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Insert:
2012 EMO
Annual Report

“Charter of Compassion” founder Karen Armstrong announced as 2014 Collins Lecturer

As part of the ongoing celebration of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s 40th Anniversary, the Collins Lecture will be delivered by internationally known author, comparative religion scholar, former Roman Catholic religious sister and “Charter of Compassion” founder Karen Armstrong. The lecture will be held on March 6, 2014, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland.

Armstrong has been called “a prominent and prolific religious historian” and described as “arguably the most lucid, wide-ranging and consistently interesting religion writer today.”

In 1984, Armstrong

was commissioned to write and present a British TV documentary on the life of St. Paul, *The First Christian*—a project that involved traveling to the Holy Land to retrace the steps of the saint. Armstrong described this visit as a “breakthrough experience” that defied her prior assumptions. It was also the inspiration for virtually all her subsequent work, which focuses on commonalities of the major religions, such as the importance of compassion and the Golden Rule.

Armstrong first rose to prominence in 1993 with her book *A History of God: The*

4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. She traces the evolution of the three major monotheistic traditions from their beginnings in the Middle East up to the present day. Armstrong’s *The Great Transformation: The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions* (2006) continues this theme and examines the emergence and codification of the world’s great religions during the so-called Axial age—identified by Karl Jaspers to describe the period from 800 to 200 BC, during which similar revolutionary thinking appeared in Persia, India, China and the Occident.

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Photo credit: Jerry Bauer

The 2014 Collins Lecture will feature Karen Armstrong—internationally known author, comparative religion scholar, former Roman Catholic religious sister and “Charter of Compassion” founder.

Growing food justice in Rockwood

Community food assessment
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership (IFFP) is wrapping up a grassroots community food assessment in Gresham’s Rockwood neighborhood. Considered a “food desert”—typically an area in the industrialized world where healthy, affordable food is difficult to obtain—Rockwood has a poverty rate of 26 percent and limited access to supermarkets and other sources of healthy food, as well as transportation challenges.

The goal of the community food assessment is to engage

neighbors in a process of collectively examining food-related issues and community assets in order to prompt changes and build food security. The assessment was led by the Neighborhood Assessment Team, comprised of eight Rockwood residents of different cultural backgrounds. The results of the assessment were shared at three community forums held in April, June and July.

Since the fall of 2012, the Neighborhood Assessment Team has been conducting surveys and focus groups in Rockwood to determine the needs of the community.

Results from the surveys show that over 43 percent of survey respondents cite transportation as a challenge to getting groceries. With 76 percent of respondents doing their main grocery shopping at Winco in Portland (approximately five miles from Rockwood) because of affordable prices, most Rockwood residents’ food dollars do not economically benefit their own community.

The new food resources that Rockwood respondents most want in their neighborhood are (in order of preference):

- 1) farmers markets
- 2) grocery stores
- 3) community gardens

Next steps toward food justice

This information is only the beginning in terms of implementing necessary changes around food equity in Rockwood. Concerns about food exist for many individuals in the neighborhood, and they can be addressed in an effective way when residents and organizations come together to create a strong, united voice around food equity and

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The future is before us

Last month, the nation celebrated the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. An anniversary such as this one is an important time to remember the past and to prepare for the future. This anniversary reminds us that, while there has been much progress on the racial equity front in this country, there is still a lot of heavy lifting needed to ensure that we arrive at the point where indeed all people are treated with respect and dignity.



David Leslie

Closer to home, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) is soon to celebrate an important anniversary. In December 1973, EMO received its nonprofit corporate charter from the state of Oregon, and the merger of the Oregon Council of Churches and Portland Council of Churches was now complete.

In light of this momentous occasion 40 years ago, we will have a number of events and gatherings throughout 2014 to celebrate this important milestone and renew our energy for the journey ahead.

As I have read archival materials and listened to people talk about their experiences with EMO, I have come to deepen my understanding of just how important EMO is to the church and broader society in Oregon. Driven by the call from God to be engaged in a mission of healing, and standing for and with those on the margins of society, there is hardly an issue of importance that EMO has not been engaged in over its first 40 years.

In the 1970's, addressing the needs of Vietnam War refugees, living fully into new opportunities for ecumenism afforded by Vatican II, and supporting federal recognition of tribes in Oregon were on our agenda.

In the 1980's, the farm crisis, rural development, and issues related to the proliferation of the nuclear weapons buildup were of critical concern.

In the 1990's, the increase in the number of cases of HIV/AIDS, new opportunities for peace in the Middle East, and opposition to ballot initiatives that discriminated against gays and lesbians were places where the faith community and its allies came together in common cause.

In the new century—starting in earnest on Sept. 11, 2001—enhanced interfaith outreach, charting the course between the “war on terror” and protection of human rights, and deepening program development in support of environmental sustainability characterized much of our commitments in the 2000's.

And moving into the early part of the current decade, we are focused on living equitably into Oregon's increasing demographic diversity, expanding interfaith relations, and building the new leadership team that will continue to keep the ecumenical movement in Oregon dynamically alive, well into the 21st century.

Central to the history of EMO and its predecessor organizations are the commitment and desire to live into the Scriptural call to unity. Whether it is Protestant-Catholic living room dialogues that happened in the 1960's and

1970's, or more contemporary conversations between the “Abrahamic faiths” (Jewish, Christian, Muslim), learning about Buddhist theology or experiencing Native American spirituality, EMO is at the forefront of building bridges both within the church and between faith communities.

