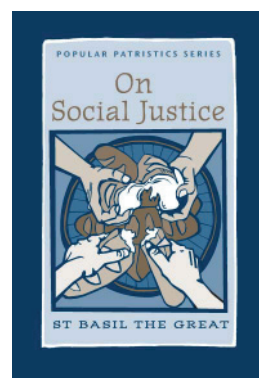
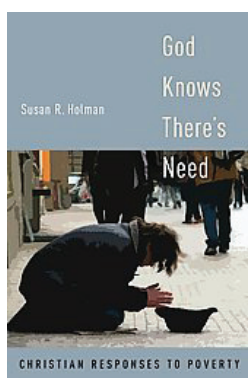
The orientation launches an intensive six-week course designed for congregations interested in creating community with people experiencing and transitioning out of homelessness. The goal of the project is that each participating congregation will envision and create its own unique response to the crisis of homelessness, a response tailored to the "genius" of that particular congregation. In small group settings, participants in the project will:

- Reflect on communal practices such as "compassionate seeing" and "intentional welcoming."
- Participate in a day-long immersion into life on the street.
- Invite people who have experienced homelessness to tell their own stories.
- Imagine a new kind of community in which everyone has something to give as well as something to receive.

The New City Initiative orientation will take place at Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, 1535 NE 17th Ave., Portland, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; ample parking is available and lunch will be provided.

About the speakers

Dr. Susan Holman will be speaking on the theme, "Responding to Poverty: Why Learn from the Early Church?" She is the author of *God Knows There's Need: Christian Responses*



to Poverty and *The Hungry Are Dying: Beggars and Bishops in Roman Cappadocia* (both from Oxford University Press), and editor of *Wealth and Poverty in Early Church and Society* (BakerAcademic, 2008).

Holman is a scholar and writer with dual training in public health nutrition and the religious history of responses to poverty as they relate to human rights. She received her education from Tufts University Graduate School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Harvard Divinity School and Brown University. She serves on the Board of the Stephen and Catherine Pappas Patristic Institute at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological School in Brookline, Mass.

Holman currently works as an academic writer and editor at the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, where she also serves as managing editor for *Health and Human Rights: An International Journal* and is a consultant in the intersection of public health and the history of religion.

C. Paul Schroeder is the coordinator of the New City Initiative. He will be presenting a workshop on "Building the New City," the new study guide for the six-week course in communal practices. He is the author of *On Social Justice: St. Basil the Great*. Schroeder is a board member of EMO and currently serves as Faith-Based Services coordinator for JOIN.

Schroeder is the former pastor of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Portland, where he founded CUSINA (Culinary Utensils, Skills, Information and Nutrition Alliance)—a successful four-year program offering Greek cooking classes to people transitioning out of homelessness. In 2009, Schroeder was inspired to launch the New City Initiative, seeking to bring together his research on Basil of Caesarea and his practical experience with CUSINA in order to energize a movement of faith communities engaged in ending homelessness.

For more information on how your congregation or small group can participate in the New City Initiative, contact C. Paul Schroeder at newcityinitiative@gmail.com, or (503) 913-7853.

What can I do about hunger?

So often the problems of the world seem overwhelming. Below is an inspiring note from the grandmother of a young person who is taking action to tackle the issue of hunger in our community.

"Just wanted to share with you a touching story about my granddaughter. Lately, she has been very concerned about people who don't have money to buy food. So, all on her own, with absolutely no input from her family, she came up with the idea to sell hot chocolate to raise money for those in need. So, ... Keri and Katelyn manned the table ... and raised \$186.75 (plus a few cans of food) for [EMO's] Northeast Emergency Food Program! We are so proud of her."

EMO welcomes new leadership to Community Ministries

Caroline van der Harten has joined the SOAR Immigration/Legal Services team as the new managing attorney.



Caroline was born in the Netherlands and came to the United States

as a young child with her Dutch father and American mother. She experienced firsthand how difficult it was for her parents and grandparents to navigate the immigration legal system and developed an interest in immigrant issues from a young age.

In law school, Caroline focused her studies and work experience on immigration legal topics. She interned for United States Senator Harry Reid as an immigration caseworker, and she participated in an immigration legal clinic representing victims of human trafficking and domestic violence.

