

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO honors La Pine residents Ron and NaDyne Lewis for their volunteer work

Ron and NaDyne Lewis will be honored with an “Ecumenical Service Award” on May 10, 2007, at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner. The award is presented in recognition of special achievements in supporting ecumenical community ministries in Oregon.

Since 1993, Ron and NaDyne Lewis have created Christmas packages for the clients of EMO’s HIV Day Center. The packages include basics such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, socks, underwear, hats, gloves and bus tickets. They also try to include fun items such as books, candles and ornaments, as well as stuffed animals, crayons and toys for the children. “Their thoughtful generosity and their obvious joy in giving are an inspiration to us all,” said Lowen Berman, program manager of the Day Center. The Day Center provides a wide range of assistance for people living with HIV/AIDS—most of whom are low-income or homeless—such as meals, counseling, recreational therapy, computers, phones, laundry, clothing and showers. “

The Lewises first became involved with the Day Center through their son Tom—who worked as a volunteer at the Day Center while he was still healthy, and later came to visit and share meals. Tom passed away in 1992 due to complications from AIDS.

Knowing how important the Day Center had been to Tom, the Lewises wanted to help out any way they could. “As we got close to the holidays, we thought, ‘Everybody needs Christmas,’” said NaDyne. “So our Christmas packages became our way of contributing.” Even though they retired to Central Oregon in 2000, they continue to make the trip to Portland each year to deliver the Christmas packages to clients at the Day Center. “We found that once we started the tradition, we couldn’t not do it. It’s very rewarding.”

Ron and NaDyne have been married since 1988. They first met in high school and didn’t see each other for about 30 years until a high school reunion. NaDyne has three daughters from a previous marriage, all of whom consider Ron their dad, as well as 13 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

The EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner will be held at The Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO’s ministries will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and the dinner and award presentations will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and table sponsorships are available for \$500. For more information, call Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054 or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—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.

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

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Community of Christ ■ Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches