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Claiming roots in an uprooted world

Collins Summit to explore causes, challenges & opportunities of human migration

We live in a time of upheaval and uprootedness—a world in which millions of people are on the move, forced by violence and scarcity to leave their homes and cross international borders, while governments and citizens debate whether and how to offer refuge or deny entry to those in harm's way.

There are now close to 250 million migrants worldwide, including 68.5 million forcibly displaced people, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency. Of those, 40 million were internally displaced, 25.4 million were refugees, and 3.1 million were asylum-seekers. (A "migrant" is

anyone who seeks to move overseas. A "refugee" does so in conditions where they have been forced from their homeland. And an "asylum seeker" is someone who says he or she is a refugee, but whose claim has not yet been definitively evaluated by the government of the country they seek to enter.)

Such displacement is central to our own national origins. The United States is a nation of immigrants, and our history includes the painful reality that European immigrants forcibly removed indigenous people from their homes and ways of life, creating lasting trauma.

Even today, and



There are now close to 250 million migrants worldwide, including 68.5 million forcibly displaced people.

closer to home, "urban renewal" programs and the gentrification of Portland's central neighborhoods have turned long-term residents, predominately

people of color, into economic migrants to the outer edges of the Portland metro area, sundering communities and upending lives.

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Second Home gives homeless students stability, chance to graduate

By Jake Arnold, Communications and News Specialist, Oregon School Boards Association

With his senior year at Beaverton High School winding down, Moses Ochora Okullu suddenly found himself with no place to live and no family nearby. His mom had struggled to hold the family together in Beaverton, but she had moved to Washington for work and the apartment lease would run out after spring break.

Second Home stepped in, providing a family for Ochora Okullu to live with so he could graduate in June. Now he is working toward a career in criminal justice at South Puget Sound Community

College in Olympia, Wash.

In 2010, the Beaverton School District partnered with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and the city of Beaverton to launch Second Home, an innovative program to anchor homeless students without an adult in their life.

The need for such services in Oregon keeps growing: 22,541 K-12 students were classified as homeless in 2016-17, according to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), up from 18,165 in 2012-13. Oregon has the fourth-highest state student

homeless rate, according to the U.S. Department of Education 2014-15 data, but Oregon is also ranked among the best at identifying homeless students.

Student homelessness creates steep graduation hurdles. The on-time graduation rate for Oregon homeless students is barely 50 percent, and the dropout rate is far higher than for any other group.

Dona Bolt, the ODE's coordinator for homeless student education, called Second Home a model. "Stabilizing a student in

housing is critical to them being stable in school," she said.

The Beaverton School District reports that since the program's inception, 96 percent of its students have earned a degree—nearly double the graduation rate for all homeless Beaverton students.

The program matches families with teens who "rent" home space by agreeing to stay in school and graduate. Signed legal agreements also allow teens to establish a rental history. Families and students negotiate rental agreements

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Transforming a broken heart

We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. – *Closing words from President Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address, March 4, 1861.*

Throughout our nation's history, there have been events and circumstances that have brought our country together, and those that have threatened to tear us apart. As we approach the 2018 midterm elections, the United States is experiencing a period of deep division and polarization.



Jan Musgrove Elfers
President

Abraham Lincoln recognized a truth that lies at the heart of Christianity and is the foundation of all the major world religions. That is, in the face of profound and important disagreements, we must never forget that we are a part of one another, and that our futures are intertwined. We are not enemies.

Parker J. Palmer, author, educator and founder of the Center for Courage and Renewal, authored a book in 2011, *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create*

a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit. In it, he reminds readers that difference fuels the very heart of democracy. Palmer argues that America's founders "established the first form of government in which differences, conflict and tension were understood not as the enemies of a good social order but as the engines of a better social order."

Fear, not respect, for difference drives the current dynamics of our divisions. This fear leads to mistrust, demonization and animosity directed towards those we see as "the other." When we mistrust and hate one another, our ability to come together to solve problems is greatly, if not entirely, diminished.

There is too much at stake in our world, too many people suffering, for us to waste time pointing fingers at one another in blame. It is time for us to "roll up our sleeves" and get to work. As Palmer puts it, "To hold the tension of our differences creatively—in a way that opens our minds and hearts to each other and to a rough consensus on the common good."

At Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, our direct community services focus on alleviating human suffering: a refugee or immigrant struggling to build a new life, a person fleeing domestic violence, a hungry child, or an aging senior afraid of losing their home. Working to both meet basic needs and fix broken systems that perpetuate suffering allows us to imagine a hopeful way forward—in the midst of the

anger, fear and cynicism that permeate society.

Palmer believes that at the core of the anger and fear on all sides lies a broken heart. Americans are deeply disturbed by the troubles all around us. Our broken hearts can either be shattered into pieces and become filled with hate, or they can be opened up and become a catalyst for our transformation. There is nothing easy about the process of transformation. But this, of course, is the task of our spiritual journey, the alchemy of life's experiences—joy, sorrow, grief, love—transformed into hearts that are open to both heal and be healed.

At times a prophetic voice requires us to speak with unwavering moral clarity. And sometimes the prophetic voice calls us to help one another grapple with the great complexities of life when there are no easy answers. But where we are today living in our siloed, separate worlds—whether in politics, in the media, in the religious world, or demographically—this embittered isolation from one another will not lead us to build the beloved community that we long for.

When we disagree, let us do so with sincerity, compassion and humility. In the midst of our disagreement, let us look for areas of common ground. And may we remember that our shared brokenness can become a pathway to discovering "the better angels" of our nature. Our future depends on it.

