2008 annual report

Love is recession proof

The year 2008 will be remembered as the time when many of our economic systems were turned upside down. Even in the best of times, many people live on the economic margins, uncertain of the future of their employment or whether there is enough money in the household for food and health insurance. Last year, this uncertainty greatly increased, and no sector of society was immune. White collar professionals lost their jobs, some employers stopped making contributions to retirement funds and community organizations cut back on their health care benefits. Whole communities were thrown into crisis, leaving all too many people uncertain as to their future.

And yet as stock portfolios, bank accounts and house values grew smaller, there seemed to be an increase in the outpouring of love and concern for one's neighbor. At Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), as the number of people served through our community ministry programs increased, so did the number of donors and volunteers who responded generously to meet this enlarged need. While there were some congregations who experienced a decrease in their members' giving, many saw their members give more, knowing how important the religious community is during unsettling times. Through active ministry, these faith communities provided critical support in the forms of emergency food, rental assistance and shelter during winter storms, as well as critical spiritual care and support.

Our mission at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is to bring together Oregon's faith community "in service to God's people and creation." Only together are we able to create transformative and working associations that deepen relationships among faith communities, allowing for effective collaborative ministry and service to address some of Oregon's most challenging problems.

In the face of today's recession, EMO takes seriously God's promise found in the Psalms that "the needy shall not be forgotten nor the hope of the poor perish forever." We are profoundly grateful for all the ways that congregations and religious communities throughout Oregon make this ancient promise come alive in very contemporary and relevant life changing ways. And we are grateful for all the donors and volunteers who support EMO's community ministry programs, theological dialogue and education opportunities, environmental and public policy advocacy, and prayer and worship activities—all of which connect people and communities of faith to work together to improve the lives of all Oregonians. Our Web site (www.emoregon.org) is a good place to connect to EMO, as well as to a number of other events and activities throughout Oregon.

As this report details, we are blessed to be able to gather and support such a broad group of members and collaborators to work together in the spirit of a common mission. We invite you to join with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in this ministry of love and hope in service to God's people and creation in this part of the Pacific Northwest.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse  
President

David A Leslie  
Executive Director

Board Members

The Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse  
President

The Rev. Lynne Smouse López  
President Elect

James Buck  
Immediate Past President

Trudy Bradley  
Treasurer

The Rev. Dr. Marilyn Swell  
Secretary

Bruce A Bishop

The Rev. Alena Booser

The Rev. Dr. Lorrie Buswick

The Rev. Dr. Mark Brooker

Lisa DeVany

The Rev. Dr. LeRoy Harnes, Jr.

The Rev. J.W. Matt Hennessee

Robina Ingram-Rich

The Rev. Aleida Jemigan

Debra H. Maney

The Rev. Dr. David Masey

The Ven. James Miser

The Rev. David Nagler

The Rev. Stephen Schafroth

The Rev. Paul Schneider

The Rev. Brad Shumate

Stephanie Tama-Sweert

The Rev. Tom Tucker

Mary Jo Tully

The Rev. Dr. David Wheeler

Letty Owings  
Lifetime Member

David A Leslie  
Executive Director

EMO 2008 Financial Report

In 2008, over 380 volunteers helped Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon serve the needs of nearly 53,000 Oregonians.
We extend our deep appreciation for the generosity of our partners.

Affordable Housing

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) has a long history of developing and advocating for affordable housing and is dedicated to filling the housing needs of those fortunate by providing the services listed below.

Patton Home is a beautiful and gracious 100-year-old single-room occupancy residence in north Portland offering drug- and alcohol-free housing for up to 63 low-income residents.

Shared Housing provides affordable housing opportunities 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.

Businesses, Corporations & Organizations

Allegro Mortgage

American Cancer Society

Bank of America

Bend-Allied Appliance Company

Columbia Gorge Brewery, Inc.

Cedar Star Park

Cedarwood Neighborhood Association

Cedarwood University

Cittesoft

Dell USA

E&I Electric

Equity Insurance Group

George Fellows Insurance Agency, Inc.

Global Sponsors

Greater Good Council

Housing Long Jay Frederic Lee Foundation

Hohokum Company

Imago Dei andbridge Community Organization EMO

Institute for Metropolitan Housing

International Longest Walk

Jerusalem and Anna Poindexter

Jewish Family and Child Service

John F. Shadwell Foundation

Kaiser Club of Portland

Logan Roseman Hospital & Health Centers

Oregon Health Sciences University

Portland Community Health

Portland Community College

Portland Hospitals Association

Portland Police Bureau

Portland Public School Board

Portland State University

Portland Union Mission

Portland Union Station

Portland Union Station

Portland Women's Clinic

Providence Health & Services

Providence Newberg Medical Center

PSE

Quicken Loans

Regional Development Commission

Rural Housing Service

Samuelson Foundation

Seattle Pacific University

Sherwood Community Counseling

Southern Oregon College

St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center

St. Mary's Regional Medical Center

St. Vincent's Health System

Target

Tigard-Brookwood Presbyterian Church

United Way of Portland

University of Oregon

University of Portland

Vancouver Area Community Foundation

Vermont Housing Investment Fund

Vermont Housing Partnership

Weyerhaeuser Community Foundation

Willamette University

World Vision

Wright Land Company

US National Bank and Trust


divided by

Affordable Housing in 2008...

The Patton Home operated near capacity with over 60 residents at any given time, providing over 700 months of affordable, drug- and alcohol-free housing for individuals recovering from substance abuse or transitioning from homelessness. • Shared Housing provided 1,377 months of housing to 230 individuals from 176 households; added a half-time staff person to serve Washington County.

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Weyerhaeuse
In collaboration with Westside Community Church in Corvallis, IFPP provided community garden plots for 10 families and 1,100 pounds of produce to area food banks.

Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) carries out the mission of our member institutions by focusing, informing and engaging people, congregations and religious institutions to work for justice, care and renewal of creation.

- Margaret A. Bobin
- Arnetta T. Ingamells
- Richard and Carol Boos
- Gayle M. Booher
- Simon
- Suzanne Bonamici and Michael H.
- Mary Lou Boice
- Margaret G. Bobisud

In 2008... Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership (IFFP) began the new “Congregational Wellness Project” in Portland and Corvallis with a two-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, focused on galvanizing faith communities to end food poverty in Corvallis, IFPP helped promote SNAP (food stamp) access at local farmers’ markets, boosting use of SNAP by $604 per cent in 2007 to $8,220 in 2008, and organized 30 low-income cooking classes.

- Jennifer and Daniel Bransfield
- Dale and Barbara Brandt
- Eileen Brady and Brian Rohter
- Jennifer and Daniel Leighton

- Linda and Jerry Dinan
- Alberto and Shannon Diez
- William C. Dietz
- Alan Dierickx
- Patricia A. Dickerson
- Lisa DeVaney
- Jack Desmond
- John and Nancy Dennis
- Betty Denhart
- Spangle
- Dora DeCoursey and William O'Lynn
- Penny L. Davis
- Joann Davich
- Arthur and Winnifred Danner
- Penny L. Davis
- Joann Davich
- Arthur and Winnifred Danner

Public Policy Advocacy in 2008...

Published the “2008 Voters Guide to Oregon Ballot Measures” and actively supported or opposed several key ballot measures through congressional forums, ballot measure statements and other activities.

- Lobbied the offices of Senators Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden and Rep. Earl Blumenauer on the federal budget and tax justice
- Maintained active membership in the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger (OFRAH), Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force (OHRTF), Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO), Oregon Housing Alliance and several health reform coalitions.

- Linda and Freda Coyle
- Nancy and Mike Cook
- Robert M. Cornell
- Charles R. Conard

- Tom and Colette Forney
- Margaret V. Forrester
- Gabrielle Frieder
- James Freese
- Andrew and Carol Freeman
- Bob and Marcy Fruin
- Hildi and Shiloba Furey
- George Furey
- Bob and Marcy Fruin
- Alpna Fures
- Ellie and Frantisek Furey
- Phillip Furey
- Donald Furey
- Mary Lynn Gay
- Jennifer and Don Geary
- Kim and Jon Gecki
- Caroline Gabaldon
- Erin and Dennis Gehrke
- Elke Gehrke
- Rebecca and George Gehrke
- Carol Gehrke
- Susan Yellower and Dennis Gehrke

- John and Thad Leighton
- David and Leigh Leight
- Robert and Carol Geffen
- Larry Lee and Anna Sears
- Karen Lee and Tim Leight
- Edward Lee
- Jeanne Lee
- Susie and Jenny Lee
- Larry Lee and Anna Sears
- Karen Lee and Tim Leight
- Edward Lee
- Jeanne Lee
- Susie and Jenny Lee
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- Susie and Jenny Lee
- Larry Lee and Anna Sears
- Karen Lee and Tim Leight
- Edward Lee
- Jeanne Lee

As a participating member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), EMO helped lead Oregon religious efforts to end U.S. use of torture. As part of this effort, EMO organized the “Interfaith Forum on the Ethics of Torture & Human Rights,” held in Bend, Eugene and Portland with keynote speaker Dr. George Husisinger. The forum drew over 200 participants.

Public Policy Advocacy

EMO believes that we are called to promote justice and compassion, ensuring that all Oregonians are able to live their lives full of possibility. EMO’s 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 individuals, 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.
Refugee & Immigration Ministries (RIM)

Eccumenical Ministries of Oregon'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 (PICS) provides culturally-relevant education in collaboration with Portland Public Schools for refugee, immigrant and English learners.
- Catherine M. Meeker Public Schools for refugee, immigrant and education in collaboration with Portland Public Schools.
- James E. McPartland
- Edward N. McLean
- Judy and Leon McKenzie
- Gail S. McDougle
- Calvin and Velma McConnell
- Eleanor M. McClung
- Alice McCain
- Billie Marx
- Irene Martin
- Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR)

Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS) provides assistance to Russian-speaking refugees and immigrants, including domestic violence services, breast health education, mental health counseling, youth services, ESL, and computer classes.

- Citizenship training, legal and tax assistance, dental care and more.

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) offers legal services and provides resettlement and comprehensive services to refugees through churches and other organizations, including asylum application.

- Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS) sponsors an agency for Russian-speaking and immigrants, including domestic violence services, breast health education, mental health counseling, youth services, ESL, and computer classes.

- Citizenship training, legal and tax assistance, dental care and more.

EMO was a cosponsor of a series of Interfaith Peace Services, including a service on health care for all at St. Andrew Catholic Church.

Refugee & Immigration Ministries (RIM) in 2008...

Portland International Community School reached the school’s maximum capacity with 51 students; celebrated the graduating class in the school’s history with 13 students.

- Russian Oregon Social Services provided direct services to 3,254 Russian-speaking individuals, including 25 victims of domestic and sexual violence; expanded women’s health education services to 3,254 Russian-speaking individuals.
- SOAR Legal Services filed 165 applications for permanent residence, 103 applications for work permits, 60 applications for 40 refugee families.

Refugee & Immigration Ministries (RIM) in 2008...

Collaborated with other organizations for “Common Ground,” supporting veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

- Convened regular meetings with local Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders regarding joint peace efforts in the Middle East.
- Participated in the 2008 “Festival of Faith” and began the fourth season of monthly interfaith forums, representing 10 faith traditions and attended by nearly 1,000 people.