At the core of this ministry and witness is Jesus' prayer “that they all may be one,” rooted in the Psalmist's testimony that “it is indeed good” when people live in unity. We understand well the importance of respectful relationships and friendships, and the transformation that can happen when faith communities work together on the issues of the day in shared and mutually supported ways.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's 40th anniversary celebration will also give us the opportunity to lift up the people who ensure that EMO is truly a community organization. At the end of the day, it is the people who make the organization and movement great, including those who have served in leadership positions, donors, volunteers and the hundreds of thousands of people throughout the years who entrust their health and well-being with us and allow us to serve them through our ministries and program services.

As we look to the future, we are redoubling our outreach and recruitment efforts, for tomorrow's ecumenical movement is dependent on the talents and gifts that new people and communities will bring to EMO during the next 40 years and beyond. Finding tomorrow's ecumenical leaders is today's urgent task.

So I invite you to join in next year's celebrations. Consider using this anniversary to lift up those who have blazed the trail and on whose shoulders we stand today, and to renew your own energy to make real peace, justice, and unity in places where war, injustice and divisions are all too prevalent.

And on the eve of next year's anniversary, let us boldly toast, “With God's help, here's to 40 more years of faithful service and witness!”

Joanne Van Ness Menashe named leader of Oregon Area Jewish Committee

The Board of Directors of Oregon Area Jewish Committee (OAJC) announced that Joanne Van Ness Menashe has been named executive director effective Sept 3, 2013.

Van Ness Menashe brings a history of community leadership in several mission-driven organizations, where for over two decades she successfully brought together multiple facets of the community. She has an extensive background in leadership positions with the Oregon Ballet Theatre, Oregon Humanities, Nonprofit Association of Oregon, Oregon Symphony, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Downtown Corvallis Association.

Van Ness Menashe has received numerous community awards including Commendation by Governor Barbara Roberts; First Citizen Award, Corvallis, Ore.; and Outstanding Oregonian of the '90's Nominee. She currently serves on the board of directors for Congregation Beth Israel and Cedar Sinai Park, and she is vice president of Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel.

“I am delighted that Joanne was unanimously voted in as the OAJC's new executive director!” said Elise Brickner-Schulz, OAJC president. “Joanne brings years of experience in development, management and board relations, and we couldn't be happier with our decision to hire her. She is passionate and an effective advocate for causes that positively impact people's lives and brings a track record of collaboration and innovation. Joanne's vision and commitment to the OAJC are strong and will serve the organization and the Jewish community well.”



Joanne Van Ness Menashe named executive director of OAJC.

Resources for peace in Syria

At the time of this publication, our nation's political leaders were debating military response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria. Religious leaders and faith communities throughout the world have shared their perspectives on the Syrian crisis. Our website, www.emoregon.org, lists many of these religious statements and resources, and we will continue to post more resources in the days ahead.

voice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Publisher:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
David A. Leslie, *executive director*
Michelle Bush, *graphic designer, editor*

telephone (503) 221-1054

fax (503) 223-7007

website www.emoregon.org

email emo@emoregon.org

Find us on Facebook

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Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland
United Church of Christ • United Methodist Church
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Sanctuary community garden established in Rockwood

As a first step in following up on the needs identified in the Rockwood Community Food Assessment (see article on page 1), EMO's Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership (IFFP) has spearheaded the development of a new community garden for the neighborhood, in partnership with Anawim Christian Community, which is hosting the garden, and Rockwood Community Food Justice Group.

Community gardens are more than places to grow food to address the issue of hunger, although they are certainly that. They are also places to build the social fabric of a community, encourage healthy eating and physical activity, learn how to grow food, share cultural traditions, provide social support, and much more.

The Rockwood community garden includes two handicapped accessible raised beds and 14 plots measuring 9 by 18 feet. The garden has an affordable sliding scale with seeds and starts provided.

The garden is funded through small grants from East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation and Church of the Brethren, as well as individual donations. A garden shed was built with the help of Oregon Tradeswomen. In-kind donations include wood from the Rebuilding Center, compost from Recology and seeds from Seed Savers Exchange. Additional donations are needed to finish the garden infrastructure.

The first volunteer group for the project was the Eco-Stewards young adult eco-justice program of Presbyterian agencies. Other youth and young adults helped with the garden, including La Salle High School students, who performed a day of service on various garden needs to kick off the school year. Other young



Members of Gresham Bible Church constructed ADA raised beds for the community garden.

volunteers were students from the Mount Hood Community College Scholarships for Education and Economic Development (SEED) program. SEED helps high school graduates from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean develop skills in social and local economic development.

Citlali Reyes Perez of the SEED program also served as IFFP's summer intern. She was a huge help in developing the garden, providing translation of materials into Spanish and recruiting members. Reyes Perez is excited to use the education she received at Mount Hood Community College and through her internship at IFFP to improve her local community in Oaxaca, Mexico. She wants to focus on water conservation and developing stronger communities through vegetable gardens—particularly at schools where there is no lunch program, as children are more likely to attend school if lunch is available.

If you or your congregation would like to support the garden project, please call Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-1054, ext. 214.