Most recently, Caroline worked in Seattle as an Americorps immigration attorney with Lutheran Community Services NW. She served primarily low income refugees and immigrants and assisted them with obtaining legal permanent residency, citizenship and reuniting them with their family members. Eager to continue the work that she is so passionate about, Caroline joined SOAR and looks forward to advocating for Portland's immigrant community.

Aysmara Grey-Morales was hired for a new grant-funded position—Self Sufficiency coordinator for the Cuban Haitian Assistance Program at SOAR Immigration/Legal Services. As an immigrant from Cuba, she is highly motivated to help other immigrants assimilate to the United States. In Cuba, Aysmara worked as a church pastor and then practiced as a dentist for seven years. In 2003, she won the visa lottery to come to the United States, but she was prevented by the Cuban government from coming until 2008.

Aysmara says that at first transitioning to American life was rather difficult because she had trouble understanding the laws, language and culture of the United States. She even considered returning to Cuba because it was so difficult. But she remained positive, and found her first job with IRCO as an instructional assistant, where she had the opportunity to encourage, advocate and provide personal testimony of how to be independent to newly arriving Cubans.



Aysmara's passion for working with immigrants comes from her desire to share her personal experience, prevent others from experiencing the suffering she encountered as a new immigrant, and help people like herself adapt to Portland and become successful. Her favorite quote from the Bible is, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves," Ecclesiastes 4:12.

Lindsay Ross-Hunt, the new program manager at the HIV Day Center, comes to EMO after working in a multi-service family resource center in Washington County.



Much of her work has centered around advocacy and resource provision in underserved communities and/or populations. She has worn many hats: ESL teacher, social worker, case manager, home visitor, diversity trainer, program manager, community organizer, board member, events coordinator, church speaker, guitar player and knitter, to name a few.

Lindsay is passionate about living in, learning from and serving in the community. She says, "I recall as a young person in one of EMO's member congregations [Moreland Presbyterian], hearing about the work that EMO was doing and being compelled by the vision of standing together as diverse communities of faith to serve those in need and advocate for a more just world."

Lindsay is excited to have the opportunity to serve at the HIV Day Center, which she says "is a truly remarkable community of passion, inspiration, brokenness and redemption, where there is never a dull moment to be had!" She enjoys welcoming new folks and talking about the great things happening at the HIV Day Center. Should you like to introduce yourself, Lindsay can be reached at (503) 460-3822 or hivcenter@emoregon.org.

April 29: Dine out, fight AIDS



Join EMO's HIV Services on Thursday, April 29, 2010, for Portland's second annual "Dining Out for Life."

The event, which also takes place in other cities around the country, benefits EMO's HIV Services and the Partnership Project locally. Dine out at one of the participating restaurants and a percentage of your bill will go directly to our programs serving some of the most vulnerable in our community.

Last year, participating restaurants for "Dining Out for Life" donated 30 percent of their proceeds to both programs, totaling nearly \$7,600. Diners also had the opportunity to give personal donations that night, raising an additional \$2,400.

We have some great restaurants lined up this year including (but not limited to) Il Piatto, ¿Por Que No? (Hawthorne), Lincoln Restaurant and Pazzo—and more restaurants are signing on daily.

For more information and a full restaurant listing, visit www.diningoutforlife.com/portland, or call Lindsay Ross-Hunt at (503) 460-3822.

Healthy Kids project aims to provide health care for 80,000 uninsured children in Oregon

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon recently received a grant from the State of Oregon to conduct outreach for the Oregon Health Plan's Healthy Kids program through faith communities around the state and within several EMO Community Ministry programs.

Healthy Kids sounds great, but what is it? Last year the Oregon Legislature expanded the Oregon Health Plan and added a KidsConnect option to allow 80,000 uninsured children around the state access to health care for free or at a very low cost. Part of this effort is targeted outreach to help families understand and apply for the Healthy Kids program. EMO's role is to work with faith communities and direct service programs to make that happen.

Families with household income below 300 percent of the poverty level—about \$66,000 a year for a family of four—are eligible, and the coverage includes medical, dental and vision care, as well as regular checkups, prescription medicines and mental health services. Children must be age 18 or younger and a legal resident of Oregon.

