

McKenzie River Gathering Foundation
ANNUAL REPORT 2002-03



"To say that the McKenzie River Gathering has been a critical part of the growth and success of the Cascadia Wildlands Project is an understatement. The CWP got its first grant from the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation five years ago. Since then we've grown from an organization of one staff person, no members and no budget to an organization of five staff with hundreds of members throughout Oregon. In between, we've stopped more than 10,000 acres of old-growth logging that would have destroyed trees that have been standing since the invasion of Columbus, and organized thousands of people in large and small communities throughout the state. The Cascadia Wildlands Project is just one of hundreds of groups that got their start from the McKenzie River Gathering. MRG is what keeps Oregon's grassroots social change movement in business." — James Johnston, Cascadia Wildlands Project

"We have to talk about liberating minds as well as liberating society." —Angela Davis

As I write this letter I am struck by the strength of humanity in times of great social and political hardship. It is always inspiring to see that the will of the people cannot be bent by economic uncertainty and environmental catastrophe.

And I wonder, how is this possible? How do people continue to reach for courage under the weight of the many and complex assaults on our humanity?

I am fortunate to witness the full impact and reach of the MRG Foundation community of supporters and grantees as we face the seemingly insurmountable challenges before us. It is this picture, this story, we invite you to read in this annual report.

This year has been an important one as MRG Foundation partners throughout the state engaged thousands of people to heed the call for leadership in the midst of war, attacks on our civil rights, and environmental degradation.

You will see within these pages people working hard to build strong communities and organizations to address the range of assaults to our local and global communities. Look closely, and you will see beauty, hope and possibility.

This report is meant to honor each and every one of you for your continued passion and commitment to this vital work. MRG Foundation offers a ray of hope that will sustain us as we move forward together to create the local and global community for justice.

—Susan Remmers, Executive Director



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Cover photos, clockwise from left: A veteran and Human Dignity Coalition volunteer speaks at Bend's "Silent March and Noisy Rally for Peace;" PCASC/CBLOC peace activists march in Portland; Columbia River Fellowship for Peace marchers protest the war in Iraq. Photo, left: High School students visit a site in the South Pyramid timber sale on one of the weekly hikes sponsored by Cascadia Wildlands Project.

Donors: Claire Lichtenfels & Hal Jackson

“Hal and I began giving to MRG in 1985, another lifetime ago when we lived in Eugene, before we had kids. I had inherited some money and really didn’t see it as mine. It was just a gift. I wanted to spend it to make the world a better place. After hearing about MRG, we read up on it. We were inspired by how Leslie Brockelbank had decided she wanted to make a difference. We wanted to be a part of that.

Back then I was volunteering with the rape crisis line and the battered women’s shelter. I’ve always worked with kids and families. Hal grew up in a fairly wealthy Southern family; his mother was a debutante. But he identified with the underdog. He believed in social justice from early on. We met in an outdoor leadership program when I was twenty and he was twenty-one.

My activism is through my children now. In this age of consumerism, I want them to grow up with the correct values. At Christmas time, we give each of our kids a set amount of money to donate to an organization that they choose.

Since our first gift to MRG, we’ve donated every year; sometimes larger, sometimes less. We like the way MRG supports small organizations dealing with hot issues, things that are relevant. Having activists give out the money keeps it hands-on and connected to the work. These aren’t the people you usually see giving out money. As needs have changed, who MRG is and the causes they support have broadened. I’m grateful that there are people out there doing the work I’m not.”

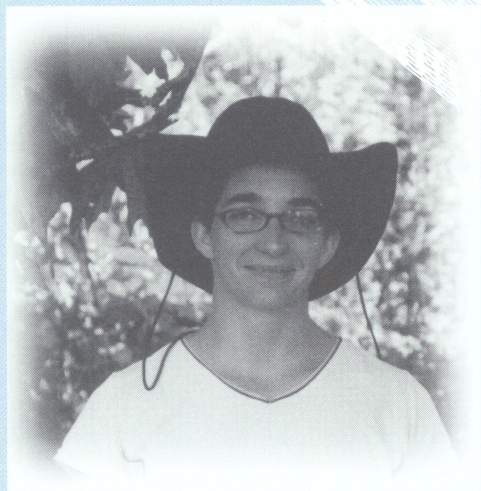
Claire, a social worker implementing school anti-bullying programs, and Hal, a special education teacher, live on Vashon Island, Washington, with their four special-needs children.



Grantmaking Committee Co-Chairs: Sarah Jacobson & Christopher Winter

Sarah Jacobson is an organizer with the Eugene Springfield Solidarity Network (ESSN), a community alliance supporting workers' rights through living wage and statewide tax justice campaigns.

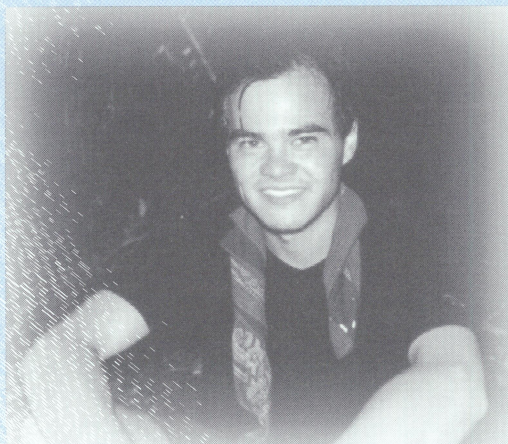
"When I was asked to be on the grant-making committee two years ago, I was coming out of student organizing and it appealed to me as a way to meet other groups working for social change. Being on the committee has exceeded my expectations. MRG invites people from organizations most affected by the right wing's agenda to bring their experiences to the table to think about priorities for social change in Oregon and how resources can be shared.