Collins Summit

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Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO)—together with a diverse group of refugees, immigrants, advocates and scholars—is planning an in-depth exploration of the causes, challenges and opportunities of human migration both within and across borders. This will be the subject of EMO's *2018 Collins Summit*, "Human Migration: Claiming Roots in an Uprooted World," on Thursday, Nov. 1, at Concordia University in Portland.

The moral imperative to support migrants

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has been resettling refugees in Oregon for many decades. Religious organizations dedicate themselves to this work because each of our traditions speaks with moral clarity about our responsibility to love, to protect and to welcome the "stranger" in our midst. To people of faith, this is not an option, it is a command. The Bible says in Leviticus, "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love them as yourself."

The multiple faith communities that comprise Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon believe we are all called to welcome the stranger, to stand with the powerless, to act with justice and mercy. This belief is central to EMO's mission and the cornerstone of our direct service programs for refugees and immigrants in the Portland metro area. It is also the foundation of our work as part of the Beloved Community to heal racial divisions and foster



The 2018 Collins Lecturers will be The Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy, president of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Cal., and Oregon Attorney General Ellen F. Rosenblum.



loving, liberating and life-giving relationships.

Now, with the *2018 Collins Summit*, EMO is taking the faith conversation on human migration statewide, with the goal of developing an informed and compassionate response to our most vulnerable neighbors at home and abroad.

Keynote speakers

The 2018 Collins Lecturers will be **The Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy**, president of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Cal., and **Oregon Attorney General Ellen F. Rosenblum**. Together they will address both theological and legal aspects of human migration.

An immigrant from Guatemala, committed pastor, nationally recognized immigration leader, and sought-after speaker, Dr. Vásquez-Levy leads at the intersection of faith, higher education and social change. He regularly contributes a faith perspective to the national conversation on immigration and is

the author of publications exploring migration stories in sacred texts and in people's lives.

Attorney General Rosenblum is deeply committed to upholding civil rights for all Oregonians. As a federal prosecutor, judge and attorney general, she has advocated for and protected the most vulnerable among us, including immigrants, people of color, religious minorities and LGBTQ+ people. She joined many of her attorney general colleagues in filing lawsuits against the Trump Administration's Muslim travel ban and its termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and called for reuniting migrant parents and children separated at the U.S. border.

About the Collins Summit

An afternoon seminar—featuring workshops on the causes of migration, what the journey entails, the challenges faced upon arrival, and the intersectionality of community concerns such as racism, profiling and criminal justice—will begin at 1 p.m. at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 6700 NE 29th Ave., adjacent to the Concordia campus in Portland.

The *Collins Lecture* by The Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum will begin at 7 p.m. in the Concordia University Gymnasium, 6430 NE 27th Ave.

Admission to the afternoon seminar, dinner and lecture is \$60 (or \$30 for students with ID). Admission to the evening lecture only is \$25 (or \$15 for students with ID). Registration is available at emoregon.org or by calling (503) 221-1054.

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SOAR Immigration Legal Services expands service, opens second office in Hillsboro!

SOAR Immigration Legal Services, a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, is excited to announce that our new Hillsboro office is open to the public! Thanks to generous funding from the Oregon Law Foundation, SOAR Legal has been able to open a satellite office in the heart of Hillsboro.

Since 2013, SOAR Legal has been providing services in Washington County including monthly consultation clinics at the Hillsboro United Methodist Church and the Muslim Educational Trust and citizenship classes at the Hillsboro Libraries. During that time, it became clear that Washington County's immigrant residents were in need of more access to affordable immigration legal services.

Through our visits we observed that many in the community had been victims of immigration fraud and had not had



Last year, SOAR Immigration Legal Services staff provided low-cost immigration representation and education services to more than 2,500 immigrants and refugees in Oregon.

the opportunity to meet with a licensed immigration attorney about their situations. Now individuals can meet with an attorney every Tuesday at our office in Hillsboro and discuss their case. Our office represents

individuals with asylum, adjustment of status, citizenship/naturalization, family-based petitions, U-visas, Violence Against Women Act petitions, DACA renewals, employment authorization, temporary protected status, humanitarian parole, travel documents and removal defense.

We also offer "Know Your Rights" workshops for families at risk of deportation.

The SOAR Legal Hillsboro office is located at 862 SE Oak Street, Suite 3A, and is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you would like a "Know Your Rights" presentation or other immigration presentation for your community, contact SOAR Legal at soarlegalhillsboro@emoregon.org or (503) 384-2482, ext. 200.

Facts on immigrants & refugees in Oregon

Immigrants are vital constituents in our Oregon community!

- One in ten Oregon residents—about 400,000 people—is an immigrant.
- Immigrants are integral to Oregon's economy and paid \$737 million in state and local taxes in 2014. Of that amount, undocumented Oregonians paid about \$81 million in taxes, and DACA recipients paid about \$20 million in taxes.
- Almost 90,000 Oregonians are U.S. citizens with at least one family member who is undocumented. When an immigrant is put in deportation proceedings, the entire family is at risk of being torn apart.

Creating universal legal representation program for low-income immigrants

Many people are surprised to learn that immigrants are not provided with an attorney for their deportation cases free of cost. For some individuals facing deportation, their lives literally depend on a favorable court decision, as many have fled persecution and violence to find safety for themselves and their families in the United States. For others who have lived in Oregon with their families for decades, being deported means being separated from their children who may be U.S. citizens.

With the current immigration policies targeting the undocumented community and making it more difficult for asylum seekers to stay in the United States, it has become more important than ever that immigrants facing deportation are not denied attorneys based on inability to pay legal fees.

