

2013 Annual Report

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Caroline van der Harten, *SOAR Immigration Legal Services*

Vesna Vila, *Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees*

Environmental Ministries

Jenny Holmes, *Director*

Alison Warren, *Outreach Coordinator*

Public Policy Advocacy

Jan Elfers, *Director*

40 years of serving together in faith

“Anticipation” aptly describes life at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) in 2013. In 1973, the Boards of Directors of the Oregon Council of Churches and Portland Council of Churches began the process of dissolving these two organizations and creating a new statewide organization—Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon—which began operations in 1974.

In anticipation of our 40th anniversary, we spent several years assessing the impact that EMO has made over this period, while envisioning the future direction of the call to faithfully serve the church and broader society. Through this visioning process, we reaffirmed the core commitment to build unity in service and ministry to effectively address the many challenges that all too many people and communities face living on the margins of society. We also affirmed the importance of our regional commitments, knowing well that issues related to the future of the church and the commons connect both rural and urban communities. This geographic ecumenism was important to the founders of EMO and continues to be central to our mission outreach today.

Oregon’s demographics are becoming increasingly diverse. As we look forward, equity and inclusion become increasingly important as we develop new ministries and programs. Principles of hospitality, welcoming the stranger, peacemaking, economic justice and compassion will continue to undergird our collective witness in the days ahead.

Forty years ago, with God’s help, people of faith with big visions about the future of both the church and broader society in Oregon created EMO. Today, the commitments of these visionaries continue to be lived into, as seen through our ecumenical and interreligious commitments in service to people living with HIV/AIDS, refugees and immigrants seeking relief from oppression, and families living in poverty. As this report indicates, our mission continues to be carried out through the faithful efforts of a multitude of contemporary visionaries whose generosity of time and talent and the financial resources of thousands of individuals and organizations make real the healing and transformative power of faith and hope-filled collective action.

On behalf of the communities and people that make EMO such an extraordinary organization, we anticipate many more great years of ministry together, and we thank you for your faithful witness and support.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Dr. Doug Wirt
President



David A. Leslie
Executive Director

Ecumenical/Interreligious Dialogue & Peacemaking

Have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 1 PETER 3:8

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 annual Collins Lectures, designed to provide an opportunity for clergy and laity to explore issues related to religion and social ethics.

■ Celebrated ecumenical and community leadership in Oregon with our annual *Community Awards & Celebration Dinner*, which was attended by 315 guests and raised over \$53,000 for EMO’s ministries.

■ Participated in the University of Portland’s “Faith-based Leadership Program,” designed to give high-achieving juniors an internship and mentoring at a faith-based organization.

■ Cosponsored with Bread for the World a homiletics workshop on ending hunger with the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Jr.



“Faith-based Leadership Program” participant Kelsey Robison (left) was mentored by Executive Director David Leslie during her internship at EMO.

Photo credit: Ed Langlois, Catholic Sentinel

In 2013, EMO provided internships for 38 young adults from Concordia University, De LaSalle North Catholic High School, George Fox University, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Lewis & Clark College, Linfield College, Mt. Hood Community College, Oregon Health Sciences University, Pacific University, Portland Community College, Portland State University, University of Portland, and Willamette University.

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Environmental Ministry

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. PSALM 24:1

Our Environmental Ministry programs connect, inform, inspire and empower people, congregations and religious institutions to work for environmental justice and the care and renewal of the earth. We foster an awareness that care for creation is integral to a life of faith.



Photo credit: Caroline Kelly

Last year, IFFP compiled 236 resident surveys for a community food assessment in the Rockwood neighborhood of Gresham. In response to the identified needs of residents, a sanctuary community garden was established in the neighborhood.

■ **Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership (IFFP)** partnered with the Tributary Fund, Pollinator Partnership, and the Interfaith Pollinator Task Force to award 13 mini grants and conduct webinars for faith communities on pollinator conservation; organized a food justice fundraiser, *Extreme Makeover: Addressing Hunger Beyond Charity*, and a *Food Ethics Conference* featuring Dr. Norm Wirzba.

■ **Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC)** carried out our Environmental Ministry mission of earth stewardship in 2013 with the fourth annual *Earth Care Summit*, with the theme “Living Waters.”

■ **Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL)** sponsored an interfaith luncheon for over 125 people with environmental activist and author Bill McKibben, speaking on “Faith in the Global Movement for Climate Justice”; prepared a fossil fuel divestment resolution that was passed by the EMO Board of Directors.