I've used the relationships I've developed at MRG to help change the face and shape of the campaigns we're developing at ESSN. The political thinking that happens at MRG is something I'm increasingly incorporating in ESSN's analysis.

It's a gift and a curse to read and evaluate funding proposals. The challenge is recognizing the limitations of our resources. But it's so great to see the concrete victories of so many groups, even in these terrible political times. I feel very lucky to be able to work with the staff and leaders at MRG."

"The political thinking that happens at MRG is something I'm increasingly incorporating in ESSN's analysis."



Christopher Winter, an attorney, is co-executive director of Cascade Resources Advocacy Group (CRAG), a non-profit law firm serving environmental, sustainability and social justice organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

"It's easy to get blinders on when you're focused on your own work. I appreciate the exposure I get through MRG to what's going on in the larger progressive community. Serving on the grantmaking committee affects the way I think about running CRAG and the type of work we do. For example, we're now putting an environmental justice component in place for our work. MRG has motivated us to get involved in that arena.

"I appreciate the exposure I get through MRG to what's going on in the larger progressive community."

A real high point on the committee was with one group in particular. English was not their native language and they had difficulty with the application. We struggled with it. But on Presentation Day, they made an incredible demonstration of their need and the strategies behind their proposal.

I put in the hours—and it takes a lot of hours—because I see MRG making an active effort to educate and empower progressive people. In a time of political crisis, MRG plays an important role in helping us all find our way through."

Grantee: UNETE



"Non-profits, state and local agencies saw us a group of troublemakers. They didn't want to be involved with us because they saw us as too political." Today UNETE is considered an essential community resource. "Agency people now come to us, whether on health, welfare, housing, or migrant education issues."



In 1996, farm workers in Southern Oregon's Rogue Valley gathered at the home of Dagoberto Morales. They were being denied the bonus that was owed them, and they wanted to know what they could do. "The company thinks they are powerful," Dagoberto told them. "They can do whatever they want and control you because no one is united. We have to come together and get organized."

With that sentiment, UNETE was born. An advocacy and education group staffed almost entirely by volunteers, UNETE strives to empower and enrich the lives of local farm workers. Dagoberto, the group's director, credits MRG with helping to establish the organization through grants and technology assistance. UNETE now has nearly 500 dues-paying members and a database of almost 3,000 supporters.

Coalition work is a hallmark of UNETE's success. In 1997, farm workers were under attack in the state legislature. The state representative from Medford was a problem. PCUN, the farm workers union based in Woodburn, appealed to UNETE to bring a delegation to march on the state capitol. UNETE marched on Salem but took it one step further. They offered to organize a march in Medford, as long as PCUN helped. The result was over 100 people demonstrating in Medford. "It gave us credibility," Dagoberto says, "and it influenced the vote. The Senate president said, 'If they can get 100 people out in Medford, we need to pay attention.'"

Since then, UNETE has been instrumental in winning improvements in wages, benefits, and working conditions for farm workers. Victories are built on relationships, Dagoberto says. "Most workers know me. I work with them. They trust us."

Trust was in short supply in the broader community until recently. In UNETE's earlier years, Dagoberto says, "Non-profits, state and local agencies saw us a group of troublemakers. They didn't want to be involved with us because they saw us as too political." Today UNETE is considered an essential community resource. "Agency people now come to us, whether on health, welfare, housing, or migrant education issues."

UNETE's underlying philosophy is one that links individual and community empowerment. "Through direct individual and group education related to organizing, we will no longer be in the position of accepting what others have decided is best for us. We will develop and implement programs that directly benefit us economically and socially."



First annual community celebration: The Unveiling of ROOTS!

GRANTEES 2002-03

MRG Foundation makes grants to organizations that bring people together to challenge social, economic, international and environmental injustice through community-based, grassroots action. MRG engages activists from around Oregon to determine which proposals most meet our funding criteria. These dedicated volunteers review applications, conduct field interviews and participate in Presentation Day, where selected applicants can make their "case" to the Grantmaking Committee. Applicants must meet our funding criteria, which include:

- organizing to bring about progressive social change
- located in Oregon
- committed to diversity
- have little access to traditional funding sources, e.g. United Way, government, and mainstream foundation grants.

This approach to grantmaking is one of the unique qualities of MRG and helps us ensure that our grants are most strategic. We also engage those who typically do not have the power to determine how and where money is distributed. In more traditional philanthropic organizations, this is done by trustees, family members who "own" the wealth or corporate representatives. MRG Foundation believes it is essential to creating a more just society to empower those who are working directly on the issues we fund to determine funding decisions.

6 GRANTEES

GRANTEES 2002-03

AIDS Education Council of Eastern Oregon, La Grande, \$4,000

General support for efforts ensuring that people living with HIV have access to services and support despite being isolated by homophobia, AIDS-phobia and geography. The council develops culturally appropriate strategies for their outreach and public education efforts in a huge rural region and is establishing a program for the growing migrant population.

BARK, Portland, \$4,000

Outreach program that is training and mobilizing people to challenge timber sales that threaten the Mt. Hood National Forest ecosystem. Bark's past efforts have caused federal agencies to cancel or change specific forest management plans.

