

Interchurch Center, Suite B ■ 0245 SW Bancroft Street ■ Portland, Oregon 97239  
*phone* (503) 221-1054 ■ *fax* (503) 223-7007 ■ *Web site* www.emoregon.org

April 22, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact person: Carla Starrett-Bigg, (503) 221-1054  
csbigg@emoregon.org

### **Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon honors “Oregon Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster” with service award**

Oregon Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster (ORVOAD) will be honored with an “Ecumenical Service Award” on May 6, 2008, at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner. The award is presented in recognition of ORVOAD’s special achievements in developing community-based responses to disasters throughout the state of Oregon.

Oregon Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster has been serving the Oregon community for over 30 years. ORVOAD is an association of 31 active community groups—including the faith community, non governmental organizations and businesses—responding to disasters in Oregon. Once there is a Presidential Declaration of disaster, ORVOAD can grow to over 100 participating groups, working closely with FEMA and state and county emergency management.

After the disastrous flood in northwest Oregon last December, several counties received a Presidential Declaration, including Clatsop (Astoria area) Columbia (which includes Vernonia), Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk and Washington, as well as three other counties that were impacted by the flood but did not received the Presidential Declaration—Coos, Curry and Lincoln. ORVOAD has been responding to the needs in those counties, as well as others affected by the flood, by supporting relief centers, bringing extra food resources, repairing roofs, seeking building supplies, providing case management training/systems and seeking volunteer teams. ORVOAD has also established a 30,000-square-foot warehouse in Portland filled with furnishings that are dispersed to persons registered with FEMA and impacted by disasters. In the future, ORVOAD plans on using pods or containers in local areas.

Some of the faith communities currently working in collaboration with ORVOAD include Adventist Community Services, Baptist Men, Catholic Charities, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, Church of the Brethren, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Episcopalian Disaster Relief, Foursquare churches, Jewish Community Services, Latter Day Saints, Lutheran Disaster Response, Mennonite Disaster Services, Presbytery of the Cascades, Salvation Army, Scientologists, St. Vincent de Paul and United Methodist Committee on Relief.

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.

-more-

#### 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

*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.*