"I can't do it alone, so I will be recruiting church staff and volunteers to help spread the word," said Andrew Plambeck, EMO's Healthy Kids outreach project coordinator.



Andrew Plambeck, Healthy Kids outreach project coordinator, will work with faith communities and direct service programs throughout Oregon in an effort to sign up uninsured children on the program.

Your congregation can sign up as a Certified Application Assistance Organization to help families in your area apply for the program. For each family that applies with a particular organization, the congregation or organization will receive a \$50 incentive from the state.

If you are interested in becoming a Certified Application Assistance Organization or would like more information about the Healthy Kids project, contact Andrew Plambeck at (503) 221-1054, ext. 211, or aplambeck@emoregon.org.

Photo credit: Michelle Bush

6 Public Policy Advocacy

New resource available: Policy guide on faith and health reform to inform congregations and inspire action

The Oregon Interfaith Health Justice Campaign (OIHJC)—a joint project of EMO with the Archimedes Movement and Oregon Action—has released a guide to health policy for use by Oregon's diverse faith communities.

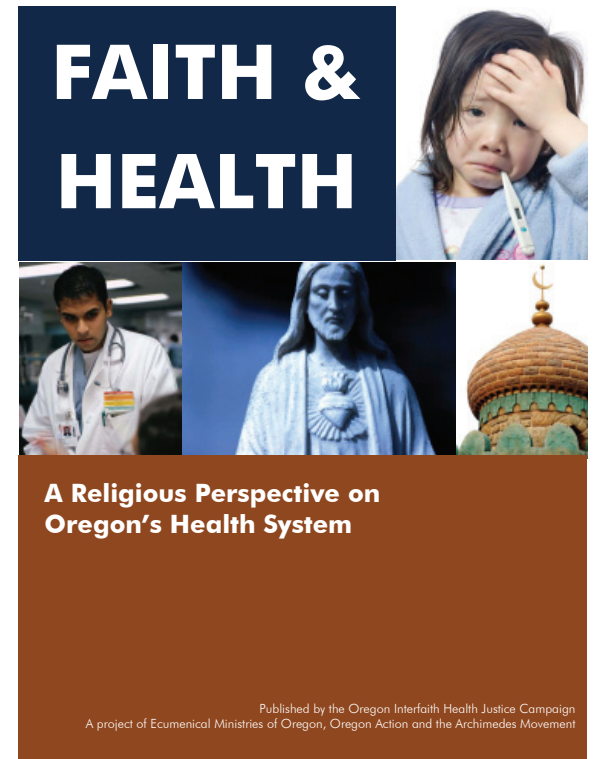
Titled *Faith & Health: A Religious Perspective on Oregon's Health System*, the guide is part of a continuing effort to build the capacity of Oregon's faith communities to advocate for health care reform that provides access to care for everyone in Oregon and the nation. While discussions of health care reform in the media are often reduced to partisan sound bites, the goal of *Faith & Health* is to help congregations and individuals gain perspective on the issue through clear, accurate information and helpful context and history.

The guide helps readers to connect their deeply held religious convictions with this important and timely issue. It provides perspectives from a variety of religious traditions and denominations and is designed to be flexibly used as a resource for congregations. Discussion questions and ideas for action lend the guide to effective use in small group, class or workshop settings. The guide is separated into

chapters that link health policy to faith values, explaining the basic elements of the current health system, exploring the major contours of recent health reform legislation, and suggesting how faith communities can help to build a more healthy future for Oregon and the nation. It includes a helpful directory of Web resources and an appendix of material that can be used and adapted for worship services, vigils, or other congregational or interreligious activity around health reform.

The Oregon Interfaith Health Justice Campaign hopes that the guide will spark conversation and motivate congregations to pursue justice in health care. EMO supports the efforts of congregations in the area of health justice advocacy by sponsoring forums and providing action alerts at important moments for health care advocacy.

The "Faith & Health" guide is available as a free PDF download at www.emoregon.org/healthcare_reform.php. For more information on the guide or other OIHJC events and resources, contact Kevin Finney at (503) 221-1054, ext. 204, or kfinney@emoregon.org.



The *Faith & Health* guide is available as a free PDF download on EMO's Web site at www.emoregon.org/healthcare_reform.php.