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, Fossil, \$5,000

General operating support for this group dedicated to protecting the Blue Mountains. Focus is on organizing efforts to end corporate dominance over communities and ecosystems.

BroadArts Theatre, Inc., Portland, \$6,000

Cultural organizing that convenes, educates, and creates opportunities for involvement in peace and justice issues. Among this year's projects are a series of Peace Salons featuring a performance piece, "Homeland Insecurity or Peace on Earth Good Will to Anglo Saxons," and a panel of local women activists.

Cascade Resources Advocacy Group, Statewide, \$5,000

Support for a broad array of work including providing legal representation to underserved environmental activists and groups and providing education about local, state, federal and international laws governing environmental management.

Cascadia Wildlands Project, Eugene, \$10,000

Continued support for this group's Legacy Forests Campaign aimed at protecting remaining ancient forests on public lands, building connections with non-traditional constituencies and working with allies to help create stable local economies.

CAUSA, Statewide, \$8,000

Defending and advocating for the rights of immigrant workers and families is this group's mission. This grant supports CAUSA's "In Defense of the Community" campaign to educate, mobilize and build a mass movement to combat recent attacks on immigrant rights.

Chicano Culture Club, Salem, \$2,000

Oregon State Prison inmate group organizing efforts include: Psychological Evaluations Reform Project to alert communities of color and the general public to the unjust use of culturally-biased testing in determining criminal justice proceedings; addressing the prison's refusal to allow access to Latino cultural and spiritual practices; and prison activism forums and newsletters.

Columbia River Fellowship for Peace, Hood River, \$3,000

General support for this group dedicated to peace in the Hood River area. Peace vigils, a website, and a three-day workshop entitled "Voices for Peace" are among this group's many planned projects.

Committee in Solidarity with the Central American People (CISCAP), Eugene, \$3,000

CISCAP will focus on organizing grassroots support in the US for Central American progressive movements as they work to oppose privatization, union busting and the Central American Free Trade Agreement and the Plan Puebla-Panama.

Community Alliance of Tenants, Portland, \$5,000

Housing Justice Program addressing the regional affordable housing crisis and fair neighborhood development issues. Their goals are to prevent displacement of low-income people and people of color by gentrification and build the capacity and power of tenants to direct the decisions that affect their lives.



Bass guitar class at Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls



Chicano Culture Club



Tillamook County Women's Crisis Center staff with "Hands Are Not for Hurting" quilt



Activists with the Columbia River Fellowship for Peace march to protest the war in Iraq.

Confederated Tribes of the Lower Rogue, Coos Bay, \$5,000

Support for this group, whose members are descendants of tribal people of the Lower Rogue River. Previous MRG support helped save the Tututni language, which was on the verge of disappearing. This grant will support their continued efforts to save their native language and culture.

Danzine, Portland, \$8,000

General support for this group dedicated to improving the health, safety and human rights of sex workers, who are often isolated. Danzine's HIV and violence prevention project is capable of reaching sex workers because peer educators are equipped to overcome the effects of cultural stigmatization.

Environmental Justice Action Group, Portland, \$10,000

Support for the Environmental Justice Air Campaign in N/NE Portland, an area with 30 sites in the federal Toxic Release Inventory and heavy freeway activity. EJAG is documenting bad air and mobilizing the community by connecting family members' illnesses with exposure.



CRAJ activists deliver a 21-chainsaw salute at the Portland office of the Forest Service.

Eugene Middle East Peace Group, Eugene, \$4,000

General support for this Muslim/Jewish group providing a model of mutual understanding. As events from 9/11 to Iraq unfold, this group has been galvanized into providing community leadership against hate crimes and war.

Eugene Springfield Solidarity Network, \$9,000

This grassroots organization brings together labor unions, religious congregations and community groups to support civil and economic rights of working people. Support for efforts to reform the tax code and to prevent custodial and food service workers from losing their jobs to privatization.

Foggy Creek Council, Powers, \$5,000

This group provides a place to share and celebrate Native American culture, history, philosophy and heritage. This grant will support their cultural education and preservation project.

Grants Pass Intertribal Powwow Committee, Merlin, \$4,000

Support for upcoming Powwow in Southern Oregon, specifically funds to help bring special performers and speakers, which will attract more participants. One goal is to increase understanding of Native issues and to have greater participation in the local community.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Program, Salem, \$5,500

Inmate-based outreach program that confronts AIDS-phobia and homophobia among prisoners and staff. Their peer educators will reach more than 1,200 inmates and produce culturally-specific materials that further collaboration among the diverse prison population.

Human Dignity Coalition, Bend, \$6,000

Support for this group's efforts to develop relationships with diverse populations in rapidly growing Central Oregon. Specific activities include co-producing Fiesta Latina, a community-building event for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered people, an economic justice program as well as efforts to oppose the war in Iraq.

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Williams, \$5,000

Continued support for two projects: Public Lands Oversight Campaign that has a record of accomplishment in land management decision-making; and Biodiversity Campaign, a proactive effort that has successfully listed imperiled species as endangered.

Komemama Cultural Protection Association, Yoncalla, \$5,000

Support for this group dedicated to cultural preservation of the Kalapuya Indian people. Projects include a Photo Documentation Project and Curriculum Project to provide information about this tribe.



The Lane County chapter of Stand for Children in the Eugene Celebration parade

Lane County Stand for Children, Eugene, \$3,000

Building a strong local voice for children's needs by developing coalition relationships and training childcare workers as community organizers. The goal of their program is to increase wages for early childhood teachers and educational opportunities that improve the quality of care.

