

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO honors Rose Haven with “Ecumenical Service Award”

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will honor Rose Haven Day Center for Women and Children on May 16, 2018, at its *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration*. The award is presented in recognition of special achievements in hope-inspiring, life-enhancing, ecumenical community ministry.

Rose Haven in Portland is a sanctuary from the street, offering compassion, practical assistance and community to women and children facing loss of home, abuse and other disruptive life experiences. Rose Haven not only helps women with basic necessities on a day-to-day basis, but also guides them toward building sustainable lives for themselves. In 2017, Rose Haven served 20,106 meals, distributed 5,105 hygiene kits, and held 3,473 one-on-one appointments to assist guests with housing, job searches and more. As guests at Rose Haven begin the healing process, the changes in their lives lead to healing in our urban community as a whole.

Rose Haven was designed using the results of a survey conducted in 1997 by Sr. Cathie Boerboom, who asked the women of Old Town what they most needed and wanted. Sr. Cathie built connections with other agencies and churches that met some of the needs of the women expressed, and developed Rose Haven as a program under the umbrella of Catholic Charities. In 2006, Rose Haven became an independent nonprofit organization and relocated to northwest Portland, opening its doors the following year to provide direct services to homeless and abused women and children.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration* is the single most important annual fundraiser for our vital ministries to the poor, the vulnerable, the hungry and the sick throughout the state of Oregon. Funds contributed by sponsors and guests enable us to serve those in need and to advocate on their behalf at the Oregon Legislature for a just, equitable and sustainable society. Each year we honor extraordinary individuals and organizations such as Rose Haven whose moral vision and commitment to action have contributed profoundly to making our community a better place.

This year, the event will be held on May 16 at the Benson Hotel, 309 SW Broadway, Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO's ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m.; dinner, a live auction and the award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations, available at emoregon.org, are \$100 per person (festival seating) or \$2,000 per table of 10 (includes Bronze Sponsorship and reserved seating). For more information, contact 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, earth ministry, and public policy advocacy.