Dear Friends:

The Rev. Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister and creator and host of the preschool television show, “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” liked to tell a story about his mother, Nancy. He said, “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say, ‘Always look for the helpers. You will find them in every crisis, usually on the sidelines. If you look for the helpers, you will know there is hope.’”

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) represents a plethora of “helpers” who are dedicated to loving our neighbors across the state and region. Our commitments are rooted in the gospel text of Matthew 25: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

In a world fraught with crises, EMO asks key questions about who and what is at risk on the margins of society. Our values call us to learn from, advocate for, and serve those among us who are the most vulnerable in order to create a more peaceful, just, sustainable, and compassionate world for all.

We know that there are times in life when we are the helpers and times when we need help. That is why building community with our neighbors is so crucial. Our lives are interwoven with one another. EMO celebrates this interconnection as we work together to build a better future for all.

With gratitude,

Jan Musgrove Elfers
President
4 Community Ministry

Show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:1-2

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is serving communities through our direct services for people in need. Our diverse programs are many and they are transformative. We provide nutritious meals, affordable housing, social support, and integrated refugee and immigration services.

REFUGEES & IMMIGRATION
We offer comprehensive and compassionate services to thousands of refugees and immigrants in the Portland metro area.

- Last year, Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS) celebrated 25 years of service to Russian-speaking immigrants and refugees. The program assisted over 1,100 individuals, including many women and their children fleeing domestic violence.

- In 2019, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) resettled and welcomed into our community 178 refugees and 26 asylum-seekers. Their countries of origin include Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Burma, former Soviet Union (Russia, Ukraine and Moldova), Romania, the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Cuba and Venezuela.

- Last year, SOAR Immigration Legal Services served a total of 3,228 low income immigrants with legal representation and education services. Over 350 immigrants attended our citizenship preparation classes (in English, Spanish and Russian).

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in. Matthew 25:35

Last year, Northeast Emergency Food Program launched “Operation Uplift” to address necessary repairs and to create a bolder, brighter and more efficient place to work, volunteer, serve and receive.

NUTRITION & SOCIAL SERVICES
Serving communities in crisis and people in need is central to EMO’s basic human needs programs.

- In 2019, EMO’s Food Services prepared 29,191 nutritious, home-style meals for 1,469 people in need, including residents of the Patton Home and clients of our HIV Services programs (HIV Day Center, Daily Bread Express) and Aging, Disability and Veterans Services Division.

- Last year, our HIV Day Center welcomed 289 individuals living with HIV, and the Daily Bread Express delivered over 7,500 meals to home-bound individuals.

- In 2019, Northeast Emergency Food Program provided 42,411 individuals with over two million pounds of nutritious food, including fresh produce. Sacajawea Mobile Outreach served 1,160 families a total of 58,000 pounds of food.
The 2019 Collins Summit, “Listening at the Margins,” engaged 300 participants in a method of listening at the margins of the global community and in our own lives in order to build resilience together in and for these times. The Rev. Dr. Carlos Mendoza-Alvarez (far right)—a Dominican priest, professor and internationally known liberation theologian—led a dialogue with local faith leaders (from left) Juan Carlos La Puente, The Rev. Dr. Sara Rosenau and The Rev. Melissa Reed.

Have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 1 Peter 3:8

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s interfaith education and theological dialogue programs inspire congregations and individuals to deepen their own commitments and better understand their neighbors. Each year, we create workshops, discussions, lectures, presentations, celebrations and prayer vigils to celebrate Christian unity, foster interfaith relations, and explore ethical and moral issues. Our annual Collins Summit, funded in part by the Collins Foundation, provides a forum for clergy and laity to explore contemporary issues related to religion and social ethics.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

EMO has a long history of developing and advocating for affordable housing and is dedicated to filling the housing needs of the most vulnerable.

- In 2019, Metro HomeShare expanded our services into Washington County, tripling the geographic area we cover, doubling the number of participants we serve, and increasing our staff by 25 percent.

- The Patton Home—a historic single-room occupancy residence—provided affordable housing for 63 individuals who were in recovery from substance abuse, transitioning from houselessness, or striving to maintain their personal independence.

- Last year through Second Home—a community response to the housing needs of unaccompanied houseless youth while they attend high school—25 students spent 3,507 nights in host homes and were provided 10,521 meals. Fourteen of our 15 seniors in the program graduated—a 93 percent success rate.

**EDUCATION & DIALOGUE**

- A Common Table retreat was convened at the Muslim Educational Trust attended by faith leaders from across the state, who put aside their political and ideological differences to rediscover what they have in common. Last year, the Common Table increased its online presence to spread its message of cooperation and unity.

- EMO was awarded a grant from Murdock Charitable Trust to hire a full time community engagement organizer for statewide community building, including the creation of regional hubs.

- During the 2019 Oregon Legislative Session, EMO developed Public Witness in the Pews, a series of worship bulletin inserts for congregations to engage their members on legislative issues relevant to people of faith, such as climate justice, youth homelessness, criminal justice reform and refugee services.

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Isaiah 1:17

Have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 1 Peter 3:8

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Isaiah 1:17
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon fosters an awareness that care for creation is integral to a life of faith. Our Creation Justice programs empower congregations to improve their practices of environmental stewardship and environmental and ecological justice. We accomplish this through education, building relationships and advocacy.

CREATION JUSTICE

During the 2019 Legislative Session, EMO advocated for meaningful climate legislation, taking the faith lead in the Renew Oregon Coalition to engage people of faith in a campaign to pass a cap-and-invest climate bill. Also during the session, EMO participated in Clean Energy Jobs Lobby Day.

Last December, Creation Justice collaborated on a two-day retreat, A Climate Response: Ministry in the Time of Climate Change, with the Center for Earth Ethics and Climate Reality Project, hosted by Willamette University and the Claremont School of Theology.

For the 2019 International Climate Strike, Creation Justice and EcoFaith Recovery organized people of faith for a spiritual grounding pre-gathering preceding the strike, and both faith organizations hosted a resource table at the climate festival.

EMO’s Creation Justice and EcoFaith Recovery hosted a resource table at the International Climate Strike Festival.

Thank you to the 1,450 donors and foundations who contributed $1,683,106 during 2019.

Donors & Partners
Finance Report

REVENUES: $6,211,584

EXPENSES: $5,651,929