Join us for a Food Justice Fundraiser

Join EMO's Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership for its second annual Food Justice Fundraiser, "Extreme Makeover: Addressing Hunger Beyond Charity." The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 22, 2013, at First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park Ave., Portland. Cost: \$45 per person (includes dinner); \$350 for a table of eight. Register securely online at www.emoregon.org.

Our speaker will be Andy Fisher, a leading national expert on community food security. Fisher has written extensively on such topics as farm to school, farmers markets in low-income communities, and local food policy. He co-founded and led the Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC), a national alliance of groups working on food access and local food, from 1994 to 2011. He created and publicized the concept of community food security, and played a key role in building the food movement. Fisher has played a lead role in gaining passage of numerous pieces of federal legislation, including the Community Food Projects and the Farm to School grant program. He is currently writing a book about the corporate influence on the anti-hunger movement, to be published in 2014. He serves on the Board of Portland Farmers Market, and lives in northeast Portland.

If your congregation or organization would like to be an event cosponsor, please call Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-1054, ext. 214.

Growing food justice

Continued from page 1



security in Rockwood.

The Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership is already responding to some of the needs identified by the assessment by working with community groups to start a community garden at NE 196th and Glisan (see story above), as well as other collaborations with local residents and organizations to improve healthy food retail access and nutrition education.

"There is tremendous energy and vision among Rockwood residents and social service agencies to improve the quality of life through food," says Jenny Holmes, EMO Environmental Ministries director.

The project was made possible by a Community Food Project grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture with matching funds from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Jackson Foundation, and in-kind services of agencies, individuals and businesses.



Earth Care Summit, "Breath of Life: Earth's Atmosphere"

Jan. 27, 2014, 5:30 to 9 p.m., at First Christian Church, 1314 SW Park Ave., Portland.

Cost (includes dinner): \$25 per person; \$15 for students; \$200 for table of eight.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns and Oregon Interfaith Power & Light invite all congregations that are seeking to be more faithful in earth care to our fifth annual *Earth Care Summit*.

The focus of the summit will be clean air and a stable climate in the context of faith and spiritual practice. Speakers will include Ted Wheeler, Oregon State Treasurer, and Bob Doppelt, coordinator of the Climate Ethics Campaign and executive director of Resource Innovation Group. Practical and local actions for congregations, individuals and communities will also be provided.

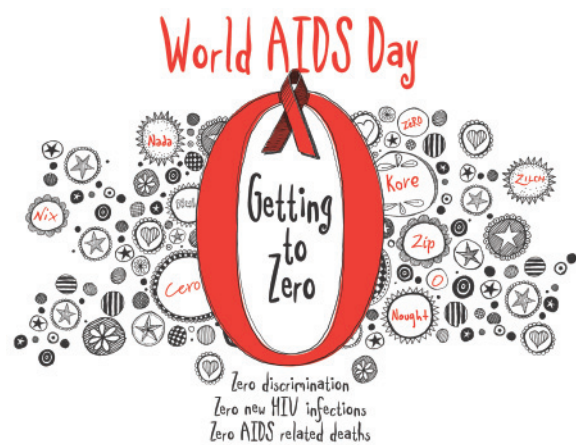
Come network with others and be inspired! Check the EMO website soon for registration at www.emoregon.org. For more information or to be a cosponsor, call Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-1054, ext. 214.

4 Community Ministries

World AIDS Day 2013

Getting to zero: Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS related deaths.

By Lindsay Ross-Hunt, HIV Services senior program manager



Established in 1988 by the World Health Organization, World AIDS Day, observed each year on Dec. 1, is intended to call attention to the global AIDS pandemic. While much has changed since 1998—treatments are now available that can suppress the virus when adherence is maintained, and people with HIV/AIDS are living longer and healthier lives—much has not changed.

An HIV diagnosis is a “game changer” for those infected, even if it is no longer the death sentence it once was. It still means spending the rest of your life on drugs, which can devastate your body and cost thousands of dollars a year. This is a reality not recognized by many young people—a generation that did not experience the devastation AIDS caused in the 1980s, but are now facing a significant increase in the number of new HIV diagnoses.

It also means having to deal with the stigma and misinformation that still surround HIV/AIDS. People continue to be treated differently with an HIV diagnosis—by family, employers, partners and the larger community. And more than anything else, when I tell people I work with individuals living with HIV/AIDS, I hear, “Oh, is that still a problem? I feel like I don’t hear anything about that anymore.”

Documentary film features homeless “Second Home” students

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s Second Home program was recently chosen as one of four nonprofits in the Portland metro area that were the focus of Stillmotion’s film creation workshop.

Second Home is a unique community effort to house high school students in the Beaverton School District who are both homeless and unaccompanied. Stillmotion—a Canada-based film company—created a three-minute documentary that tells the story of two young men in the Second Home program and the ways in which they are growing as a result of stable housing.

This educational tool will not only aid Second Home in promoting the program, it will also help in building awareness around youth homelessness in Oregon and the country. The film can be viewed at EMO’s and Beaverton Second Home’s Facebook pages and at www.emoregon.org/secondhome.php.

The phrase “out of sight, out of mind” gives us the illusion of safety and the end of the disease. Though we no longer see the gaunt faces of people dying from an unknown disease anymore, it doesn’t mean that AIDS doesn’t exist. The startling images of those suffering from AIDS don’t haunt us as they did in the past, but it doesn’t mean the AIDS puzzle has been solved. It isn’t the same as it was, and yet there is a great deal of work still to do.

