

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO honors Thornberry for leadership to end hunger in Oregon

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will honor Sharon Thornberry, Rural Communities Liaison at Oregon Food Bank, on May 16, 2018, at its *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration*. The award is presented in recognition of her dedication and leadership to eliminate hunger and its root causes from Oregon's communities.

Thornberry has worked towards this goal at the Oregon Food Bank since 1998, previously serving as community systems manager and community food programs advocate. She is a long-time Bread for the World activist and current board member. She has also served as board member of the Ten Rivers Food Web, Philomath Community Services, Oregon Hunger Task Force, and Community Food Security Coalition, and she was a member of the Western Regional Anti-Hunger Coalition. As a lay leader in the United Methodist Church (UMC), Thornberry serves on the Bishop's Initiative to End Hunger for the Oregon Idaho Conference of the UMC.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration* is the single most important annual fundraiser for our vital ministries to the poor, the vulnerable, the hungry and the sick throughout the state of Oregon. Funds contributed by sponsors and guests enable us to serve those in need and to advocate on their behalf at the Oregon Legislature for a just, equitable and sustainable society. Each year we honor extraordinary individuals and organizations such as Thornberry whose courage, moral vision and commitment to action have contributed profoundly to making our community a better place.

This year, the event will be held on May 16 at the Benson Hotel, 309 SW Broadway, Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO's ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m.; dinner, a live auction and the award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations, available at emoregon.org, are \$100 per person (festival seating) or \$2,000 per table of 10 (includes Bronze Sponsorship and reserved seating). For more information, contact Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, earth ministry, and public policy advocacy.