Latinos Unidos Siempre (LUS), Salem, \$10,000

General support for this group working to advance the educational, cultural, social and political development of Latino youth by empowering them to take leadership roles in their community, advocating for social and political change and combating racist stereotyping.

Love Makes a Family, Inc., Portland, \$4,000

Support for MultiQueer, a project to empower queer youth of color at school, home and in the community.

Money in Politics Research Action Project, Portland, \$3,000

General support for this group working to increase access, accountability and participation in politics and government. Specifically, this group will focus on making their research more available to progressive ally groups. For example, they will translate their research into Spanish.

Network for Reproductive Options, Eugene, \$4,000

Seed funding for group addressing the impact of the recent closure of the only non-profit feminist health center and abortion provider in South Central Oregon.

Northwest Somali Community Organization, Portland, \$4,000

Program directed toward ensuring the cultural survival of the Somali community. Their project focuses on developing a center for youth whose educational and cultural needs have been circumvented by local schools.

Oregon Human Rights Coalition, Portland, \$7,000

Infrastructure development to better equip this group to challenge punitive welfare reform provisions that distract attention away from the real causes of impoverishment. Central to this work is developing the leadership and voice of low-income people in decisions that affect their lives.

Oregon Rural Action, La Grande, \$4,000

Support of efforts to promote social justice, agricultural and economic sustainability, and environmental stewardship in an area where right-wing groups are very active.



Community Alliance of Tenants members celebrate five years of organizing success.

Oregon Toxics Alliance, Eugene, \$6,000

Establishing the leadership of this statewide grassroots group in bringing about a systemic reevaluation on the use of toxic substances. Projects include: Neighborhood air sampling, Union Pacific rail yard campaign, a community right-to-know campaign, and a student-based school toxics reduction project.

Portland Art and Revolution, \$4,000

General support for this group energizing local organizing efforts through artistic creativity that serves to increase message impact. Their coalition partners include groups addressing corporate globalization, native rights, forest protection, workplace justice, peace and international solidarity.

Portland Central America Solidarity Committee, \$3,500

General support for PCASC's international labor rights and corporate globalization work through the Cross Border Labor Organizing Coalition. An emphasis is on outreach to Oregon labor unions to support resistance to privatization by workers in El Salvador.

Portland Jobs with Justice, \$8,000

This almost 60-member coalition is defending the rights of working people and broader economic reforms. They are providing community education on the relationship between racism and workplace issues, the effects of corporate globalization, and the impact of the local Workers Rights Board.

Q: A Queer Resource for Social Change, Eugene, \$3,000

Seed funding for this group that is building a network of queer organizations, developing a coalition with progressive groups, and providing resources for activism.

Reclaiming Our Origins Through Struggle (ROOTS), Portland, \$4,000

Seed funding for this multi-racial, intergenerational, multi-issue group empowering and developing the leadership of low-income people of color. One of their campaigns will address issues of gentrification and forced displacement in inner N/NE Portland.



The Rural Organizing Project's "Ruckus for Justice" in Salem was the largest known gathering of progressive rural activists in Oregon's history.

Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls, Portland, \$6,000

Focusing primarily in marginalized and underserved communities, this group works to empower girls and young women to develop their musical, artistic, and political talents. The ultimate goal is to impact oppression within the music industry.

Rogue Valley Oregon Action, Medford, \$7,000

Dedicated to economic justice, this chapter of Oregon Action will focus on a living wage campaign in Medford, establishing a local housing trust fund, organizing mobile home residents and connecting local members with statewide worker and immigrant rights campaigns.

Rural Organizing Project, Scappoose, \$6,000

Strengthening the work of ROP's 48 member organizations by developing leadership and political analyses. With groups in almost every Oregon county, ROP develops their ability to educate and mobilize around racial, gender and economic justice issues.

Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality, \$10,000

Building the organizing capacity of this multi-racial educational justice group. In this era of school budget cuts, they are working toward mobilizing parent advocacy groups in every area school.

Social Justice Alliance of Josephine County, Cave Junction, \$5,000

Creating an alternative to the monolithic conservative power base in Southern Oregon, this group will work to expand its progressive network throughout the county. One of the major areas of focus will be Oregon tax reform.

Somali Women's Association, Portland, \$5,000

Seed funding for Somali refugee women who are working to develop a voice within the local African community and mainstream Portland. Their goals are to gain greater civic participation politically, economically and socially.

State Forest Organizing Initiative, Portland, \$4,000

Building the first localized, grassroots organizing campaign to reform the management of Oregon's state forests, the vast majority of which is in the Tillamook State Forest. Strategies include training rural community groups to become effective advocates.



Somali women refugees at the meeting place of the Somali Women's Association

Tillamook County Women's Crisis Center, Tillamook, \$5,000

Development of bilingual, bicultural domestic violence outreach and services for Spanish-speaking community members. Those for whom this program is designed will have a voice in how its developed.

Umpqua Watersheds, Roseburg, \$9,000

Education and mobilization to protect this 3 million acre ecosystem, including one of the ten most threatened forests in the nation. Activities include timber sale monitoring, statewide coalition work, industrial logging responses, and organizational capacity development.

Unete al Movimiento de Conciencia Popular, Medford, \$6,000

Developing farmworker leadership and community support to defend farmworkers rights. Specifically, they are addressing immigration issues and labor camp/workplace health and safety.

Voz Hispana Causa Chavista, Woodburn, \$8,000

Recognizing the importance of honoring Hispanic heroes, this group is dedicated to empowering the immigrant community. Specifically, Voz Hispana will work to ensure the Woodburn School District fully implements its policy to celebrate Cesar Chavez day at every school in the district.

VOZ: Workers' Rights Education Project, Portland, \$7,000

The mission of this group is to empower immigrant workers, particularly day laborers. Grant will support efforts to increase leadership development and the capacity of day laborers to analyze and address issues they are facing.

Willamette Valley Law Project, Woodburn, \$8,000

Support for the Farmworker Labor Rights Project, an education campaign to boost public understanding of the benefits to farmworkers of working under collective bargaining agreements.

Distribution of General Funding Cycle Grants

| GEOGRAPHIC AREA | # of grants | % of grants | total \$ | % of \$ |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------|
| Northern I-5 Corridor | 20 | 41% | \$ 122,500 | 45% |
| Middle I-5 Corridor | 8 | 16% | \$ 41,500 | 15% |
| Southwestern Oregon | 9 | 18% | \$ 51,000 | 19% |
| Rural | 6 | 12% | \$ 27,000 | 10% |
| Statewide | 6 | 12% | \$ 33,000 | 12% |
| TOTAL | 49 | 100% | \$275,000 | 100% |
| ISSUE AREA | # of grants | % of grants | total \$ | % of \$ |
| Economic Justice | 7 | 14% | \$ 47,000 | 17% |
| Environmental Justice | 9 | 18% | \$ 58,000 | 21% |
| Human Rights | 24 | 49% | \$ 133,500 | 49% |
| Peace/International Solidarity | 4 | 8% | \$ 13,500 | 5% |
| Resources for Organizing | 5 | 10% | \$ 23,000 | 8% |
| TOTAL | 49 | 100% | \$275,000 | 100% |

OTHER GRANTEES

Donor-Advised Grants

1,000 Friends of Oregon
ACLU Foundation of Oregon
All Women's Health Services
Alliance for Sustainable Jobs & the Environment
Education Project
Better People
Bicycle Transportation Alliance
Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project
Bring Recycling
CARE Inc.
Cascade Resources Advocacy Group
Cascadia Wildlands Project
CISPES Education Fund
CITE
Clatsop County Women's Resource Center
Coalition for a Livable Future
Committee in Solidarity with the Central
American People
Community Alliance of Lane County
The Dance Brigade
Drinking Gourd School
Earth Justice Legal Defense
Ethos Inc.
Eugene Peaceworks
Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network Fund
Food for Lane County
Future of Oregon
Gallery Route 1
Hambleton Project
Headwaters
Helios Resource Network
HIV Alliance
Idyll Development Foundation
INFACT
Institute for Traditional Medicine
International Society for Ecology and Culture
KBOO-FM
Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Lesbian Community Project—Community
Education Project
Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media &
Education—Portland Alliance
Northwest Coalition for Alternatives
to Pesticides
Northwest Media Project
Open Eye Pictures/Tamalpa
Oregon Community Warehouse
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Natural Resources Council
Oregon Peaceworks/CFER
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
Outside In
Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Portland Peace & Justice Works
Resource Generation
Rural Organizing Project
Russel Creek Neighbors
Sierra Club Foundation
Sisters in Action for Power
Sisters of the Road Café
Springfield School District
State Forest Organizing Initiative
Threatened & Endangered: Little Applegate
Valley (TELAV)
Tillamook Women's Crisis Center
Transition Projects
Umpqua Watersheds
United for a Fair Economy
Urban Greenspaces Institute
Western Prison Project
Willamette Valley Law Project
Women's Community Education Project—
In Other Words
Womenspace

Critical Response Grants

Education WithOut Borders
Interfaith Forum
Lane County Bill of Rights Defense Committee
MidEast Citizen Diplomacy
Oregon NARAL Foundation
Oregon Toxics Alliance
Portland Art and Revolution
Racial Justice 9/11
Umpqua Watersheds

Travel Grants

Cascadia Media Collective
Community Alliance of Lane County
Foggy Creek Council
HIV AIDS Awareness Program—OSP
Low Income Housing by Native Americans
of Portland, Oregon
Oregon Forest Research and Education Group
Oregon Human Rights Coalition
Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality
Students for Peace

Lilla Jewel Fund for Women Artists

BroadArts Theatre, Inc
Media/Multi-Arts Awardee: Vanessa Renwick

The Michael Smith Fund

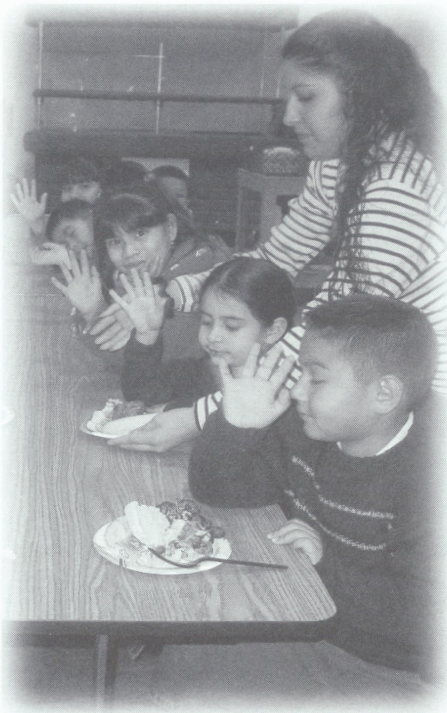
Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls

GIVING TO MRG FOUNDATION

Who Are MRG Foundation Donors?

Hundreds of Oregonians contribute to grassroots social change through MRG Foundation. By making contributions to MRG Foundation, donors are able to take advantage of our unique grant-making process. Funding decisions are made by activists chosen for their in-depth knowledge of the issues we fund and the groups active on those issues in every region of the state.

Most MRG Foundation donors make annual gifts ranging from \$5 to \$50,000, creating a significant financial resource for the progressive community in Oregon. Every gift we receive is very important to us. Each one amplifies our ability to empower activists to distribute funds to progressive groups.



*Children at the Salem/Keizer Coalition
for Equality's Parents Conference*

Why Give to MRG Foundation?

People give to MRG Foundation's general fund for many good reasons. The general fund provides an important opportunity to provide seed money to emerging groups and issues. In fact, MRG Foundation is a pioneer among philanthropies in Oregon with a track record of providing early money when and where it is needed to elevate seemingly marginal issues into mainstream concerns. Contributors are also attracted to our activist controlled process of grantmaking that ensures that we are as responsive as possible to the needs of grassroots organizations. MRG Foundation's staff monitors all funded projects, donors may maintain anonymity, and donors are able to support many important projects with one gift.

Get Involved with MRG Foundation

In the past year, donor support at all levels made it possible for MRG Foundation to distribute nearly \$400,000 in grants to Oregon groups. If you are interested in learning more about MRG Foundation and joining our community of support, or if you would like us to meet a friend or family member who might like to learn more about our work, please contact us.

Ways to Contribute to MRG Foundation

MRG Foundation's donors are a diverse group of people who share one thing in common: a commitment to creating a more peaceful, just and environmentally sustainable society. Whether your financial situation allows you to give \$25, \$250, or \$25,000, you are an important partner in MRG Foundation's efforts to win justice and create a more compassionate society. If you are already a donor, thank you! If you'd like to begin participating in MRG Foundation by becoming a donor, here are some of your options:

- Write a check today.
- Make a monthly, quarterly, or annual pledge.
- Donate appreciated stock or real property and avoid capital gains taxes, while receiving a tax deduction.
- Write MRG Foundation into your will, or talk to family members about planning a bequest to MRG Foundation in your name.
- Contact MRG Foundation about establishing a charitable trust.
- Make MRG Foundation a beneficiary of your insurance policy or IRA.
- Establish a designated fund (donor pool) to fit your philanthropic purposes and MRG Foundation's tax-exempt program.
- Honor a special person or celebrate a birthday or wedding by giving a gift in their name.
- Volunteer time or other goods and services.

When appropriate, we suggest verifying details of specific arrangements with your accountant or attorney as we do at MRG Foundation. Staff members at MRG Foundation are always available for consulting as you plan your giving.

Planned Giving: Leaving a Legacy for Social Justice

Last year, MRG Foundation was able to grant out more than \$111,000 to groups opposing the war in Iraq. This was due in large part to a bequest we received in 2000. While not all of us are able to leave \$1 million to a group we love, we hope each person who supports progressive social change will remember MRG Foundation in their wills and other estate planning options. Together, these bequests will help MRG provide consistent funding to groups for many years to come.

Many people choose to create a lasting legacy for social justice by naming MRG Foundation in their wills. This can be done through any of the following methods:

- by making a specific bequest of cash or real property
- by making a proportionate bequest representing a percentage of your estate
- by making a contingent bequest, should one or more of your primary beneficiaries not survive you
- by making a residual bequest, which distributes the balance of your estate after other specific bequests have been distributed

Your will should be prepared by an attorney who specializes in estate planning. The full and complete name of the organization should be used. Including the fund's Federal Tax Identification Number (McKenzie River Gathering Foundation's number is 93-0691187) may also be useful to identify the proper organization. You or your attorney should contact MRG Foundation to confirm this information.

For more information about planned giving, please contact us at 503-289-1517.

THANK YOU

MRG THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR (July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003):

Carl & Margery Post Abbott
Carol Adler
After 8
Robert Agler
Kristan Alldrin
Dan Anderson & Joy Strand
Frank & Dorothy Anderson
Stuart Anderson
Trell Anderson & Jennifer Schneider
Evelyn Anderton & Janet Anderson
Bryan Aptekar
Judith Arcana
Vernon Arne
Barbara Aten
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Gil & Laura Avery
Rob & Carol Baird
Roanne Bank
Florence & Phil Barnhart
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Dagan Bayliss
Joan Bayliss & Irwin Noparstak
Paul Beach
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Karen Belsey
Bettykay
Nicholas Bilyeu
Arwen Bird
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Jan Boggia
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Tom & Kristine Bowerman
Rev. Alla Bozarth
Dave & Gretchen Brauer-Rieke
Johanna Brenner
Elaine Breshgold
Leslie Brockelbank
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Dana Brown
Douglas Brown & Jean Demaiffe
Monica Burke
Gillian Butler
Florence Byrne

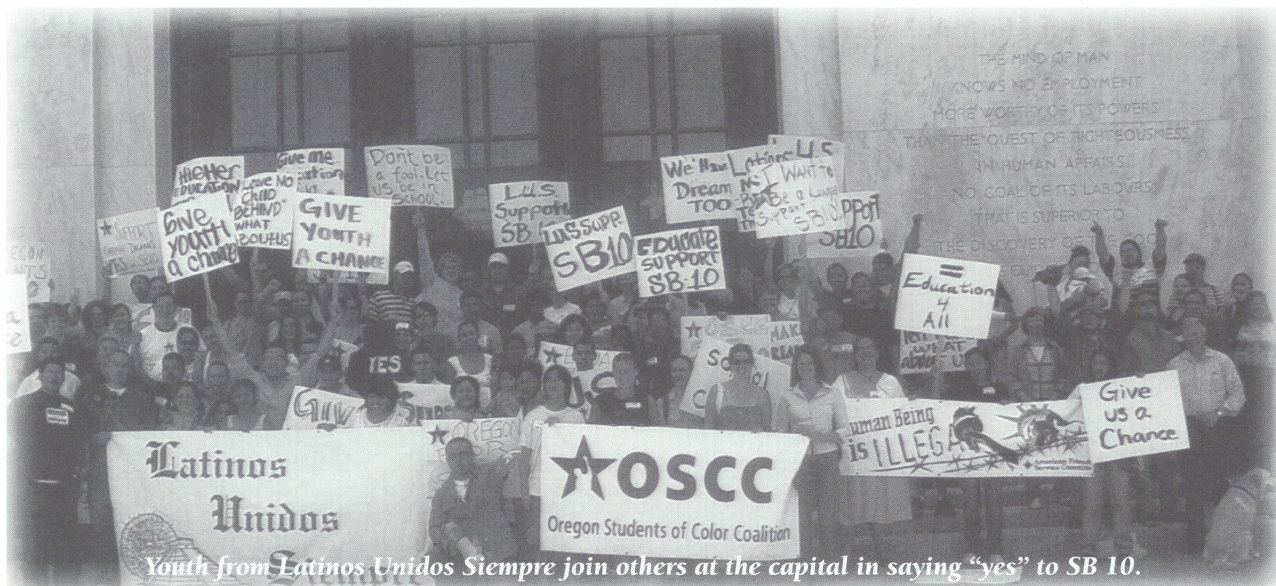
Steve Cackley
Alison Cantril & Andy Peara
Sarah Cantril & Thomas Nesbit
Jean Carley
Roscoe Caron & Katherine Gorham
William Carpenter
George & Fanny Carroll
Brad Carter
Kathleen Casson
Marian Chaffin
Carol Cheney
Linda Cheney
Chee Choy
Mary Clare
Olivia Clark
Jeff Cogen
David Collins & Sheila Strachan
Debra Connaway
Mike Cosgrove
John Crabbe & Jeri Janowsky
Rob Crouch
Stephanie Crowell
Linda Danielson
James Davies
Diana Day & Doreen McCauley
Myrla & Robert Dean
Robert Decker
Diane Depaolis
Steven & Beth Deutsch
Steven Dottererr
Sarah Ann Douglas
Marlene Drescher
Barbara Dudley
Jane Ediger & Douglas Swanson
Christine Ehlert
Judith Eisen
Colleen English
Herb Everett
Garold Faber
Kathryn Farr
Jan Fenton & Tim Calvert
Ann & David Fidanque
Randy Fishfader
Ruth & Herman Frankel
Dan & Carol Freedman
Katherine Freeman
Mark Friedman
Amy L. Frye

Deb Furry
Ann & Phil Gagnon
James Gamwell
Elwood Gerrits
Linda Ginenthal
Howard & Jane Glazer
Martha Goetsch & Linda Besant
Philip Goff
Jane & Morris Goldhamer
Daniel & Hannah Goldrich
Phil Goldsmith & Susan Newma
Rolaine & Truman Grandey
Jack Gray & Mary Jo Wade
Leslie Griep
Annette Gurdjian & Dennis Clay
Marjory Hamann
Allen Hancock
Noel Hanlon & Peter Koehler
Susan Hanson
Tom & Jane B. Happy
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Michelle Heifetz
Emily Heilbrun
Beth & Marc Heller
Pamela & Richard Hepper
William S. Herz
Judy & Michael Heumann
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Jeralyn & Ivan Inger
Karen Irwin
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Sarah Jacobson
Haidee Janak
Art & Anita Johnson
Ben & Miriam Johnson
Connie Johnson
Robert & Theresa Jones
Steve Jones

Mark Kalenscher
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 Francis Kernan
 Reida & Charles Kimmel
 Mark Kramer & Lois Orner
 Patricia Kullberg
 Marjorie Kundiger & Bill Josephson
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 Chris Robertson & Jacqueline Abel
 Norma Robertson
 Jewel Robinson
 Seth Rockwell
 Deb Ross
 Erica Rubin & Tom Swanson
 Sheryl Sackman



Youth from Latinos Unidos Siempre join others at the capital in saying "yes" to SB 10.

Mary Li
 David Lifton
 Penny Lind
 Elisabeth Linder
 LeAnn Locher & Adela Rios
 Alan Locklear & Marie Valleroy
 Meryl London
 Conchita Lovato
 Love Makes a Family
 Norman Lumian
 Chris Mack
 Ann Macrory
 Klaus Mahr
 John & Martha Marks Fund/Oregon
 Community Foundation
 Gin McCollum
 Evelyn McConaughy
 Lori McGilchrist
 Anne McLaughlin
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 Karen Mellin
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 Ron Paul
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 Jean Anderson Pezzi &
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 Anne Philipsborn & Rick Ray
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 Sheila Smith
 Susan Snyder & Michael Greenlick
 John Solters, M.D.
 Carolyn Sonfield

Matthew Spitulski
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 Jack Wussow
 Susan Zeidler & Leo Frishberg
 Charlotte & Richard Zeller
 Cathy Zheutlin & Edis Jurcys