And thankfully, help is becoming more available. The Affordable Care Act is going to allow a number of HIV positive people to get access to care and treatment, thereby reducing transmission rates.

Screening for HIV is another key component for reducing transmission. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in five HIV positive individuals does not know their status. This year, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force issued a recommendation that clinicians screen for HIV in all individuals 15-65 years of age and not just “high-risk” groups.

Getting tested not only opens doors to early treatment as needed, but HIV/AIDS-related stigma and misinformation are also combated in testing itself. Each person who steps forward to get tested reduces the power that stigma and fear hold over our community and issues an invitation for someone else to get tested.

Each year, there are a variety of events and activities around World AIDS Day. The 2013 theme is “Getting to zero: Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS related deaths.”

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon will be hosting its annual fundraising breakfast on Dec. 4 at Concordia University in Portland for the HIV Day Center—details for which will be posted on EMO’s website. Information for

the many other World AIDS Day events can be found at www.worldaidsdaynw.org. Together we can keep moving forward. Together we can get to “zero.”

For more information about EMO’s HIV Services, call (503) 460-3822 or visit www.emoregon.org/HIV-day_center.php.

EMO Community Ministries by the numbers

During the second quarter of 2013 ...

Food Services prepared 5,717 meals for the residents of the Patton Home, clients of the HIV Day Center and Daily Bread Express, and students at Nickerson School.

HIV Services assisted 179 clients, including 2,118 visits to the HIV Day Center and 2,300 therapeutic encounters.

Northeast Emergency Food Program distributed 600,000 pounds of food and 50,000 items of clothing to 11,000 clients, with the assistance of 250 volunteers.

Patton Home provided drug- and alcohol-free housing for 63 low-income adults.

Russian Oregon Social Services provided 322 clients with direct services, including: 18 women attended domestic violence/sexual assault support sessions, 22 women received free cervical/breast exams and mammograms, 15 clients received dental care, 32 received legal assistance, six received rental assistance, and 46 attended self-sufficiency classes.

Second Home housed four homeless and unaccompanied Beaverton high school students for a total of eight months of housing.

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees resettled 104 refugees (38 from Cuba, 14 from Bhutan, 22 from Iraq, 13 from Burma, five from Somalia, one from the former Soviet Union, five from Ethiopia and five from Iran); and SOAR enrolled 14 children in the School Assistance for Refugee Newcomers Program (five from Cuba and nine from the Congo).

SOAR Immigration Legal Services offered legal assistance to 709 clients including 18 for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).



Stillmotion team editing the Second Home documentary.

If you know a student who could benefit from Second Home, would like to be a volunteer home provider in the Beaverton area, or would like more information about this program, please contact Jenny Pratt, jpratt@emoregon.org, (503) 221-1054, ext. 208.

ROSS breast health services save lives and inspire Russian-speaking survivors to share their stories

Since 2001, EMO's Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS) has been serving Russian speakers through the Breast Health Education & Support (BHES) program, educating thousands about breast cancer and the importance of early detection, as well as helping women access screening and cancer treatment services. For the past 11 years, this program has been generously funded by Susan G. Komen for the Cure of Oregon and SW Washington.

The BHES program's culturally-specific services are critical to empowering Russian-speaking women to take control of their own health, as the majority of these women do not trust or feel comfortable working with non-Russian-speakers. The majority of Russian-speaking newcomers to the Portland metro area are Evangelical Christians who experienced religious persecution in the former Soviet Union, which engendered a distrust of government institutions.

Due to their social isolation and language barriers, many Russian-speaking families are not aware of social and medical services that are available to them and are extremely unlikely to inquire on their own. Most do not understand the healthcare system, have health insurance,

know about breast cancer, nor understand early detection methods to prevent cancer-related deaths.

In addition to intensive outreach and educational presentations in the community, Lilya Yevseyeva, BHES community outreach specialist since 2006, often forms long-term supportive relationships with her clients, as they undergo cancer diagnosis and treatment. About 30 percent of BHES clients who receive a diagnosis do not pursue treatment. It is not uncommon for some clients to conclude that their illness is God's will and should not be addressed with medical intervention, believing that the only way to treat the cancer is through prayer. Because many Russian speakers have such misperceptions regarding the risks of cancer and options for treatment, Yevseyeva's work is vital to saving lives through education, as well as emotional support and advocacy.

A notable success within the BHES program is its strong volunteer base. Yevseyeva's hard work to recruit former clients to act as volunteer breast health educators has paid off. Volunteering provides former clients a new way to help their community by encouraging other Russian-speaking women to seek breast



cancer screening. In a community where historically women's health was not a priority, BHES volunteers are now actively engaged in empowering women and instigating social change around perceptions of women's health.

As more and more Russian-speaking women come forward to share their experiences, ROSS staff have witnessed noticeable changes in the attitudes of program participants, as well as leaders in the Russian-speaking community. (Read the article below about just one of the many powerful client stories that demonstrates this change.)

For more information about the ROSS Breast Health & Education Support program, visit www.emoregon.org/ross-health.php or call (503) 777-3437.

Breast cancer survivor shares her story to inspire others

During 2008, ROSS Breast Health Education & Support (BHES) Community Outreach Specialist Lilya Yevseyeva received multiple calls from Russian-speaking women who had received mammograms through the BHES program and were diagnosed with breast cancer. One of these women was Vera.