Nearly 1,400 Oregonian immigrants were in deportation proceedings in Portland with no attorney to represent them, according to March 2018 records. Immigrants who do have an attorney are about three-and-a-half times more likely to have successful outcomes in their hearings and avoid deportation. Based on current statistics, nearly 80 percent of unrepresented immigrants in deportation proceedings in Oregon are ordered to be deported.¹

These sobering statistics emphasize the need for universal legal representation for all immigrants in Oregon. In that effort, a model has been developed through a partnership of EMO's SOAR Immigration Legal Services, Catholic Charities, Immigration Counseling Service, Innovation Law Lab, Metropolitan Public Defender, Causa, and the Lewis & Clark Law School. Other partners are joining this effort.

This model, once fully funded, will allow the partnership of nonprofits to collectively provide attorneys to all immigrants in Oregon facing deportation. The partnership seeks to join other states—including Washington,



Several Oregon nonprofits, including EMO's SOAR Immigration Legal Services, are launching a program this fall to ensure all immigrants facing deportation have legal representation.

California and New York—in providing universal representation to all our residents who find themselves in deportation proceedings.

Some of the fundraising for the Oregon universal representation program comes from the city of Portland, as part of the city's commitment to making Portland a Sanctuary City. This means that Portland immigrants facing deportation will be provided with a lawyer. Multnomah County has also provided funding for attorneys to represent Multnomah County residents living outside the city of Portland who are facing deportation. The partnership continues to seek additional funding, so that all of Oregon's residents can be afforded an attorney if they are in deportation proceedings.

The Oregon universal representation program is planned to launch in October.

If you know someone who is facing deportation or you want to contribute to the Oregon universal representation program, contact SOAR Immigration Legal Services at (503) 384-2482 or soarlegal@emoregon.org.

¹Statistics from "Defend Everyone: Creating the Equity Corps of Oregon to provide universal representation."

Collins Summit

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The annual *Collins Lectures* have been a signature EMO event for over 40 years. Underwritten by The Collins Foundation, the series presents emerging and inclusive theological and social perspectives on contemporary issues.

Cosponsors to date include: American Friends Service Committee; Augustana Lutheran Church; Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon & SW Idaho; Community of Christ, Portland; Concordia University; Crescent Systems, Inc.; DocuMart; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Oregon Synod; Pastor Don Frueh; Gorge Ecumenical Ministries; Institute for Christian Muslim Understanding; Muslim Educational Trust; Neil Kelly Company; Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church; Portland Parks & Recreation; Providence Health & Services; Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary; Unite Oregon; Warner Pacific University.

Live better together: Metro HomeShare provides a creative solution to solve Portland's affordable housing crisis

Last year, Jerry was living in a motel and was quickly running out of options when his daughter called Metro HomeShare to get him enrolled as a Home Seeker. In February, he was matched with Frank in his home in north Portland. After Jerry and Frank met and began getting to know one another, they found they had much in common and decided to move forward in living together. Metro HomeShare helped them draw up a rental contract and begin their homeshare match.

As facilitator, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Metro HomeShare works with individuals to find housing options that support their critical needs. For our Home Providers, who are often burdened by the increasing cost of housing while living on a fixed income, homesharing offers financial stability in order to retain ownership of their home or meet other costs. For Home Seekers who have been priced out of the rental market and are often facing homelessness, homesharing offers a solution for safe and stable housing.

When two people find a match, the benefits go far beyond housing. Research by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) indicates that a person's housing condition leads among the top five social determinants of health. Economic status and social community also affect one's health greatly. Through homesharing, clients



Through homesharing, clients not only gain stable housing but also the opportunity to build community with their housemate and improve their health.

not only gain stable housing but also the opportunity to build community with their housemate and improve their health. Seniors particularly suffer from depression at a rate that is three times higher than that of the general population, due to the fact that over 60 percent of seniors live alone and spend most of their days in isolation. As a creative housing solution, homesharing improves healthy living.

After a match is made, Metro HomeShare conducts regular check-ins with clients to ensure everyone is satisfied with their living arrangement. During Jerry and Frank's 60-day check in, we were pleased to hear the match was still going well. The men have grown closer as housemates and friends. They even have plans

to start a vegetable garden in the backyard to promote healthier eating habits in the household. Jerry's daughter also called in to tell us, "Before we found Metro HomeShare, Dad was in a motel and we didn't know what to do. He was stressed and frustrated. The family has seen a 180-degree turnaround in him, and for that we are so thankful."

We're often asked what the biggest need for our program is. Our answer: More Home Providers! There is never a shortage of people who need housing, who are willing to pay and also provide services, but we always need more homes to house them. Consider becoming a Home Provider if you or someone you know is:

- cost-burdened by the increase in taxes or cost of living and would be willing to share their home;
- an empty-nester or living alone who could benefit from the companionship; or
- finding it increasingly difficult to complete day-to-day tasks such as yardwork, pet care, grocery shopping, etc., and would benefit from additional support.

To learn more, contact Metro HomeShare at (971) 271-5195 or metroshomeshare@emoregon.org, or visit metroshomeshare.org.

Note: Clients' names were changed to protect their privacy.

Second Home

Continued from page 1

and house rules with the help of city mediators. More importantly, students gain a stable home and someone who is invested in their success.

"Kids need more than a roof over their heads," said Second Home Director Jenny Pratt Hale. "It's not just housing. It's nurturing."

Second Home, which costs districts little more than staff time already devoted to homeless students, has spread to Gresham-Barlow and Lincoln County school districts. The program has also been awarded grants to partner with districts in Washington and Clackamas Counties.

