EMO and you: Together we can create a more loving and just community

As the new president of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Board of Directors, I am happy to introduce this overview of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) work in 2005. These pages offer insight into the ways that EMO synthesizes the passion, talents and skills of volunteers and staff to put faith in action across Oregon.

Combining the resources of 16 member denominations and supported by generous friends, our various initiatives reflect a commitment to sustaining and maintaining best practices in the areas of Affordable Housing, Basic Human Needs, Environmental Ministries, Public Policy Advocacy, Refugee and Immigration Ministries, and Theological Education and Dialogue.

Feeding the hungry, offering shelter to the homeless, healing the sick, welcoming the stranger and maintaining the good earth that God has given us are values that we live by on a daily basis. We endeavor to hold before the community the ethical and moral mandates of a just and loving God. As you look at statistical information and learn more about programs and activities undertaken by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon during 2005, we invite you to consider joining us by volunteering or making a contribution to enhance our ministries during 2006. Together we can create a more loving and just community.

Faithfully,

The Reverend Alcena Boozer
President, 2006 EMO Board of Directors

EMO 2005 Financial Report

Expenses
$2,776,233

Revenues
$4,312,019

Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year
$1,628,436
Changes in Net Assets Due to:
- Results of Operation ($163,980)
- Sale of Hopewell House $1,601,047
Net Assets at the End of the Year
$3,065,503

EMO Programs
Affordable Housing
Hunger, Nutrition & Social Support
Food Services
HIV Services
Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP)
Environmental Ministries
Public Policy Advocacy
Refugee & Immigration Ministries
Portland International Community School (PICS)
Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS)
Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR)
Theological Education & Dialogue

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During FY 2005, EMO sold the Hopewell House to Legacy Health Systems. The proceed went primarily to retire long-term debt and establish an endowment.

Last year, 619 volunteers donated 28,855 hours, saving EMO an estimate of over half a million dollars.
Hunger, Nutrition and Social Support

In March, Speaker of the Oregon House Karen Minier and Stand for Children National Director Loren Kramer addressed approximately 200 participants at Interfaith Advocacy Day in Salem. Participants marched to the state capitol and delivered letters to lawmakers asking them to help reduce poverty with several pieces of legislation.

Public Policy Advocacy

EMO believes that we can call to promote justice and compassion, ensuring that all Oregonians are able to live their lives full of possibilities. Public Policy Advocacy helps train and engage people so that they may participate in this important aspect of our ministry.

EMO’s advocacy network Christians for Peace and Justice unites individual congregations and religious organizations from different denominations across the state who are committed to advocating for social justice as witnesses to the public policy process on a state and national level.

In 2005... Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) secured a two-year grant from the USDA and launched the “Interfaith Food and Farm Partnership.” Oregon Interfaith Power & Light held two “Green Building for Congregations” workshops and seven other workshops on energy stewardship for congregations and households. INEC awarded six congregations the “Green Congregations Award.” The “Ethics, Economics and Endangered Species” forum drew people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives to explore our moral responsibility to protect the diversity of life.
Refugee & Immigration Ministries (RIM)

EMO’s Refugee and Immigration Ministries offer comprehensive and compassionate services to thousands of refugees and immigrants in the Portland metro area through the programs listed below.

Portland International Community School offers culturally-relevant education in collaboration with Portland Public Schools for refugee, immigrant and first generation high school students.

Oregon Social Services (ROSS) gives assistance to Russian-speaking refugees and immigrants, including domestic violence services, breast health education, mental health counseling, senior case management, ESL and computer classes, citizenship training, legal and tax assistance, dental care and more.

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) offers resettlement and comprehensive services to refugees through church and other sponsorships, including asylum coordination.

Refugee & Immigration Ministries (RIM) in 2005 ... PICS was honored with the “Civic Engagement Award” by the chancellor of Portland State University; 10 seniors graduated in June; during the summer, the school relocated to Grant Park Baptist Church, which features a computer lab, cafeteria and full-size gym. • At ROSS, a total of 1,886 Russian-speaking clients received direct services, and over 50,000 people received community orientation and education • SOAR resettled 236 refugees from countries through the world including the Former Soviet Union, Cuba, Haiti, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Somalia, Chad, Congo, Burma, Vietnam and Iraq.