Welcome the Stranger

2016 Annual Report

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A special thank you to Georkis Ramos Quintana for contributing the photographs of EMO’s refugee clients and staff on the cover of this report.

Show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

**Hebrews 13:1-2**

It is wonderful to celebrate the transformative change that is possible when communities of faith and goodwill come together to welcome the stranger! Together, we heal suffering and reconcile one to another.

Each individual’s existence is deeply tied to that of others. When we welcome the stranger in our midst—whether an immigrant or refugee, a person of another faith or race, or a person with a different perspective—we are choosing hope and compassion. And we are standing for love. When Jesus says that the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves, he calls us to this.

In these often cynical and challenging times, let us renew our commitment to build hope for our shared future. I thank you for being a part of the movement!

With gratitude,

Jan Musgrove Elfers
Executive Director
For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in. Matthew 25:35

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s Community Ministry programs help people put their faith into action by addressing human needs in their communities. Our diverse programs provide nutritious meals, affordable housing, social support, and integrated refugee and immigration services.

As 2016 was an election year, the interest in applying for U.S. Citizenship was immense. Over 200 people completed Citizenship Preparation classes presented by SOAR Immigration Legal Services (above), and we helped nearly 300 people apply for naturalization.

Refugee & Immigration Ministries

We offer comprehensive and compassionate services to thousands of refugees and immigrants in the Portland metro area.

- **Russian Oregon Social Services** (ROSS) gave direct assistance to 857 Russian-speaking refugees and immigrants in 2016, including breast health education, dental care, translation services, and support for survivors of domestic violence/sexual assault such as temporary and transitional housing, mental health counseling, and family and immigration law assistance.

- Last year, **Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees** (SOAR) resettled 603 refugees—the majority of whom came from Cuba, the former Soviet Union, and countries in the Middle East and Africa—and assisted them in their adjustment to a new life in the Portland metro area; 41 refugee children were enrolled in the School Assistance for Refugee Newcomers Program.

- In 2016, **SOAR Immigration Legal Services** provided low-cost immigration representation and education services to more than 2,500 immigrants and refugees.
Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Isaiah 1:17

Affordable Housing

EMO has a long history of developing and advocating for affordable housing and is dedicated to filling the housing needs of the most vulnerable.

- **The Patton Home**—a 130-year old single-room occupancy residence—provided affordable housing for 63 individuals who were in recovery from substance abuse, transitioning from homelessness, or striving to maintain their personal independence; offered annual events for residents including a Christmas in July BBQ, excursion to Seaside, and Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner celebrations.

- **Second Home**—a community response to the housing needs of unaccompanied, homeless youth while they attend high school—facilitated housing arrangements last year for 13 students with volunteer host families, providing 1,925 nights of housing and 5,775 meals.

All four high school seniors in the Second Home program graduated in 2016—including Manny Maciel (above left) who was named “Prince of Kindness”—and the remaining students in the program progressed to the next grade level.
Local congregations, the Oregon Food Bank and grocery stores (including Trader Joe’s, Whole Foods, New Seasons and Grocery Outlet) provided the majority of the food the Northeast Emergency Food Program distributed last year, totaling an estimated retail value of more than $3.5 million dollars!

Nutrition & Social Services
Serving communities in crisis and people in need is central to EMO’s basic human needs programs.

- **Communities of Support & Accountability** facilitated six circles of support providing each core member healthy social engagement with 15 volunteers and treatment professionals throughout the year; developed education and advocacy resources including a Criminal Justice Sabbath Worship Resource Guide.

- In 2016, our **Food Services** prepared 19,149 nutritious, home-style meals for 1,959 people in need, including residents of the Patton Home and clients of our HIV Services programs.

- Last year, our **HIV Services** offered assistance for 287 low-income people living with HIV/AIDS who made 8,308 visits to the HIV Day Center for meals, counseling, peer support, computers, phones, laundry, hygiene supplies, clothing and showers; over 21,000 meals and supplements were delivered by the Daily Bread Express to home-bound individuals living with HIV/AIDS and served to clients at the HIV Day Center.