Thank you to the 1,443 donors and foundations (listed on these pages) who gave \$803,106 to EMO during 2013.

Congregations & Religious Organizations

Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Portland
Allen Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Portland
Atkinson Memorial Unitarian Church, Oregon City
Augustana Lutheran Church, Portland
Bethel Congregational United Church of Christ, White Salmon, Wash.
Calvin Presbyterian Church, Tigard
Cedar Hills Baptist Church, Portland
Central Lutheran Church, Portland
Central Lutheran Church Women, Portland
Central Presbyterian Church, Eugene
Christ Church Episcopal Parish, Lake Oswego
Church World Service
Clackamas United Church of Christ, Milwaukie
Community of Christ, Portland
Congregational Church of Lincoln City
East County Church of Christ, Gresham
Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist Church, Gresham
Family Worship Center, Gresham
First Baptist Church, McMinnville
First Baptist Church, Portland
First Christian Church, Albany
First Christian Church, Eugene
First Christian Church, Forest Grove
First Christian Church, Lebanon
First Christian Church, Medford
First Christian Church, Portland
First Christian Church, Silverton
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Beaverton
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eugene
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Portland
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Salem
First Presbyterian Church, Bandon
First Presbyterian Church, Portland
First Presbyterian Church, Roseburg
First Unitarian Church, Portland
First United Methodist Church, Eugene
First United Methodist Church, Portland
First United Methodist Church, Salem
Fremont United Methodist Church, Portland
Gorge Ecumenical Ministries
Habitat for Humanity, Springfield/Eugene
Hillsdale Community United Church of Christ, Portland
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Portland
Hood River Valley Christian Church
Iconographic Arts Institute
Interfaith Council of Greater Portland
Keizer Christian Church
La Salle Catholic College Preparatory
Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, Lake Oswego
Lake Oswego United Church of Christ
Luis Palau Association
Luther Memorial Church, Portland
MacDonald Center
Medford United Church of Christ
Moreland Presbyterian Church, Portland
Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, Portland
Multnomah Monthly Meeting of Friends, Portland
Murray Hills Christian Church, Beaverton
Muslim Educational Trust
Northwest Catholic Counseling Center
Open Door Baptist Church, Troutdale
Oregon Area Jewish Committee
Oregon Episcopal School
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lake Oswego
Peace Church of the Brethren, Portland
Peace Lutheran Church, Portland
Piedmont United Presbyterian Church, Portland
Portland Homeless Family Solutions
Portland Mennonite Church, Portland
Presbyterian Church of Laurelhurst, Portland
Prince of Peace Fellowship, Portland
Providence St. Vincent Medical Center
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Portland
Riverside Community Church, Hood River
St. Andrew Catholic Church, Portland
St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Beaverton
St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Portland
St. Juan Diego Catholic Church, Portland
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Portland
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Salem
St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Portland
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Eugene
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Portland
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Portland
St. Stephen's Episcopal Parish, Portland
Sts. Peter and Paul Episcopal Church, Portland
Salem Friends Meeting

Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, Portland
Sisters of Saint Francis, Milwaukie
Smyrna United Church of Christ, Canby
SnowCap Community Charities
Southminster Presbyterian Church, Beaverton
Survivor Christian Fellowship
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland
Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver, Wash.
Unitarian Universalist Church of Washington County, Hillsboro
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
United Church of Christ Congregational Church, The Dalles
United Lutheran Church, Eugene
University of Portland
Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Portland
Vancouver First Christian Church, Vancouver, Wash.
Vermont Hills United Methodist Church, Portland
Volunteers of America of Oregon
Warner Pacific College
West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Portland
Westminster Mainsail Mariners, Portland
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Salem
Westside Community Church, Aloha
Willamette West Habitat for Humanity
Woodland Park Baptist Church, Portland
WY-East Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Portland

Denominations

American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon
Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon
Community of Christ, Greater Pacific Northwest
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon
Episcopal Diocese of Oregon
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—Oregon Synod
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Presbytery of the Cascades
United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries
United Methodist Church, Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference
Willamette Quarterly Meeting of the Society of Friends