"It's an authentic way of living for kids who have never had any normalcy," said Lisa Mentasana, homeless education and foster care program specialist for the Beaverton School District. The district refers students to Second Home, whose staff coordinate meetings and set up contracts. They meet with students regularly, and mediators help students and families iron out conflicts.

Charlotte Becker, who asked to be identified by her maiden name, graduated from Beaverton's Southridge High School in 2014 with Second Home's support. She said it taught her to be a good tenant as well as how to resolve conflicts in a shared space.

Becker left home midway through her junior year. In February of her senior year, she had to find a place to live because she was pregnant and the home she was in didn't have room for her and a baby. Second Home matched her about a week before she gave birth. Becker liked that Second Home allowed her to interview two prospective couples and pick a good fit. She felt safer



Second Home found Charlotte Becker a family to live with a week before she gave birth to Hannah. "It was hard for me to believe that people would open up their homes for kids who had complicated situations," she said.

knowing the families had been vetted as well.

Becker, who is now working and married to her daughter's father, said it was important that she graduate with her class. "I like to have that to point to, that I graduated, that I walked with them, that I got it all done," she said.

The program seeks students who are motivated to graduate. "Any kid who says, 'I am willing to go live with a stranger so I can finish high school,' how can you say no to that?" said Kristen Johanson. She and her husband, Doug, took in Ochora Okullu and continued to help him as he transitioned to college.

The Gresham-Barlow School District program started with two students in 2015 and expects to have 10 this year. Like other programs, Gresham-Barlow has had difficulty finding enough families to house students. April Olson, the district's director of federal programs and homeless student liaison, said all the teens in their Second Home program have graduated or are on track. Some have continued to community college while still living with the family that took them in, such as

Keisha Lynn Hairston.

Hairston had spiraled into drugs and depression after her dad died when she was in sixth grade. By high school she was couch surfing and occasionally on the street but still intent on graduation. "I knew I didn't want a minimum-wage job," she said. "I wanted something bigger." Hairston was living in a Portland group home her senior year. The commute was terrible, and nearby old haunts posed a constant temptation. Enter Second Home and Nancy Ashley and Ed Gray, a retired couple. With the help of mediators, they weathered rough patches as she built social skills and worked on maintaining sobriety.

Hairston continued to live with Ashley and Gray as she completed her first year at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham. She will become a psychologist, she says resolutely. "I have dreams and aspirations, and graduation was important," she said.

To learn more about Second Home, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 277, or visit emo-secondhome.org.



"She's family," Nancy Ashley (left) says of Keisha Lynn Hairston (center). Ashley and her husband, Ed Gray, invited Hairston to live with them through Second Home.

Meet Chris Eves, new program manager at the HIV Day Center

Tell us about your background.

I have been working in social services for over ten years. I grew up in Southern California, was a car mechanic for a few years, then decided to go back to college. After completing a bachelor's in international studies at DePaul University in



Chris Eves, HIV Services program manager

Chicago, I began work as a case manager with a treatment center for survivors of state-sponsored torture. In that role I was witness to the most profound forms of resilience and recovery from trauma. It was a formative experience for me, and through working with an effective multidisciplinary team of treatment providers I ultimately decided to return to school and complete a master's degree in social work at the University of Chicago.

I came to Portland in 2014 following an interlude in Oakland, Cal., working with homeless families struggling to make ends meet in the Bay Area. Since living in Portland, I have worked with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) as a refugee emotional wellness facilitator. I also took a sabbatical and worked in the bicycle manufacturing industry for a stint before coming back to social services.

Why did you choose to work for the HIV Day Center?

I chose to work for the Day Center because I was already familiar with EMO from working with SOAR previously and was impressed with the depth and breadth of program offerings. Also, I have always enjoyed milieu settings and "drop-in" spaces as places for fostering community and providing services. With such a long-standing program in the Day Center, I knew that there was a lot of history to build upon and a reputation to maintain.

What is your vision for the Day Center?

My vision for the Day Center is to be a welcoming "home base" for a diverse group of people impacted by HIV. The Day Center has to ensure that it is responding to the needs of the community and continuing to fill an important role within the larger continuum of care of HIV services in the region.

In addition, as the disease of HIV changes with the advent of newer medications, the Day Center will be prioritizing preventative, holistic wellness approaches to integrate best practices across a variety of disciplines to help clients live long and healthy lives.

What do you find most rewarding about your work?

The most rewarding things from this work are the relationships that one builds on a day-to-day basis. The Day Center functions much like an extension of one's living room, and these types of spaces are becoming harder and harder to find in modern society. The one thing that binds most of the people involved with the Day Center is HIV status, but there are plenty of volunteers, interns, and other community members who are allies, advocates, and supporters of this work who are not HIV-positive. The smiles, the laughter and the lighthearted nature of the Day Center helps the work feel worthwhile and unique to this community.

What can volunteers do to assist your program?

We need drivers to deliver meals to homebound people with HIV/AIDS in the greater Portland metro area and to pick up and deliver lunches and clothing donations to the Day Center. We need assistance on-site in meal preparation and serving, dishwashing and cleanup, and answering phones. We need your own unique creative and healing skills, such as arts and crafts, acupuncture, massage therapy, English tutoring or hair cutting.

We are especially trying to increase the diversity of our volunteer pool to include people of color, native Spanish speakers and others who don't identify with the dominant culture.

Anything else you'd like to add?