Summit to explore solutions for homeless children & families

The Oregon Interfaith Summit on Homeless Children and Families is set for Thursday, June 24, 2010, at First United Methodist Church of Salem. The one-day event focuses on how congregations can better respond to the increasing numbers of homeless families and children in Oregon, and it will also explore policy advocacy needed to prevent and reduce family homelessness and support the education of homeless children.

The impetus for this summit is rooted in the report released last fall by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo. The report stated that there were over 18,000 homeless children in Oregon public schools during the 2008-09 school year. The number of students who were homeless for part or all of that academic year was up 14 percent from the year before and up 122 percent since the 2003-04 school year. In addition, Oregon was ranked first in the nation for having the highest percentage of its population that was homeless.

In response to these and other troubling statistics, the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Board of Directors approved the convening of the *Interfaith Summit* to address the increasing needs of homeless children and families, with the ultimate goal of reversing the trends.

The summit will focus on three key areas. First, it will explore ways congregations, religious networks and faith-based nonprofits are already responding to childhood and family homelessness throughout the state. Some congregations, for example, have come together across denominational and religious affiliations to work together to provide shelter in congregational settings for homeless families using a model known as the Interfaith Hospitality Network. In other cases, religious communities partner with nonprofit

organizations that provide professional knowledge and full-time staff support to assist congregations in providing homeless services. This can be particularly helpful in situations where congregations have had limited experience dealing with the complex issues involved in serving a diverse group of homeless families or individuals. Other parishes, while providing emergency food services, are exploring ways to deepen their relationships with the homeless children and families they interact with in their communities with the goal to create a true sense of mutual ministry, where people are treated with dignity and respect.

The summit will provide a unique opportunity for faith leaders who are already providing services to the homeless to brainstorm together and share ideas about what is working in their programs, and where they are facing challenges they have not yet overcome. Additionally, congregations who are not currently serving the homeless will be able to learn about a variety of approaches they might use in responding to this growing crisis.

A second focus of the summit will be support for educational opportunities for homeless children and youth in local communities. Currently, federal funding enables most school districts in Oregon to have a part-time or full-time liaison to support educational and other services for students who are homeless. While some larger school districts devote more than one staff person to this task, all of them have a need for volunteer assistance and support. The homeless education liaison is responsible for outreach to homeless children and youth to make sure they are enrolled and ensuring that schools are providing children with the emotional and academic support they need to succeed in school, despite the many

challenges presented by their transient living situation.

An important part of the summit will be detailing how faith communities can be appropriate partners with school districts in helping to advocate for and provide volunteer support to homeless students at the school district level and in individual schools.

A third focus is advocacy on behalf of homeless families and children. Issues to be explored include the role faith communities can play during the 2011 Session of the Oregon Legislature to increase funding levels for emergency rental assistance (to prevent family homelessness), shelters and transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing for those families that may need additional help with issues of addiction, alcoholism or mental illness. Additionally, the summit will explore how to best support homeless education programs, including continued state and national level funding for outreach and support staff at both the state and national levels.

The Interfaith Summit on Homeless Children and Families will provide an important collaborative learning and training opportunity that will bring together people of faith and the broader community, including staff from nonprofit agencies, educational leaders and other public officials and agency representatives who serve homeless children and families.

We hope you will plan to be with us on June 24. Cosponsors for the summit are being sought. If your congregation, denomination or nonprofit organization would like to be a cosponsor, please download a sponsorship form at www.emoregon.org. If you would like to be involved in further summit planning, contact Kevin Finney at (503) 221-1054, ext. 204, or kfinney@emoregon.org.

Using the power of microcredit to overcome global poverty

By Terry Provance, Oikocredit executive director

Before she received her first loan, Corazon Endonela from the Philippines would take her four children into downtown Manila. There she would spread them out at strategic corners where they would spend all day begging, earning less than \$2 each day. With her meager resources, she would feed her family one daily meal—until she heard from a woman friend about microcredit.

Though illiterate and having never handled money before, Corzaon walked into a small village microcredit bank funded by Oikocredit. There she explained to a loan officer what she thought she could do with a loan and conducted the largest financial transaction in her life. She borrowed \$35, even though she had no collateral. Oikocredit took a risk by loaning to a poor person, one with creativity and industry.