Businesses, Corporations & Organizations

2830 Investors
American Immigration Lawyers Association
American Littoral Society
Bad Habit Room
Bazi
Bob's Red Mill Natural Foods
Bridges Cafe & Catering
Cambia Health Solutions
Casadia Disability Law
Central Drug
Crescent Systems
Cully Community Market
Detour Cafe
Dignity Memorial
Embassy Suites Portland Airport
Facets Finery & Goods
FifthAlder Associates
Fremont Court
Gracie's Restaurant
Hopworks Urban Brewery
Immigration Law Office of Bryan McGowan
Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Oregon
Income Property Management
Independent Brewers United Corporation
International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 8
JOIN
JLA Public Involvement
KC Collective
Kinney Living Trust
Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center
Legacy Health System Northwest
Linfield College
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
McMenamins Pubs & Breweries
Moda Health
Neil Kelly Co.
OHSU Division of Adult HIV/AIDS
Order of Benevolent Bliss
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Oregon Food Bank
The Original

Pacific Power Retirees
Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon
Pietika Consulting
Providence Health & Services
Recess Fitness, Health and Play
Rialto Poolroom Bar & Cafe
Resource Innovation Group
Rose City Mortgage
Sidecar
Star's Restaurant and Bar
SubRosa
Thrivent Financial, NE Portland Chapter
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Foundations

American Endowment Foundation
Autzen Foundation
Black United Fund of Oregon
Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS
The Collins Foundation
Doris H. & Michael F. Garcia Charitable Foundation
Equity Foundation
Gaylord-Eyerman Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
Harold & Arlene Schnitzer Care Foundation
Harris Family Foundation
Herbert A. Templeton Foundation
Irwin Foundation
The Jackson Foundation
Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation
Jouris Family Foundation
Juan Young Trust
Kaiser Foundation
Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation
MAC AIDS Fund
Multnomah Bar Foundation
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Community Ministry

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ... Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 JOHN 3:17-18

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.

In 2013, nearly 900 volunteers helped EMO serve the needs of over 57,000 Oregonians.

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**—a 127-year old, single-room occupancy residence—provided affordable housing for more than 63 individuals who were in recovery from substance abuse, transitioning from homelessness, or striving to maintain their personal independence; throughout the year, residents enjoyed events including a BBQ provided by Holy Family Catholic Church, a trip to Seaside, and Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.
- **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; launched an emergency housing program for students in immediate need of shelter.



Second Home helps participating students successfully graduate from high school, along with the support of volunteer home providers.



Northeast Emergency Food Program installed a new 9' by 27' walk-in cooler/freezer with glass shopping doors, preserving the supply of perishable food and ensuring more of it gets to clients without spoilage

Hunger, Nutrition & Social Services

Serving communities in crisis and people in need is central to EMO's basic human needs programs.

- In 2013, **Food Services/Delizioso Catering** prepared 23,758 nutritious meals—many prepared with fresh produce grown in the Patton Home garden—for clients at the HIV Day Center and Daily Bread Express and residents at the Patton Home.
- Last year, **HIV Services** offered assistance for 255 low-income people living with HIV/AIDS who made 8,261 visits to the Day Center for meals, counseling, computers, phones, laundry, clothing and showers. Over 20,500 client meals were delivered by the Daily Bread Express to home-bound individuals living with HIV/AIDS.
- The **Northeast Emergency Food Program** gathered and distributed nearly 720,000 pounds of nutritionally-balanced food (a 20 percent increase from the previous year) to over 11,000 people in critical need during 2013.

Refugee & Immigration Ministries

Our Refugee and Immigration Ministries offer comprehensive and compassionate services to thousands of refugees and immigrants.

- **Russian Oregon Social Services** gave direct assistance to 3,258 Russian-speaking refugees and immigrants in 2013. Services included domestic violence services, breast and cervical health education, mental health counseling, ESL, self-sufficiency and computer classes, citizenship training, legal and tax assistance, dental care and more.
- Last year, **Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR)** assisted 397 refugees, including 73 individuals through the Lautenberg Amendment, which facilitates the resettlement of Jews, Christians, Baha'is and other religious minorities fleeing Iran and the former Soviet Union.
- In 2013, **SOAR Immigration Legal Services** provided low-cost immigration representation to more than 2,000 immigrants and refugees; expanded its state-wide work by hosting eight Citizenship Days and offering Citizenship Preparation classes across the state; held *World Refugee Day* gallery event, "New Faces of America," featuring photos of SOAR Legal clients.



Photo credit: Jim Clark, Gresham Outlook

In 2013, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees provided resettlement services for 380 refugees and 17 asylees, —including Iraqi refugees Ahmed Abdullah (right) and Maryan Mohammad (second from left), with their three children—assisting them in their adjustment to a new life in the Portland metro area.

EMO makes every effort to ensure accuracy. Please contact us at (503) 221-1054 if you notice an error.