We really want to be a place free of stigma, and we are consciously working on improving our services in this area. We are now offering monthly "cultural awareness dinners" that incorporate education around specific ethnic, racial, gender and sexual orientation minority groups with a meal tailored to that population.



What is the HIV Day Center?

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's HIV Day Center is a drop-in center for low income people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Day Center provides hot breakfasts and lunches four days each week. Staff are available for counseling, information and referral, and help with problem solving. Day Center clients have access to phones, a mail drop, computers with internet access, wifi, a washer and dryer, clothing, a shower and hygiene supplies. The Day Center also provides therapeutic and recreational activities. Massage, haircuts, foot care and acupuncture are provided by volunteer practitioners.

The HIV Day Center opened in Portland in 1990 as the first free-standing, community-based program of its kind in the United States.

For more information about the HIV Day Center, call (503) 460-3822 or visit hivdaycenter.org.

Join us for a World AIDS Day fundraiser luncheon for HIV Services

Please join EMO's HIV Services for our annual *World AIDS Day Fundraiser Luncheon* on Wednesday, Dec. 5, from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at Concordia University, Second Floor Hagen Center, 2811 NE Holman St., Portland. This is an opportunity for us to honor and celebrate those in our communities who live daily with HIV/AIDS, and those who support the work we do at EMO's HIV Day Center and Daily Bread Express.

Many of the HIV Day Center's most compelling and meaningful moments happen over a shared meal. We invite you to join us for lunch, sponsored by and held at our neighboring Concordia University. Partners and supporters both new and old will have the chance to hear where this past year has taken HIV Services and where we are headed in 2019. We welcome all to this opportunity to give vital financial support to a beloved community resource. There is no cost to attend; donations will be gratefully accepted.

To RSVP to the *World AIDS Day Luncheon* go to our events page at emoregon.org. If you are interested in hosting a table for your friends, family or congregation, contact Chris Eves, HIV Services program manager, at (503) 460-3822 or ceves@emoregon.org.

Voice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Publisher: Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
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6 Public Policy Advocacy

Advancing justice for the community

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Criminal Justice Ministries seek to strengthen the role of community and faith-based voices in restoring justice through reforms of the legal system, raising awareness, engaging tough conversations, and walking with people impacted by crime, violence, and incarceration. Our program has expanded over the past year to include all three of EMO's realms of engagement: education, advocacy and direct service.

Education & Dialogue

Our recent educational opportunities include:

- **“Rikers: An American Jail”**—In September a movie screening and discussion was held at First Unitarian Church of Portland through their Ending the New Jim Crow social action group. We are available to bring this movie and discussion to other regions of the state.
- **Criminal Justice Sabbath**—Many Oregon congregations have dedicated a day to teaching, preaching and praying about criminal justice issues. Resources are available, including sample reflections and prayers, at cosaoregon.org.
- **Portland State University**—EMO is the community partner for a senior capstone class studying the prevalence of violence in U.S. society. Students will create a video that explores questions like, “Why do we have prisons?” and “Do they ‘work?’”

Advocacy & Action

Join EMO as we partner with faith leaders and allied organizations to advance criminal justice reforms at the state level, especially in the coming 2019 Legislative Session.

- **Lift Every Voice Oregon**—From rallying at the Capitol to lobbying for gun safety during the 2019 Legislative Session, we are helping realize a vision of a safer future for all Oregonians. Learn more at lifteveryvoiceoregon.com.
- **Justice Reinvestment**—We are raising a moral voice for curbing mass incarceration by funding effective alternatives.



EMO signed an amicus brief submitted this fall by Partnership for Safety and Justice in support of the state's efforts to implement the Safety & Savings Act of 2017.

- **Interfaith Advocacy Day 2019**—We are keeping justice reform on the table when we meet with our Oregon legislators in Salem during the 2019 Legislative Session. (A date for the 2019 *Interfaith Advocacy Day* is TBD.)
- **Restorative Justice Coalition of Oregon**—As a consulting stakeholder, EMO is representing the voice of faith communities in reforming the justice system toward restorative methods.

Direct Service

Our criminal justice ministries support diverse direct service programs that walk with people facing the realities of the justice system.

Since the close of our Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA) program, our direct service opportunities are scaled down, but there are still ways volunteers can contribute.

We encourage and equip local congregations to become welcoming communities for persons returning from prison, families of the incarcerated and crime survivors. As natural mentors, faith communities can be spaces for people to find healing, pro-social role models, professional networks and a positive future. In turn, congregations can respond to the mission of serving persons in their own neighborhoods.

We invite you to join us! Get involved and learn more at cosaoregon.org or contact us at (503) 221-1054, ext. 211, or CoSA@emoregon.org.

Short film examines effects of climate change on the most vulnerable in Portland

Often unrecognized as a serious social justice issue, climate change impacts the lives of the most impoverished and vulnerable people. A new film, “Our Voice, Our World, Our Future,” explores the effects of climate change on low-income communities in Portland, Ore.

The film gives voice to four senior high school students from Rosemary Anderson Alternative High School in east Portland, as they interweave their own stories of being personally impacted by climate change with observations from community members, local health care professionals and emergency services specialists.

This project was made as a partnership between Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Rosemary Anderson High School and Wagging Tale Productions, LLC, and it was generously supported by East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District through their grant



Students from Rosemary Anderson Alternative High School rally for climate justice in Salem.

program. The film premiered on Sept. 19 at EastMetro Community Media.

For upcoming screenings or to find out how you can bring this film to your community, visit EMO's Creation Justice page at emoregon.org/creation-justice or email bconroy@emoregon.org.

Criminal justice events

Hearing the Cries for Justice on the road

Following a successful event in Portland in January 2018, *Hearing the Cries for Justice* is coming to a region near you in 2019—with your help! EMO is recruiting local congregations in regions outside the Portland metro area to host a day of networking and learning skills for effective criminal justice ministries. The program will include training in legislative advocacy and reentry mentorship, with a focus on the stories and needs of people living in your community.

If your congregation is interested in hosting or participating in a regional gathering, please contact The Rev. Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey at CoSA@emoregon.org.

Criminal justice workshop offered at the 2018 Collins Summit

At the Nov. 1 *Collins Summit* on human migration, EMO's Criminal Justice Ministries will lead a workshop on the intersection of advocacy for immigrant rights and criminal justice reform. From ending private prisons to humanizing language for persons with criminal records, there are opportunities for solidarity. *See page 1 for event details.*

Ballot watch: “Vote No” to ending sanctuary

A key public safety measure will be on your ballot this November. Measure 105 seeks to change Oregon law to repeal its long-standing “sanctuary status,” and it has implications for the justice system for all Oregonians.

As detailed in EMO's ballot measure guide, Measure 105 raises many concerns from an ethical perspective, such as the just and merciful treatment of our migrant neighbors and people of color. But this measure also puts at risk public safety for the whole community. As many law enforcement leaders have noted, repealing sanctuary status would not make Oregon safer. Rather, it could deter immigrant victims or witnesses from reporting or testifying about crimes, due to fear of being deported.

Building trust is a process that can take years (if not lifetimes); breaking trust can happen in an instant. It is an especially delicate process for law enforcement departments to build trust with vulnerable communities. It is also important to note that federal demands on local police to enforce federal immigration policies do not come with additional funding or staff. Instead, this would require local communities to shift public safety spending toward federal policy goals and away from local public safety priorities.

Read EMO's statement on Measure 105 in our insert “Guide to the 2018 Oregon Ballot Measures.”

Creating space at the Common Table

Faith communities come together around common commitments

Today, our communities are deeply divided, and what divides us seems to eclipse what unites us. As people of faith, perhaps now is our moment to lead.

This is the premise of the Common Table, a joint initiative of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), Portland Leadership Foundation (PLF) and Muslim Educational Trust (MET). Rooted in the biblical call to peacemaking, the Common Table is a gathering of statewide faith leaders from a wide variety of political and socio-economic backgrounds—wider even than the broad diversity of the EMO tent—working to find common cause and mutual understanding.

The need for such a gathering is obvious: today we face particular and deeply harmful obstacles to Christian unity that are eroding our ability to work together on behalf of our communities. Across the state, faith leaders have asked us—for the sake of the common good—to take seriously the Great Commandment to love all our neighbors as ourselves. They remind us that our faithfulness to this fundamental value must come before any other allegiance, such as nationality, political party or race.

The same is true for every major religion—at their core, each is committed to compassion, hospitality and justice for all. Thus a return to the bedrock of our faiths, prioritizing the way of love above all else, demands that we seek reconciliation with our neighbors. This is the vision of the Kingdom of God that Jesus spoke of, and it is the core meaning of the “Beloved Community.”

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and its interfaith partners have already begun to create a central organizing locus for differing communities of faith to discover what they have in common, deepen relationships of trust and commitment, and lift up their shared voices in the public square. We have organized conversations with over 40 denominational and organizational faith leaders from across Oregon. Nearly all of them will join us for a three-day retreat in November. It is clear that our faith leaders are eager to build a “Common Table.”

Next steps for the Common Table

Our hope is to build the kind of familiarity and mutual understanding that can only be grown from working side by side on common issues of concern. By simply reframing an approach that is rooted not in “right vs. left,” but in “right vs. wrong,” we won’t be able to address all the issues that have become hallmarks of faith-based politics. But given the overlapping interests shared by all people of faith—who universally proclaim a love of neighbor, a forgiveness of enemy and love of the disenfranchised—the Common Table will create the context for deeper healing in the public square.

We aim to **establish a new relationship between faith leaders and our elected officials in Oregon.** This project has the potential to change the political landscape of Oregon, not only by organizing a new bloc of voters dedicated to serving the most vulnerable populations in our state, but also by demonstrating the spiritual bridge-building that has so far eluded our professional politicians. Radiating out from this gathering of statewide leaders, the Common Table project will establish a new story of faith-in-action.

One of the first Common Table tasks will be a statewide mapping project of faith-based social service missions with a central website and social media presence. This represents a powerful narrative largely overlooked by many Oregonians.



We also plan to promote local community conversations and partnerships to bridge the conservative vs. progressive divide through regional “hubs.” In six core regions—Central Coast, Portland Metro, Willamette Valley, Southern Oregon, Central Oregon and Eastern Oregon—we will mirror our statewide leadership strategy on the local level, building Common Table hubs to promote faith-based peacemaking. This framework could serve as a national model.

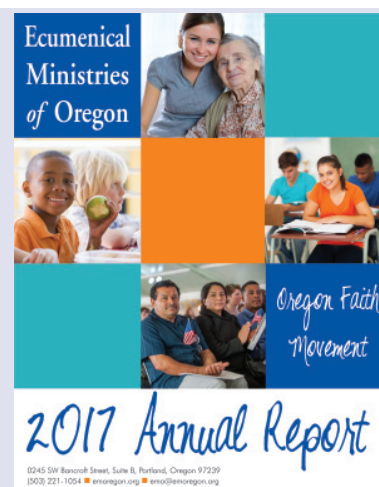
These are turbulent and unprecedented times, but the gift of such moments is the opportunity to live into our highest values more fully. This is the dream of the Common Table: the possibility that underneath the current chaos there is a deeper call to community crying out to each of us. Such dreams require prayer, commitment and action. As people of faith, now is our moment to lead.

