

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO honors Neil Kelly Co. and Kelly family with “Humanitarian Award”

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will honor Neil and Arlene Kelly (in memoriam) and Tom Kelly and Barbara Woodford with our “Humanitarian Award” on April 24, 2019, at our *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration*.

Since 1947, the Neil Kelly family and the Neil Kelly Company have contributed enormously to Portland’s vitality and charitable capacity. Kelly family members and employees support a host of community organizations. For example, they have personally served a Meals on Wheels route for more than 40 years, and they have built three Habitat for Humanity homes and are at work on a fourth. The Portland Children’s Museum, Volunteers of America, United Way, EarthShare, Climate Solutions, League of Women Voters, Oregon Environmental Council, and Community Warehouse would not be the robust organizations they are today without significant Kelly support. Additionally, Kelly scholarships provide tuition for first-generation college students, many from immigrant families. And thanks to a keen interest in protecting our environment, Tom Kelly founded Oregon Business for Climate, a statewide initiative to mobilize industry leaders for climate policy, carbon emission pricing, and investment in Oregon’s clean economy.

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 whose moral vision and commitment to action have contributed profoundly to making our community a better place.

This year, the April 24 event will be held 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, 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, creation justice, and public policy advocacy.