- The **Northeast Emergency Food Program** gathered and distributed more than 823,030 pounds of nutritious food (including 10,000 pounds of locally grown produce) to 22,599 people in critical need during 2016; delivered Christmas boxes to 160 families at Sacajawea Head Start.

Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18
And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. MICAH 6:8

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s public witness and advocacy efforts support the marginalized, poor and voiceless. We are a consistent faith presence at the Oregon Legislature, and we also train and engage congregations and people of faith to participate in this important aspect of our ministry.

Public Policy Advocacy

■ During the **2016 Legislative Session**, EMO joined with our policy partners to successfully advocate for an increase in funding for affordable housing (SB 5701), an increase in the value of Oregon’s Earned Income Tax Credit for those with young children (HB 4110), and an increase in the state’s minimum wage (SB 1532).

■ EMO also advocated for strong climate policies during the Session, including Senate Bill 1547-B, otherwise known as the **Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan**, that was signed into law by Governor Brown.

■ For the fall election, EMO’s **Voters’ Guide to Oregon Ballot Measures** reached over 8,000 households and places of worship throughout Oregon, and five Ballot Measure Forums were held at congregations across the state.

Executive Director of EMO, Jan Musgrove Elfers, witnessed Governor Kate Brown signing a minimum wage bill (SB 1532) on March 2, 2016, giving Oregon the highest statewide minimum wage rates in the nation.
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 inspire congregations and individuals to deepen their own commitments and better understand their neighbors. Each year, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon creates workshops, discussions, lectures, presentations, celebrations and prayer vigils to celebrate Christian unity, foster interfaith relations, and explore ethical and moral issues. Our annual Collins Lecture provides a forum for clergy and laity to explore contemporary issues related to religion and social ethics.
The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. **Genesis 2:15**

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

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**Earth Ministry**

- In January 2016, we presented the seventh annual **Earth Care Summit**, “Renewing Creation from the Ground Up,” mobilizing over 300 people to learn about the connection between soil, food and faith, and how to effectively address climate change.

- Last year, **Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership** continued to promote good health in Gresham’s racially and ethnically diverse Rockwood neighborhood. The Rockwood Farmers Market brought an abundance of garden-fresh produce and nutritious staples to residents right in their own community, while the Healthy Retail Network collaborated with local convenience store owners to dedicate space to—and educate shoppers about—fresh produce and culturally relevant staples.

- **Oregon Interfaith Power & Light** mobilized over 450 people of faith to call for a price and cap on climate pollution; delivered a letter to the Oregon governor and legislators signed by 75 people in support of the Clean Electricity Plan; led a “Prayer into Action” gathering in February before the Healthy Climate Rally of faith-based advocates in Salem.
Thank you to the 1,508 donors and foundations (listed on these pages) who gave $983,939 to EMO during 2016.