At the age of 45, Vera was diagnosed with stage two breast cancer. After a series of screenings and other tests, including an ultrasound and biopsy, she still refused to believe what was happening to her. After a lumpectomy was performed, Vera refused to take the follow-up chemotherapy but did concede to undergo radiation therapy. Six months after the surgery, a mammogram showed that Vera was cancer-free.

However, a year later in 2010, another mammogram was performed that revealed that the cancer had returned and had spread to the lymph nodes and nearby organs. Vera's doctor prescribed chemotherapy again, and this time, realizing the importance of this treatment, Vera agreed, and has since been undergoing chemotherapy on a regular basis.

Throughout her ordeal, Vera was provided with support from Yevseyeva, who helped her schedule appointments, provided translation and interpretation services, and gave continual advocacy and moral support.

In 2012, Vera contacted ROSS and expressed her desire to share her story as a breast cancer survivor, even though she was not feeling well at the time. She said that



Photo credit: Olga Rigucci

ROSS Breast Health Education & Support Community Outreach Specialist Lilya Yevseyeva (left) with Vera, a breast cancer survivor.

her story would help women realize how essential screening is to saving lives, and she wanted to encourage other women to obtain a mammogram on a regular basis. Vera also wanted to share her message to other diagnosed women to not put off treatment, because it could be lifesaving.

Staff at ROSS were thrilled that Vera decided to share her story publicly, and on Dec. 13, 2012, Vera, Yevseyeva and a BHES volunteer all appeared on the Russian language internet TV channel Slavic Family. They discussed the BHES program and its successes and challenges. Most importantly, Vera shared her own powerful story and all that she learned as a BHES client, in the hope that more lives would be saved as a result.

Long live Oregonians Cover Oregon ready to launch its online health coverage marketplace in October

Approximately 600,000 Oregonians currently lack health insurance—about 15 percent of the population. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, more Oregonians will be able to get health coverage, even if they already have a health condition. It is estimated that between 160,000 and 320,000 people will obtain coverage through the exchange next year.

Cover Oregon is a new online exchange marketplace that provides clear information on a range of insurance plans. Individuals, families and small businesses can make side-by-side comparisons and choose the right plan for them. The marketplace will include health coverage from both private insurers and public medical programs, such as Oregon Health Plan and Healthy Kids. Subsidies (or financial aid) will be available based on personal income.

Enrollment opens Oct. 1, 2013, and continues for individuals through March 31, 2014. Coverage does not begin until Jan. 1, 2014, so consumers have plenty of time to go through the application and shopping process. Working with agents and community partners is free.

To find certified agents and partners, call the Cover Oregon Service Center at 1-855-CoverOR (1-855-268-3767) or visit CoverOregon.com.

6 Public Policy Advocacy

Bill McKibben energizes Oregon faith communities for fossil fuel divestment

On July 17, over 110 people attended an interfaith luncheon with climate activist, United Methodist Sunday school teacher, and author Bill McKibben at First United Methodist Church in Portland. McKibben was in town to support efforts to stop fossil fuel export facilities from coming to the Washington Ports of Vancouver (oil shale crude oil) and Longview (coal).

The audience included people of many faiths and denominations. Leaders of local Unitarian and Evangelical Lutheran congregations shared their fossil fuel divestment efforts. Some attendees were familiar with McKibben's fossil fuels divestment message from his visit to Portland last year for the "Do the Math" tour, which emerged from his viral *Rolling Stone* article, "Global warming's terrifying new math."

At the July event, McKibben gave a passionate and thoughtful call to action, encouraging faith communities to visibly engage in divesting in fossil fuels, as they did in South Africa during the 1980's and 1990's. The goal is to revoke the social license to burn excessive amounts of fossil fuels. McKibben also encouraged the older generation to consider respectful civil disobedience, similar to the efforts faith leaders have been engaging in around the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. McKibben stated, "We have known the signs for 25 years, and we have a 25-year bipartisan record of accomplishing nothing. The problem isn't a lack of information or science, but instead the problem is powered by the richest industry on Earth."

McKibben is often asked, as he was at the Portland event, "Why divestment now?" and "Will it work?" While he does not guarantee success of divestment, he believes it gets to the root of the problem and is one of the most effective strategies, in the absence of a functional congress.

In a November 2012 *Sojourners* article, McKibben addressed these questions further: *It doesn't matter if you drive a Prius: If you, or the institution that you're a part of,*

makes money off the fossil-fuel industry, then you're implicated in that destruction. You're not loving your neighbors, not safeguarding creation. You're selling them down the river. And if those institutions sell that stock, it will begin to pressure those companies, make them open to political compromise, slow the headlong rush toward destruction. Right now ExxonMobil spends \$100 million a day trying to find more hydrocarbons to burn. That's the definition of irresponsible. And the definition of why we need to divest from coal and oil and gas. Now.

McKibben's "Go Fossil Free Campaign" asks institution leaders to immediately freeze any new investment in fossil fuel companies and divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within five years.

The request to the fossil fuel companies is to stop exploring for new hydrocarbons, stop lobbying in Washington, DC, and state capitols across the country to preserve their special breaks, and pledge to keep 80 percent of their current reserves underground forever.

