

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO to honor New City Initiative with “Ecumenical Service Award”

New City Initiative will receive the “Ecumenical Service Award” at *Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner* on May 7, 2015. The award is presented in recognition of special achievements in hope-inspiring, life-enhancing, interfaith community ministry.

New City Initiative began in 2010 as a project of JOIN, a Portland-area nonprofit dedicated to ending the cycle of homelessness. Engaging the faith communities in this effort, New City Initiative has launched “Covenant of Hope”—a project whereby congregations sponsor homeless families living in the emergency warming shelter, providing rent and utility support and community support to these families. Another innovative program is “New City Kitchen”—a social enterprise program offering employment training and placement in the food service industry.

The *EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner* has become the premier ecumenical event in Oregon, bringing together diverse communities of faith and community partners in celebration of ecumenism and the spirit of hope across Oregon. This year, the event will be held on May 7 at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO’s ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and the dinner and award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are available at www.emoregon.org for \$100 per person and tables for 10 are available for \$1,000. For more information, call 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, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.