

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon honors Mercy Corps with humanitarian award

Mercy Corps will be honored with the *Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award* on May 6, 2008, at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner. Named for the late Howard Vollum and his wife Jean, the award recognizes “outstanding commitment to humanitarian responsibility that has significantly enhanced the quality of life for all.”

Mercy Corps exists to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities. The organization works amid disasters, conflicts, chronic poverty and instability to unleash the potential of people who can win against nearly impossible odds. Since 1979, Mercy Corps has provided \$1.3 billion in assistance to people in 100 nations. Supported by headquarters offices in Portland, Ore., and the United Kingdom, the agency's unified global programs employ 3,500 staff worldwide and reach nearly 14.4 million people in 40 countries.

Mercy Corps' strategy is to work in countries in transition, where communities are recovering from disaster, conflict or economic collapse. They enable community-led and market-driven recovery and development that empowers people to achieve the change they want to see. Mercy Corps finds social innovations that address the world's toughest problems. They inspire people to engage on global challenges by educating and inspiring those who represent the hope and the reality of our planet's future. Their experience demonstrates that turmoil and tragedy often create opportunities for lasting, positive change. Locally, Mercy Corps Northwest helps low-income individuals in Oregon and Washington to improve their lives through small business and self-employment.

The EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner will be held at The Governor Hotel, 614 SW Eleventh 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 \$60 per person and table sponsorships are available for \$600. 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

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church ■ American Baptist Churches ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ■ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ■ Church of the Brethren
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