The fossil fuel divestment movement is gaining momentum in colleges and universities, faith communities, local government, and even with a philanthropic foundation. Oregon's Jubitz Foundation was the first Oregon foundation to divest from fossil fuels. On World Environment Day on June 5, Portland Mayor Charles Hales announced his support for fossil fuel divestment. In May, the Oregon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) passed a divestment resolution to forward to their national assembly. The Oregon Diocese of the Episcopal Church is considering a similar resolution at its fall assembly.

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL), a program of EMO, has been tracking the divestment movement. In June, OIPL invited the EMO Board of Directors to divest in fossil fuels. At the meeting, Michael Hall of St. Luke's Lutheran spoke about his congregation's



From left: Environmental activist and author Bill McKibben with Jenny Holmes, EMO Environmental Ministry director, and the Rev. John Boonstra, EMO Environmental Ministry Committee co-chair.

Photo credit: Michelle Bush

divestment resolution that was forwarded to the Oregon Synod ELCA. The result of the EMO Board meeting was the formation of a Fossil Fuel Divestment and Reinvestment Task Force, which developed a resolution for the September EMO Board meeting, as well as divestment resources and guidelines. The task force continues to study the fossil fuel divestment statements and resolutions of various denominations and is in conversation with other institutions that are divesting with investment professionals.

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light has set up a Web page "Faith-based Fossil Fuel Divestment and Reinvestment" to provide resources and information to congregations and denominations. The page (www.emoregon.org/power_light_fuels.php) contains links to resources, guidebooks and articles on fossil fuel divestment and reinvestment, as well as copies of resolutions and educational materials from congregations and denominations. Congregations and denominations are encouraged to send links to resolutions and other resources to oipl@emoregon.org.

If you have questions, please call Jenny Holmes, EMO Environmental Ministries director, at (503) 221-1054, ext. 214.

Oregon religious leaders gather to oppose the death penalty

Religious leaders and members from a number of Oregon's religious communities will gather on Oct. 16 for a public banquet in support of the abolition of the death penalty at Portland's First United Methodist Church.

"The People of Faith Against the Death Penalty" banquet is sponsored by Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (OADP) and will begin at 5:30 p.m., with a reception preceding dinner. First United Methodist Church is located at SW 18th and Jefferson, Portland.

"An interfaith gathering of this type in support of the abolition of the death penalty makes public an important moral position held in common by many religious movements and traditions in this country," says David Leslie, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) executive director. "This gathering offers an

unprecedented opportunity to network with Oregon's religious leadership and strengthen our common mission to end the use of capital punishment in Oregon." EMO is one of the evening's cosponsors.

It is anticipated that bishops, executive ministers, rabbis and other religious leadership council members representing the Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Roman Catholic Church, United Church of Christ, Church of the Brethren, American Baptist Church, United Methodist Church, Jewish, Mennonite, Muslim, Sikh, Unitarian Universalist, Disciples of Christ, Buddhist and Society of Friends (Quakers) will be in attendance.

Religious statements against the death penalty will be shared, and people in attendance will have a chance to learn how they and their

congregations and faith communities can become involved in organizing around this issue.

"In the six states that have repealed their death penalty in the past six years, people of faith have played leading roles in those efforts," stated Ron Steiner of OADP. "We expect that to be the case in Oregon as well. We are staging this event to share the teachings of various faiths, display unity around the issue, and broaden and strengthen our interfaith network for future advocacy for legislative and initiative efforts."

Individual tickets are \$40. Reserved tables of eight are available for \$320. For more information or to make a reservation, call (503) 990-7060 or email rsteiner@swcp.com. For more information about Oregonians Against the Death Penalty, visit www.oadp.org.

Preaching to end hunger with Rev. Dr. James Forbes

A homiletics workshop for ministers, pastors & anyone who preaches

The Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Jr. is traveling the country, conveying God's message that we can end hunger. He will bring this message to Portland in October by leading a homiletics workshops for ministers, pastors and others who preach. Workshop participants will come away with helpful tools and techniques for preaching, as well as a renewed call to engage our congregations to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

The homiletics workshop will be held on Friday, Oct. 18, from 12 to 2:30 p.m., at Highland Christian Center, 7600 NE Glisan St., Portland. The cost to attend the workshop is \$15; lunch is included. Register online at www.bread.org/events or by phone at (503) 922-2182. This event is sponsored by Bread for the World, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and Oregon Center for Christian Voices.

Forbes states that when preaching about hunger, one must engage people in scripture and show a truth that will impact and transform behavior. "If my sermon is right, people will leave with a fresh sense of urgency to do what they are called to do," Forbes said.

Forbes reminds us that food is essential to the fulfillment of God's creation—before even creating man and woman in Genesis, God creates food. "If God in creation provides food," Forbes says, "it is an anomalous situation to have a world where some people can't eat." Thus, starvation and hunger are a distortion of creation and our call is to heal the world—



The Rev. Dr. James Forbes will present a homiletics workshop, which focuses on ending hunger, at Highland Christian Center in Portland on Oct. 18.

even when faced with the obstacle of disbelief.

Forbes is senior minister emeritus of the Riverside Church in New York City and president of the Healing of the Nations Foundation. Before being called to Riverside's pulpit, Forbes spent 15 years as a professor of preaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Because of his extensive career and his charismatic style, Forbes is often introduced as the preacher's preacher. In 1996, *Newsweek* recognized him as one of the 12 "most effective preachers."