For more information or to get involved in the Common Table, contact The Rev. Michael Ellick at mellick23@yahoo.com.

Our annual report is paperless!

In an effort to cut back on printing expenses and paper waste, EMO’s 2017 Annual Report: Oregon Faith Movement is now available as an electronic document. You may download the report at emoregon.org (under the “What We Do” drop-down menu). We also have a limited number of printed reports available.

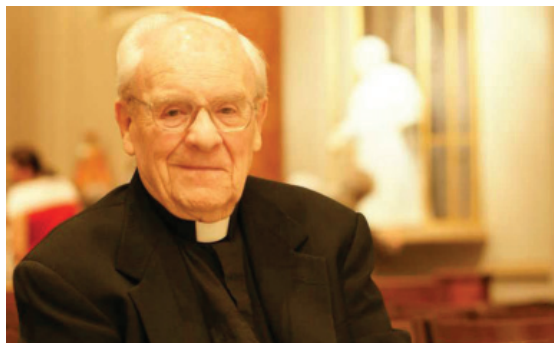
If you wish to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the EMO office at (503) 221-1054 or emo@emoregon.org.



Retired Seattle Archbishop Hunthausen dies at age 96

Retired Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen, a disarming spirit who rejected war and embraced the pastoral reforms of the Second Vatican Council, died July 22 at the age of 96. He was surrounded by family at his home in Helena, Mont.

In the early 1980s, with the Cold War at a high point, Hunthausen denounced the



Retired Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen.

Photo credit: St. James Cathedral

Trident nuclear submarine fleet harbored in his archdiocese, famously calling it “the Auschwitz of Puget Sound.” His opposition inspired Catholics worldwide, but gained him powerful opponents in Washington.

His military opposition was based in Christian pacifism and had a distinctive moral lens: “Our security as people of faith lies not in demonic weapons, which threaten all life on Earth,” he declared in a June 1981 speech at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. “Our security is in a loving, caring God. We must dismantle our weapons of terror and place our reliance on God.”

Catholic peace activist Jim Douglass, who introduced Hunthausen to pacifism, once described his longtime friend as “a holy prophet of nonviolence in the nuclear age.” He called Hunthausen a forerunner of Pope Francis—

“a model of how a church leader can love, challenge and serve everyone on this Earth through the mercy and compassion of Jesus.”

Hunthausen was the last American bishop to have participated in all four sessions of the Vatican II historic gathering of the world church from 1962-65, which embraced the ecumenical movement.

A Disarming Spirit: The Life of Archbishop Raymond “Dutch” Hunthausen, a biography and social history of the archbishop by Frank Fromherz, will be published by the Marymount Institute Press and Tsehah Publishers. The manuscript of this authorized biography was completed more than three years ago, but the author and publishers waited, at the request of the archbishop, to publish the book until after his death. The expected release date is this fall.

8 Development & Fundraising

EMO celebrates grants & gifts

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's board of directors and staff extend their appreciation to those who support EMO's ministries. The following is a partial list of foundation and community support received by EMO since the last issue of the *Voice*.

Donor (Fund)	Program
Benson Family Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS	HIV Services
The Collins Foundation	Annual Fund; Theological Education & Dialogue
DACA, Immigrant and Refugee Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees
Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation	HIV Services
Emily Georges Gottfried Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation	Annual Fund
Episcopal Diocese of Oregon	Criminal Justice Ministries
ESCO Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
Hart Family Foundation	Second Home
Herbert A. Templeton Foundation	Annual Fund
Holzman Foundation, Inc.	NE Emergency Food Program
Immigration Counseling Service	SOAR Immigration Legal Services
Irwin Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
The Jackson Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
James Madison High School	SOAR Immigration Legal Services
Jouris Family Foundation	Second Home
Juan Young Trust	Second Home
MAC AIDS Fund	HIV Services
Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund	Second Home
Merlo Station High School	Second Home
Metropolitan Public Defender	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees
Meyer Memorial Trust	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees, Metro HomeShare
Multnomah Bar Foundation	SOAR Immigration Legal Services
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	Russian Oregon Social Services
Oregon Community Foundation	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees, Second Home
Oregon Food Bank	NE Emergency Food Program
Oregon Law Foundation	SOAR Immigration Legal Services
Portland Leadership Foundation	Annual Fund
Pride Foundation	HIV Services
The Regeneration Project	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Reser Family Foundation	Second Home
Valley Community Presbyterian Church	Second Home

Collins Match deadline: Dec. 1

We are deeply grateful to the Collins Foundation for leading the way in Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) 2018 Annual Fund drive with a \$70,000 challenge grant. New and increased donations made to EMO by Dec. 1 will be matched by the Collins Foundation. Your support will bring together Oregonians for interfaith dialogue, direct service to those who need it most, and advocacy addressing the root causes of poverty and environmental degradation.

To double your new or increased gift to EMO, please use the form below or make a secure online donation at emoregon.org.

Double my gift to EMO with the Collins Match!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make tax-deductible check payable to EMO or pay by:

Visa MasterCard American Express ZIP code _____

Card # _____ Code _____ Exp. _____

Amount: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other _____

Please send your gift to:

EMO, 0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite B, Portland, OR 97239.

You may also make a secure online donation at emoregon.org.