**Congregations & Religious Organizations**

Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Portland  
Augustana Lutheran Church, Portland  
Benedictine Sisters, Mount Angel  
Bethel Congregational United Church of Christ, Beaverton  
Bridgeport United Church of Christ, Portland  
Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, Portland  
Central Lutheran Church, Portland  
Central Lutheran Church Women, Portland  
Central Presbyterian Church, Eugene  
Christ Church Episcopal Parish, Lake Oswego  
Church Women United in Oregon Church World Service  
Community of Christ, Portland  
Congregational Church of Lincoln City  
First Baptist Church, McMinnville  
First Christian Church, Albany  
First Christian Church, Eugene  
First Christian Church, Portland  
First Christian Church, Silverton  
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Corvallis  
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, La Grande  
First Presbyterian Church, Portland  
First Presbyterian Church, Roseburg  
First Unitarian Church, Portland  
First United Methodist Church, Corvallis  
First United Methodist Church, Portland  
Fremont United Methodist Church, Portland  
George Fox University, Newberg  
Habitat for Humanity – Springfield/Eugene  
Hillsdale Community Church, Portland  
Hood River Valley Christian Church, Hood River  
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland  
Kairos-Milwaukie United Church of Christ  
Lake Oswego United Methodist Church  
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Portland  
Mid-Columbia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Hood River  
Morland Presbyterian Church, Portland  
Murray Hills Christian Church, Beaverton  
Muslim Educational Trust, Tigard  
Northwest Catholic Counseling Center, Portland  
Parkrose Community United Church of Christ, Portland  
Peace Church of the Brethren, Portland  
Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, Portland  
St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Beaverton  
St. Juan Diego Catholic Church, Portland  
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Portland  
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Salem  
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Eugene  
St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Portland  
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, The Dalles  
St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church, Portland  
St. Willibrord Chapel, The Dalles  
Stts. Peter & Paul Episcopal Church, Portland  
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus & Mary, Marylhurst  
Smyrna United Church of Christ, Canby  
SnowCap Community Charities, Portland  
South Park Unitarian Fellowship, West Linn  
Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, Cal.  
Sunriver Christian Fellowship  
Tigard United Methodist Church  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland  
Unitarian Universalist Assn., Pacific NW District, Bellevue, Wash.  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem  
United Campus Ministry, Corvallis  
United Methodist Women of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference  
The Unity Center, West Linn  
Unity Church of Portland  
Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Portland  
Vancouver First Christian Church  
Vermont Hills United Methodist Church, Portland  
Volunteers of America of Oregon  
West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Portland  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland  
Willamette West Habitat for Humanity  
Woodland Park Baptist Church, 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 & Southwest Idaho  
Community of Christ – Greater Pacific Northwest  
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon  
Episcopal Diocese of Oregon  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – Oregon Synod  
Presbytery of the Cascades  
United Methodist Church Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference  
Willamette Quarterly Meeting of the Society of Friends

**Businesses, Corporations & Organizations**

3 Doors Down Cafe  
350PDX  
A Flair for Gifts & Home  
American Immigration Lawyers Assoc.  
Argonaut Management Services  
ASAP Logistics  
Bazi Bierbrasserie  
Bridges Cafe & Catering  
Broadway Medical Clinic  
Cambia Health Solutions  
Cascade AIDS Project  
CAUSA  
CH2M Hill Inc.  
Costco Wholesale  
Doug Fir  
Drive Oregon  
Extracto Coffee Roasters  
Ford Food & Drink  
Garden Bar  
Gracie’s Restaurant  
Grands-Bénédicts  
Immigration Counseling Service  
Impact Assets

**Foundations**

American Endowment Foundation  
The Black United Fund of Oregon  
Boeing Employees Community Fund  
Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS  
CareOregon  
The Collins Foundation  
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The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation  
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Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety  
Oregon Food Bank  
The Original  
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Pacific Power Retirees  
Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon  
Peter’s Bar & Grill  
Portland Literacy Council  
Portland Local 8 Federal Credit Union  
Portland Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence  
Praying Mantis Farm  
Quest Center for Integrative Health  
Red Sauce Pizza  
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Renew Oregon  
River’s Edge  
Rose & Thistle Pub  
Saraveza Bottle Shop & Pasty Tavern  
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Thrivent Financial, Northeast Portland Chapter  
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United Way of the Columbia-Willamette  
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Wright Land Company
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Jouris Family Foundation
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MAC AIDS Fund
Multnomah Bar Foundation
Neighborhood Partnership Fund
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PGE Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Pride Foundation
The Regeneration Project
The Reser Family Foundation
Shell Oil Company Foundation
Matching Gifts
Spirit Mountain Community Foundation
Standard Charitable Foundation
Susan G. Komen Foundation
Tides Foundation

**Government**
City of Beaverton
Multnomah County (various divisions)
Oregon State Dept. of Human Services
Oregon State Dept. of Justice, Crime Victims Services Division
Portland Housing Bureau
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
U.S. Dept. of Justice
U.S. Dept. of State

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Last year, 548 volunteers helped Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon serve the needs of more than 41,500 Oregonians.
2016 Finance Report

Revenues: $3,829,019

Expenses: $3,844,509