For more information, contact Matt Newell-Ching, Bread for the World, at mching@bread.org or (503) 922-2182.

Celebrate ecumenism during the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity"



The "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2014" will take place during January 18 to 25.

The chosen theme for 2014 is "Has Christ been divided?" (1 Corinthians 1:13).

The Church Unity Octave, a forerunner of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, was developed by Father Paul Wattson, SA, at Graymoor in Garrison, New York, and was first observed from January 18 to 25, 1908. Today, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites the whole Christian community throughout the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus "that they all may be one" (John 17:21).

Materials for the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2014"—including daily scripture and prayer guide, ecumenical celebration of the word of God, prayer card, poster and worship bulletin cover—can be ordered from Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute at www.GEII.org/Order.

Jeffrey Gros, Catholic Brother with ecumenical spirit, dies at 75

Brother Jeffrey Gros, 75, died in Chicago, Ill., on Aug. 12, 2013. A De La Salle Christian Brother for 58 years, he was well known in the ecumenical movement for broadening its scope, published widely in theological journals and periodicals, edited numerous books on ecumenism, and spoke to various religious and educational groups throughout the world.

"Even those who never met Brother Jeffrey are impressed with the body of his ecumenical work, but those who knew him had the additional advantage of discovering that his passion for dialogue and unity was contagious," said Mary Jo Tully, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Portland. "That passion is a legacy to all of us."

Gros served ten years as director of Faith and Order for the National Council of Churches (NCC). Antonio Kireopoulos, associate general secretary of Faith and Order and Interfaith Relations, said Gros "was a model for the council's commitment to ecumenical cooperation and a mentor both to his contemporaries and to future generations of ecumenists." He added that Gros was "passionately devoted to his church and to the quest for church unity."

Gros also served for 14 years as associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and



Interreligious Affairs at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. More recently, he was the Distinguished Professor of Ecumenical and Historical Theology at Memphis Theological Seminary.

In the fall of 2011, Gros joined the Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., as the Catholic Studies Scholar in Residence. He was also president of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, consultant to the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the Archdiocese of Chicago, adjunct professor at Catholic Theological Union, and dean of the Institute for Catholic Ecumenical Leadership.

2014 Collins Lecture with Armstrong

Continued from page 1

In February 2008, Armstrong received the \$100,000 TED Prize. She used that occasion to call for the creation of a "Charter for Compassion" (charterforcompassion.org), highlighting the fundamental principle that compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat others as we wish to be treated ourselves.

"We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world," states Armstrong. "Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community."

As they become available, further details and registration information for the 2014 Collins Lecture with Karen Armstrong will be posted on EMO's website at www.emoregon.org.

EMO welcomes new members

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon welcomes the following new members, which have been affirmed by the EMO Board of Directors:

Congregations: Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church;
First United Methodist Church, Eugene

Ecumenical Organization: Gorge Ecumenical Ministries

Our growing list of members reflects the dynamic community of faith in Oregon and allows us to establish collaborative partnerships, through which we can better serve the needs of the people in our state and throughout the Northwest. Membership provides opportunities for education, joint service, and a growing momentum for positive change and growth in diverse communities throughout Oregon.

For information on how your congregation or faith organization can become a member of EMO, contact Jenny Pratt, director of Membership Relations, at jpratt@emoregon.org or (503) 221-1054, ext. 208; or download an application at www.emoregon.org/membership.php.

EMO celebrates 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 last issue of the *Voice*.

Donor (Fund)	Program
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon	Annual Fund
Ann & Bill Swindells Charitable Trust	NE Emergency Food Program
Central Drug Company	HIV Services
Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ	Annual Fund
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon	SOAR Immigration Legal Services
The Collins Foundation	Annual Fund
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	Annual Fund
Dignity Memorial	Annual Fund
Equity Foundation	HIV Services
First United Methodist Church, Portland	Annual Fund
Herbert A. Templeton Foundation	Annual Fund
Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Oregon	HIV Services
The Jackson Foundation	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
Jouris Family Foundation	Second Home
Kaiser Foundation	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation	HIV Services
Legacy Health System NW	Annual Fund
Linfield College	Annual Fund
McMenamins Pubs & Breweries	HIV Services
Multnomah Bar Foundation	SOAR Immigration Legal Services
Neil Kelly Co.	Annual Fund
Oregon Episcopal School	Annual Fund
Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon	Public Policy Advocacy
Portland Women's Foundation	Russian Oregon Social Services
Providence Health & Services	Annual Fund
St. Luke Lutheran Church	NE Emergency Food Program
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church	NE Emergency Food Program
Susan G. Komen for the Cure	Russian Oregon Social Services
United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries	SOAR Immigration Legal Services
USI Northwest	Annual Fund
Volunteers of America of Oregon	Annual Fund
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland	NE Emergency Food Program

Honor & Memorial Gifts

March through July 2013

Gifts in Honor

In honor of Howard Kenyon
Kristi Kernal, Gina Bailey,
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In memory of Evelyn Logsdon Leach
Elizabeth Cross, Harold &
Barbara Lea, Ralph B. Rector

In memory of June & Joseph Murphy
Arlene Garrison

In memory of Robert M. Smith
Dorothy Lynn Hingson

Denominational annual gatherings in the Northwest region

Oct. 11-13	Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, Ontario
Oct. 18-19	American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast, Portland
Oct. 25-26	Presbytery of Eastern Oregon, Halfway
Nov. 7-8	Presbytery of the Cascades, Roseburg
Nov. 14-16	Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, Eugene

2012 Annual Report

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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
President



David A. Leslie
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.