She bought a used sewing machine and materials. She made nice products and, instead of fanning out her children to beg, she put down a cloth in Manila, put out her wears, and passers-by bought her products. She had income and a job. Now her kids could eat twice each day, she could improve her home and save money for her children to go to public school. She felt better about herself and paid off her loan. And, she borrowed another \$100 so that she could buy more sewing machines to employ her two sisters and a neighbor—four poor women working for their income and overcoming the injustice of poverty. Such is the good news about microcredit, but the need for making loans is tremendous.

Of the world's 6.7 billion people, 3.4 billion live on less than \$2 per day and 1.4 billion live on less than \$1. Yet, all people are created in God's image and thus are sacred. Such economic injustice and enslaving poverty are an intolerable violation of God's good creation and a challenge to people of faith who have considerable resources.

Oikocredit is an international community development financial institution that makes low-interest loans to poor people through cooperatives and microcredit banks. Through credit to the poor who have skills and creativity,

poverty can be overcome and dignity restored. Today, Oikocredit provides loans in 71 countries with its \$635,000,000.

Oikocredit receives its capital from socially responsible investments, mainly from religious constituencies. In its 35 years after being founded by the World Council of Churches, all investors have received interest and full principal upon redemption. No one has lost a dollar because the poor who are empowered with credit are very good at paying their loans, because their lives have changed through the power of loans. Credit is much more reliable and empowering than donations, and poor people maintain their economic participation by repaying.

On March 4 in Portland, EMO hosted two microcredit presentations—one at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and one at the Interchurch Center—for a diverse group of faith leaders. Those in attendance included the Rev. Aleida Jernigan of the Presbytery of the Cascades, who explained why they invest with Oikocredit, "Not only is the Presbytery meeting our investment needs, we are also investing in the lives of individuals and their communities by helping lift them out of poverty."

You, your relatives and friends, members of your church and your congregation can also help reduce global poverty by supporting Oikocredit and its mission to provide loans. Gandhi said poverty is the worst form of violence. And when Mohammad Yunus won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for establishing the first microcredit credit bank in Bangladesh, he stated that poverty is the absence of all human rights. You can help prevent the violence and indignity of poverty by investing in Oikocredit. You will receive annual interest as well as your full principal returned upon redemption.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is an investor in Oikocredit, as are several local churches, individuals and judicatories in Oregon. We encourage you to learn more about Oikocredit through www.oikocredit.org/salusa and to request investment documents from usa@oikocredit.org.

The Pew Charitable Trusts in Philadelphia—a position he held for seven years. Before joining the Trusts, he was a professor of political science for more than 12 years, teaching courses in international relations, Latin American politics, and religion and public policy. After studying at the University of Memphis (B.A.) and Villanova University (M.A.), he took his Ph.D. in political science at the University of Chicago.

Among Lugo's published works are several edited volumes, including *Religion, Public Life and the American Polity* and *Sovereignty at the Crossroads? Morality and International Politics in the Post-Cold War Era*. A native of Cuba, he is listed in *Who's Who Among Hispanic Americans*.

More details about the forum, including registration, are available on EMO's Web site at www.emoregon.org. For further information, contact Jan Elfers at (503) 221-1054, ext. 208, or jelfers@emoregon.org.



Photo credit: TSPI (Tulay sa Pagunlad Development Corp)

Corazon Endonela from the Philippines took out a \$35 loan from a microcredit bank funded by Oikocredit to start her own business.

2010 Collins Lecture set for Thursday, Nov. 18

Save the date for the 2010 Collins Lecture, "Neighborhoods of Diversity: Welcoming the Stranger in Our Midst," with keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. S. Wesley Ariarajah, a Methodist minister and professor of Ecumenical Theology at Drew University School of Theology.

John Day UMC to hold "Day of Remembrance"

John Day United Methodist Church (UMC) will hold a Day of Remembrance service on April 21, in honor of Yom HaShoah, the international day of remembrance for victims of the Holocaust. This will be the first year the church has held such a service, which will be a witness against the Aryan Nation who were interested in Grant County in eastern Oregon as a new home.

Bishop Robert Hoshibata of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the UMC will be speaking, either in person or by video. The service will be held at 6:30 p.m. at John Day UMC, 126 NW Canton St.