56 anonymous donors

Endowment Donors

Madeline Moore
 Socially Responsive Investing,
 Laurie McClain
 1 anonymous donor

Tribute Gifts

In Honor of Daniel Goldrich
 The Edith G. and A. Walter
 Socolow Philanthropic Fund
 of the Jewish Communal Fund

**In Honor of Anne Philipsborn &
 Rick Ray**
 Jane Bilger & Andrew Philipsborn
 David Lifton

**In Honor of Susan Remmers &
 Arwen Bird**
 Anonymous through Charitable
 Gift Fund

In Honor of Alida Rol
 Mary Li

In Honor of Teresa Yurchis
 William Carpenter
 Colleen English
 Michelle & Isaac Heifetz
 Mark Kramer & Lois Orner
 Sandra Polishuk
 Susan Snyder & Michael Greenlick
 Cathy Zheutlin & Edis Jurcys
 Suzan Zeidler & Leo Frishberg

In Memory of Ashira Belsey
 Janice Frater
 Phil Goldsmith & Susan Newman
 Anonymous

In Memory of Jean Chute
 JoAnn Wiser
 Ray & Barbara Wolfe

In Memory of Gerald Kundiger
 Marjorie Kundiger

In Memory of Gloria Shaich
 Harry Shaich

In Memory of Quincy Sugarman
 Betty Sugarman

In Memory of Harold Vatter
 Joy Spalding

Business Donors

Burley Design Cooperative, Inc.
 Pattie Ladd, Riverrun Graphics
 Progressive Investment
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 Rose City Mortgage
 ShoreBank Pacific
 Trillium Natural Foods

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 David Atkin, Non Profit Support
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 Shelly McFarland
 Smoke and Mirrors
 Starbucks
 Sundance Natural Foods
 Tazo Tea

Financial Report 2002-03

McKenzie River Gathering Foundation

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended June 30, 2003

| | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Permanently Restricted | Total |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE | | | | |
| Public Support: | | | | |
| General Fund contributions | \$ 270,454 | \$6,220 | \$ - | \$ 276,674 |
| Donor Pools contributions | 99,282 | - | - | 99,282 |
| Donor Advised contributions | 57,040 | - | - | 57,040 |
| Funding Exchange Endowment contributions | 56,456 | - | - | 56,456 |
| Maud T. Kernan Fund contributions | - | 854,910 | - | 854,910 |
| Lilla Jewel Fund contributions | - | 1,000 | - | 1,000 |
| Endowment Fund contributions | - | - | 1,241 | 1,241 |
| Michael Smith Fund contributions | - | - | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Grants | 13,000 | 10,000 | - | 23,000 |
| Uncollectible pledge | (25,000) | - | - | (25,000) |
| | 471,232 | 872,130 | 2,241 | 1,345,603 |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| Investment gains (losses) | 40,015 | 40,832 | - | 80,847 |
| Interest and dividends | 55,693 | 40,608 | - | 96,301 |
| Other revenue | 4,283 | - | - | 4,283 |
| Administrative fees earned | 2,048 | - | - | 2,048 |
| | 102,039 | 81,440 | - | 183,479 |
| Net Assets Released from Restrictions: | | | | |
| Satisfaction of Maud T. Kernan Fund restrictions | 57,146 | (57,146) | - | - |
| Satisfaction of Rob McCay Fund restrictions | 141,953 | (141,953) | - | - |
| Satisfaction of Lilla Jewel Fund restrictions | 8,003 | (8,003) | - | - |
| Satisfactions of other program restrictions | 2,000 | (2,000) | - | - |
| | 209,102 | (209,102) | - | - |
| Total Public Support and Revenue | 782,373 | 744,468 | 2,241 | 1,529,082 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Program services | 810,580 | - | - | 810,580 |
| Administrative | 172,637 | - | - | 172,637 |
| Fund raising | 23,680 | - | - | 23,680 |
| Total Expenses | 1,006,897 | - | - | 1,006,897 |
| INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS | (224,524) | 744,468 | 2,241 | 522,185 |
| NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR | 1,198,310 | 879,937 | 1,467,084 | 3,545,331 |
| NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR | <u>\$ 973,786</u> | <u>\$1,624,405</u> | <u>\$1,469,325</u> | <u>\$4,067,516</u> |

- The Maud T. Kernan Fund is restricted for use in support of racial justice and environmental works, and must be used in no less than ten years and no more than twenty-five years.
- The Rob McCay fund is restricted for use in nuclear decommissioning and waste disposal and in disarmament.
- The earnings and income of the Lilla Jewel Fund are restricted for use in funding lesbian and women artists and organizations.



MRG's Board of Directors, left to right, starting with top row: Olga Turner, Sarah Jacobson and Christopher Winter (incoming board member); Arwen Bird, Deb Furry, Debra Connaway and Patti Duncan.

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 Debra Connaway, Chair
 Patti Duncan
 Deb Furry
 Sarah Jacobson
 Juan Carlos Ocaña
 Olga Turner

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 Leslie Brockelbank
 Julie Miller
 David Monk

THE FUNDING EXCHANGE

MRG Foundation is one of 16 autonomous community-based foundations that make up the Funding Exchange, a national foundation committed to funding progressive grassroots activism. The Funding Exchange was founded in 1979 by six of these foundations, including MRG. Today, the Funding Exchange provides grants totalling nearly \$3,000,000 to support social change, and, as a network, awards more than \$25,000,000 nationwide every year.

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Photo of McKenzie River Bridge by Ron Keebler Photography