IFFP'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.

■ **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 from 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.

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 "Ecumenist 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.



Photo credit: Jenny Pratt

The 2012 Collins Lecturer Prof. Gary Dorrien (left) met Maribeth Collins following his lecture, "God's Economy: Faithful Response to the Economic Crisis."

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.

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Maggie Jenkinson
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Ron Jensen
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Mark & Bev Stadick
Jeanne Staehli
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Harvey & Holly Schmidt
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Tara Schwecke
Rachel Schweitzer
Monica Scott
Virginia Scott
Herbert & Esther Seaman
Tim Seaman
Way Seese
Kristen M. Seitz & Michael O'Connell
Dianna Senina
Elizabeth Sevier
Laura Sewell
Maryell Sewell & George Crandall
Doug Shackelford
Soyela Shaffer
Catherine A. Shaw & Erik Kvarsten
Dhiald & Linda Shaw
Chrystal Shaw Bowles
Jane & J. Sheperd
Charlene Sherer
Jonathan Shinn
Joanne & Richard Shipley
Shannon & John Shoul
Mildred Showell
Margaret & P. Lance Shuler

Dashiell Shulman
Mahala Shulman
Peter Shulman & Leslie Williams
Clarence Sie
Karen Sigley
R. Elisa Silva
Andrew Simms
Ellen Singer & Eamon Molloy
Jennifer Sniarski
Maureen Sloan
William Small
Brenda & Larry Smith
Christine Smith
Jerry Smith
Larry Smith
Thaddaeus Smith
Lynne Smouse López
Doreen Richardson & Ardella Couch
Judy Spence
Joe & Jane Snyder
John & Kathleen Somers
Eileen & Edwin Sorensen
Kim Spangler
Alice & Doug Speers
Alicia Speidel
Marjorie Speirs
Phillip Spierling & Marilyn Kern
Scot Spicer
Phoebe Spier & Eric Olsen
William & Pauline Spofford
Zelda & Eugene Springer
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Greg Van Pelt
Katrina Van Ummeren & James Floyd
Lewis & Susan Van Winkle
Courtney Vanderstek
Wayne & Janet Vanzelfden
Heidi & Frankie Venneri
Monica Villa
Marc Vincent
Johan & Judith Visser
Carolyn Voit
Simone Waddell
John Waddingham
Mark Wahlers
Patricia Walker
Hannah Wallace
Kendall Snow
Terri Wanke
Les Wardenar
Ernest & Patricia Warren
Pamela Waterspoon
Jill Weber
Marilyn & Robert Weber
Stephanie Weber
Michael Weedall
Patricia Weckly
Sally Weearing
Kenneth & Diane Weidkamp
Linda Weigel
Conna Weiss
Anne Weldon-Martin
Lisa & Michael Wenzlick
Judith Werner
Janelyn & Daniel Wessler
Tara West
William Westervelt
Caroline Westley & Scott Lee
Amie & John Weder
Andrew & Julie Wheeler
David & Carol Wheeler
Gene & Josie Whisman
Candice White
Carrie White
John White & Bonnie Wyckoff
Norman White & Gwyneth Rochlin
Sharon White
Benjamin & Elaine Whiteley
Stephen & Patti Whitney-Wise
James Whittier
Mary Wiedeman
Nick & Gail Wigen
Katie Wilgus
Stacy Wilhelmson
Barbara Willer
Myrna Yvonne Williams
Trisha Williams
Scott & Judy Willis
Brenda Willis
Jane & Thomas Wilson
Pamela & John Wilson
Robert & Dawn Wilson
Thomas Wilson
Warren Wimmer
Luby Wind
Charlotte & Roland Wirt
Douglas & Cathy Wirt
Sara Wise
Gary & Kate Withers
Ellis Witherspoon
Lynn & Paulette Wittwer
Susan Wladaver-Morgan & David Morgan
Joseph Wolf
Shannon Wolf
Kirke & Marjorie Wolfe
Patricia & Chester Wolter
James & Sharon Womack
Carol & Bruce Wyatt
Nanette Yandell
Ellen Yarnell
Alan Yenne
Jacqueline Yerby
Kristi York
Elliott Young
Linda Young
Stephen & Katharine Kremer
Rebecca Youngstrom & Ronald Atwood
Susan & Jonathan Zall
Priscilla Zaworski
Andy Zboralski
Carolyn Zelle
Gregory Zerweck
Joyce Zerweck
Diane Zhitlowky
Myrna Zitek
Alesia Zorn
Stacie Zuercher

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.



Photo credit: Jenny Pratt



Photo credit: JOIN

EMO's Food Services partnered with JOIN, DePaul Industries and the New City Initiative for the "New City Kitchen" project to provide food service training for people transitioning out of homelessness. Participants like Michelle (above) helped prepare client meals in the Patton Home kitchen.

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.



Photo credit: Benjamin Brink, The Oregonian

Last June on "World Refugee Day," 27 immigrants and refugees became U.S. citizens at a naturalization ceremony held in Portland. Among those new citizens was Françoise Kasongo (above), resettled by EMO's Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees. Kasongo fled the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1999 due to civil war.