The pastor of John Day UMC, the Rev. Marcie Collins, envisions the first half of the ceremony as a remembrance of the holocaust and other acts of hate that have hurt people all over the world. The second half will be a time to recommit to living a different way, Collins said, living the image of the Kingdom of God.

People of all faiths and no faith are equally welcome to join the service, Collins said, adding, "We hope to construct a place where all can feel comfortable."

"There is a movement in our world," Collins said, "that wants to say the Holocaust never happened. But when we remember, we lessen the likelihood of it happening again. If we are convinced it didn't happen, there is nothing standing in the way of it happening again. Ignorance is not bliss."

Rev. Collins encourages people to do things at home "to remember it happened, that it still is happening, and that we are the ones who can stop it."

Fostering hospitality

Continued from page 1

leaders. Coffee and lunch are included in the registration fee of \$20.

Lugo has been the director of the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life since 2004. The Pew Forum is non-partisan think tank that conducts surveys, demographic analyses, and other social science research on important aspects of religion and public life in the United States and around the world. They seek to promote a deeper understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs by delivering timely, impartial information to national opinion leaders, including government officials and journalists. Their research focuses on religion in four key areas: politics, law, domestic policy and world affairs.

Prior to joining the Pew Forum, Lugo served as the director of the Religion program at

8 Development & Fundraising

EMO celebrates recent grants & gifts

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Board of Directors and staff extend their appreciation to those who have supported EMO's ministries. The following is a partial list of foundation and community support received by EMO since the *Voice* winter issue.

Donor (Fund)	Program
Black United Fund of Oregon Bloomfield Family Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program Portland International Community School
Boeing Employees Good Neighbor Fund of Portland	NE Emergency Food Program
Cascade AIDS Project, Inc. Central Presbyterian Church Collins Foundation	HIV Services Annual Fund Annual Fund; Theological Education & Dialogue
Community Health Partnership Ecotrust Fremont United Methodist Church Harris Family Foundation Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Oregon	HIV Services Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns NE Emergency Food Program NE Emergency Food Program NE Emergency Food Program HIV Services
Irwin Foundation Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation Juan Young Trust	NE Emergency Food Program Annual Fund Portland International Community School
Kaiser Foundation Lamb Foundation Northwest Health Foundation Oregon Community Foundation Pride Foundation Providence Health & Services	Annual Fund NE Emergency Food Program Public Policy Advocacy HIV Services HIV Services Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Verizon Wireless	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns Russian Oregon Social Services

Honor & memorial gifts (Nov-Dec)

In honor of Kristin E. Baack
Eric J. Baack

In honor of Lowen Berman
Jennifer Bransfield

In honor of Gwen Burns
Elmer Frimoth

In honor of John & Ann Cotton
Mark F. Cotton

*In honor of the Delta Sigma Theta
Sorority—Aletha Chavis; Patricia
Dickerson; Marian Gilmore; Velma
Johnson; Sherra Neal; Karis Stoudamire-
Phillips; Sharon White*

In honor of Frank Drischell
Sophia Kremidas

In honor of Jay Elbrecht
Coral Mallow

In honor of Mark Goldsby
Heather Munro

In honor of Robert Knapp
Carolyn Knapp

In honor of David A. Leslie
Robert Leslie;
St. James Lutheran Church

In honor of Nichole & Kamil Lopez
Jacquelyn T. Dvorak

In honor of Lar Matson
Lynne M. Hill

In honor of Letty F. Owings
Thomas McGranahan

In honor of Eugene Ross
Mary Sue Evers

In honor of Don Shields' birthday
Sally A. Needham

*In honor of Strength for the Journey
Camp—Lisa Jean Hoefner*

In honor of Michael J. Weedall
Susan Weedall

In memory of Marjorie S. Abramovitz
Marshall Goldberg

In memory of Newton Beardwood
Sue N. Beardwood

In memory of Louis Boston
Clariner M. Boston

In memory of Dean Chambers
Shelley J. Bailey

In memory of Lorene Gainer
Jane R. Tatreau

In memory of Phyllis Gillett
Mary G. Evans

In memory of Casey Kizziah
Christopher Craun

*In memory of Bill & Ruth Looney,
their memory of generosity lives on*
Shawn S. Looney