Honor & Memorial Gifts

Gifts in Honor

in honor of all in need, Leonard Cain & Roberta Badger Cain
in honor of Kristi Baack
 Eric Baack; Gaile & Donald Baack
in honor of Gaile Baack, Trish Eby
in honor of Tracy Bardell, Susan Fry
in honor of Bobby Berstler, Kim Lundin
in honor of Bruce Bishop, Fred R. Neal
in honor of Alcena Boozer
 Penelope Hummel; Gary Lawrence & Marla McGarry-Lawrence
in honor of A. James Brooks' retirement
 Albert Brooks
in honor of Richard Burton & Dave Babret, Reed & Holly Fowler
in honor of Michelle Bush
 David & Barbara Plum
in honor of Mark & Jane Cotton
 John & Corliss Cotton
in honor of John Dennis, Helen Dennis
in honor of Gail & Herb Douglas
 Shawn & David Looney
in honor of John Drischell
 Sophia Kremidas
in honor of Jan Elfers
 Mark & Diane Musgrove
in honor of Jan & Mick Elfers
 Jeffrey & Sharon Musgrove
in honor of Michael Ellick
 Bebe Anderson
in honor of Marcia Fernandez
 Lora Reed
in honor of Pat (Martha's friend)
 Travis Niemann
in honor of Merv Gaskin
 Jeffrey & Sharon Musgrove
in honor of Linda Gebetsberger
 Helen Dennis
in honor of Girl Scout Troop 41486
 Allison Baird
in honor of John & Melinda Hawkins
 Jeffrey & Sharon Musgrove
in honor of Connor Hayes
 Gerald Cook Deas
in honor of Twila Jordahl, Eric Jordahl
in honor of Tom & Trish's Wedding Anniversary, Sophia Kremidas
in honor of Susan Lienhart
 Josie Cheng
in honor of Ted Liljeholm
 Edward Gilman
in honor of Lynne Smouse López
 Ann Nelson
in honor of Charles Maxey
 Donna Maxey
in honor of Marie McMullin
 Mary Keele
in honor of Travis Niemann
 Susan & Lewis Van Winkle
in honor of Dennis Oster
 Dorothy Cameron
in honor of Rodney Page
 The Revs. Bill & Mary Jacobs;
 Gary & Kate Withers
in honor of Ben Paroulek, Valley Community Presbyterian Church
in honor of Karla Percy-Marston
 Nancy Wilson Orcutt
in honor of Pok Pok Employees
 Toby Roberts
in honor of Portland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
 Lesley Unthank
in honor of the marriage of Jenny Pratt & John Hale, Kristi Baack & Bernie Deazley; Jeff Binder; Michelle & Neil Blair; Barbara Brooks & Michael Pratt; Michelle Bush & Miguel Camacho; Sam Gates; Mary & James Metheny; Sara Palestino & Ramiro Flores; Lisa & Tom Westarp

in honor of Fred Rarick

Diana Antoniskis & Mark Rarick
in honor of Robin Ricci, Ann Giles; Pam Holt; Kirsten Klym; Lisa Sandmire
in honor of Richard & Arlene Rumble
 Kathy Rumble
in honor of Marilyn Sewell
 Marian Creamer
in honor of Carla Starrett-Bigg
 Songwriters Resource Network
in honor of their second anniversary
 Rob Stoltz & Felix Bautista
in honor of Sharon Thornberry
 Gigi Siekkinen
in honor of Mary Jo Tully
 Michael Prendergast
in honor of Perry Wiggins
 Adele & Ted Pelletier
in honor of Zak & Heather Zimmers
 Jeffrey & Sharon Musgrove

Gifts in Memory

in memory of John Anderson
 Peggy Anderson
in memory of Steven Anderson
 First Christian Church, Portland
in memory of Myron Bagley
 Wright Land Company
in memory of Arlene Delores Bidgood
 Wright Land Company
in memory of Brian Bounous
 Brenda Mendiola
in memory of Trudy Bradley, Dan Bradley
in memory of Roland & Frances Brown
 Elizabeth Brown
in memory of Virginia Wilder Cain
 Leonard Cain
in memory of Irene Carlson, Celia Carlson
in memory of John Casas,
 Raymond Barnes
in memory of Cecil & Eleanor Prescod
 Cecil Prescod
in memory of Russell "Skip" George
 Powell Motors, Inc.; Stephen & Ann Schneider; Mary Stowell; Harold & Dolores Tommaso
in memory of Lucille Griffith, Ken Griffith
in memory of Gwen Hershiser
 Leroy Hershiser
in memory of Mary Howe
 Charlotte Cresswell
in memory of Madeline Jewett
 Lorna Grohman
in memory of Anita Kenyon
 Rhonda Ziegler
in memory of Dorothy Lambert
 Phyllis & Raymond Krueger
in memory of Robert Oga
 Rosendo & Leslie Pont
in memory of Lester, Elaine & Baby Olson
 Billie Olson
in memory of Idella Peterson
 Michael & Janet Peterson
in memory of Gary Poppinga
 Phyllis Bottomly
in memory of Michael Scott
 Joanne & Thomas Rannells
in memory of Shirley, John Robinson
in memory of Gwynne Skinner
 Mare Biddle; Jane & John Braunger;
 Rita Carrillo; Paul Diller; David Friedman; Amol Mehra; George Pierce; Joy Wallace; Lisa Williams
in memory of Carleen Van Demarr
 Charles Jannsen
in memory of Katherine Weidkamp
 Richard & Margaret Brown
in memory of Marge Wentz
 Jacquelyn Dvorak
in memory of Karin Wright
 Wright Land Company