In memory of Mattie
Steven K. Green

In memory of David McKay
Joann Davich

In memory of Herbert E. Richards
Lois M. Richards

In memory of Percy Robinson
John M. Sutton

In memory of Judy Rogers
Bruce Rogers

In memory of Jeff Smith
Rachel Carlson

In memory of Leo Sorensen
Eileen A. Sorensen

In memory of Eileen H. Starrett
Carla G. Starrett-Bigg

In memory of Gilbert Webb
Mike S. MacVeigh

In memory of Davis Wilson
Ben Brown

In memory of Angeline Withers
Gary A. Withers

EMO Annual Celebration

Continued from page 1

Bank, Goplen has also served as president of the Oregon Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster and spearheaded many other vital initiatives.

Albina Ministerial Alliance (AMA) will be honored with the "Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award" for outstanding commitment to humanitarian responsibility that has significantly enhanced the quality of life for all. With its long and storied history of seeking social and economic justice in Portland and the state of Oregon, AMA draws from a deep well of faith to take the lead in forming broad-based coalitions for the community good. Most recently, AMA was catalyst of a coalition to bring about better working relations between the Portland Police Department and the community they serve.

The "Two Pauls Award"—in recognition of outstanding work in the ecumenical spirit of dialogue, service and relations—will be presented to the *John Day Blue Mountain Eagle* in honor of the newspaper's leadership in peaceful and determined opposition to the establishment of a headquarters for the Aryan Nations in Grant County. The Blue Mountain Eagle acted as the first catalyst to a community-wide movement that reflects the highest ideals of our faiths.

"Ecumenical Service Awards"—given in recognition of special achievements in ecumenical community ministries in Oregon—will be presented to *Hood River Valley Christian Church* and the *Louis Palau Association's "Season of Service."*

Join us!

Individual tickets are \$60 each; tables seating 10 are \$600. For reservations, download a Response Card at www.emoregon.org or call the EMO office at (503) 221-1054. A reception and silent auction begin at 5 p.m.; dinner and awards program begin at 6:30 p.m.

We welcome the donation of silent auction items; all proceeds will support EMO and its programs. Donate a weekend at a vacation home, tickets to a show, travel miles or request a gift certificate from your favorite service business, restaurant or shop.

For more information about the event, including volunteering, sponsorship and auction item donations, please contact Carla Starrett-Bigg or Chris Siems at (503) 221-1054.

Upcoming EMO events

April 17
Al-Andalus Ensemble: Seeds of Peace. 8 p.m. at Winningstad Theatre, 1111 SW Broadway, Portland. Dynamically fusing graceful music with contemporary flamenco dance, "Seeds of Peace" unifies the world's music cultures, marrying East and West, as well as Classical and World Music genres. Tickets are \$40-\$60. Ticket Hotline: (503) 248-0557, www.tojt.com/family_series.html. For more information: music@andalus.com, (503) 230-2379. EMO is cosponsor of the event.

April 29
Dining Out for Life. At various restaurants in the Portland metro area. *See page 5 for details or visit www.diningoutforlife.com/portland.*

May 11
Fostering Hospitality in the 21st Century Church. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. *See page 1 for more details.*

May 16
Farms Feed Everyone Benefit Dinner for the Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership. 6 to 8 p.m. at the Church of the Good Samaritan,

333 NW 35th St., Corvallis. Mark your calendars for an evening of local fare, music and community. To register, please call (541) 757-1988, ext. 307, or e-mail thatsmyfarmer@gmail.com.

May 25
EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner. 5 p.m. reception & silent auction, and 6:30 p.m. dinner & awards program, at the Portland Hilton, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. *See page 1 for more details.*

June 17
From Faith Kitchens to Community Kitchens. 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Corvallis First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe Ave., Corvallis. Join us for a gathering on transitioning from faith kitchens to community kitchens from "Jammin' for the Hungry" coordinator Sara Power and Community Kitchen coordinator Rebecka Weinstein, who will lead a workshop on radical hospitality in the kitchen: how to welcome low-income neighbors for cooking classes, food preservation and micro-enterprise. To register, call (541) 757-1988, ext. 307, or e-mail rweinsteiger@emoregon.org.