

CHANGE WE CAN HAVE NOW



MARG
McKENZIE RIVER GATHERING
FOUNDATION

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2008-2009**

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COVER: Recruiter Watch PDX collaborated with United Voices/Beats for Peace, a project of the American Friends Service Committee, to bring youth activists to Salem in early 2009 for a rally to keep the Oregon National Guard in Oregon.



We've heard the word "change" a lot this year as historic shifts in our political and economic landscape have dominated headlines.

We can also see change in Oregon's social justice movement as new people become energized by the urgency of our times and new technologies allow emerging struggles for justice to come to our awareness within hours.

All these transitions offer us fascinating choices. What are the changes we want? When does it make sense to remain steady?

Here at MRC, we know what's not changing: our support for community-led groups working for social justice. Our commitment to having *activists*, with direct knowledge of what needs to change and how to do it, make our grant decisions. **Our dedication to people who are putting their money where their values are by funding the grassroots.**

We're also making changes, by:

- Giving out larger grants than ever before—in just two years the amount groups can apply for has doubled from \$10,000 to \$20,000.
- Working with other foundations to increase support for social justice groups and communities of color in Oregon.
- Building our grantees' and our own capacity to tell our stories and engage more people in social justice work.

Visit our new website, www.mrgfoundation.org, for a more complete picture of what we are up to *right now* and how you can get involved. From grantee profiles to resources that will help you manage your money to interactive conversations about the issues of the day, we're making our website a unique resource for people committed to social justice in Oregon.

This annual report reflects the changing times we're in. On the back cover we honor MRC's co-founder and dear friend Leslie Brockelbank, whose unique understanding of money's role in the movement changed Oregon forever. Our front cover features young activists who were not even born when MRC's first grants were awarded.

That's another thing about MRC that won't change: **we'll remain a place where activists of all backgrounds come together**—people of different races, cultures or generations who share a passion for building a better world. People like *you*.

I hope you'll join us. Make a donation to support Oregon's social justice movement. Add your voice to online discussions on our website. Together, we can make a difference.

Marjory Hamann
Executive Director

CHANGE WE CAN WORK FOR

Friends of Family Farmers Molalla

Family farmers face challenges as agribusiness crowds them out of natural resources and the marketplace. Founded in 2005, Friends of Family Farmers is uniting Oregon's independent family farmers with food advocates and concerned Oregonians who want a better food system. They are working for agriculture that respects the land, treats animals humanely, sustains local communities, and provides viable livelihoods for family farmers.

Friends of Family Farmers has worked with residents around Canby to ward off a 1.5 million-bird factory chicken farm. In Salem, they are bringing farmers' voices to the table to create long-term changes to keep family farming possible for many generations to come.

MRG Grant: \$6,000



MRG's Grassroots Grantmaking Programs

In 2008-2009, MRG Foundation made almost \$600,000 in grants to community-based groups across Oregon. Grant recipients rolled up their sleeves and went to work in Irrigon, La Grande, Coos Bay, Portland... In communities across the state, they are creating change. Grantees are:

- Developing leaders among young people of color
- Connecting the cost of war to the current economic crisis
- Working to save some of the last wild areas in the state
- Organizing low-wage workers for better conditions

MRG's grantees are tackling the toughest problems out there, and are led by people directly affected by those problems. In communities of every size, they are taking on the root causes of injustice.

We are often the first funder to recognize their work and the urgency of the issues they are taking on. Our grassroots grantmakers are out in the community organizing and working alongside these grantee groups. They are drawn from the same communities and issue areas that we fund, and volunteer their time because they know how critical it is to support progressive work across our state. Most of our grassroots grantmaking grants are made via the **General Fund**, but also include the **Peace Fund** and the **Critical Response & Travel Fund**.

On the following pages you'll find a list of our grantees. Some you will recognize, others will be new to you. To learn more about any of the groups and to see photos or watch videos of these groups in action, check out our website: www.mrgfoundation.org/grantees.

General Fund Grants \$450,000

Amigos Multicultural Services Center

Eugene • \$9,500

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

Portland • \$5,000

Bay City Arts Center

Bay City • \$6,000

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project

Fossil • \$10,000

Cascadia Wildlands Project

Eugene • \$12,000

Center for Diversity & the Environment

Portland • \$7,000

Center for Intercultural Organizing

Portland • \$15,000

Central Oregon Jobs with Justice

Bend • \$10,000

Civil Liberties Defense Center

Eugene • \$10,000

Community Alliance of Lane County

Eugene • \$7,000

Community Alliance of Tenants

Portland • \$15,000

Community of Welcoming Congregations

Portland • \$9,000

Confederated Tribes of the Lower Rogue

Coos Bay • \$6,500

Democracy Reform Oregon

(now Common Cause Oregon)

Portland • \$10,000

Disabled United in Direct Empowerment

Medford • \$9,000

Eugene-Springfield NAACP

Eugene • \$10,000

Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network

Eugene • \$8,000

Friends of Family Farmers

Molalla • \$6,000

Grants Pass Intertribal Powwow Committee

Merlin • \$7,500

Hells Canyon Preservation Council

La Grande • \$8,000

Human Dignity Coalition

Bend • \$10,000

Klamath Riverkeeper

Ashland • \$5,000

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Ashland • \$8,000

Komemmma Cultural Protection Association

Yoncalla • \$9,000

Latinos Unidos Siempre

Salem • \$10,000

Lotus Rising Project

Medford • \$10,000

Love Makes A Family

Portland • \$8,000

Mid-Willamette Valley Jobs with Justice

Salem • \$7,500

Rogue Valley Oregon Action



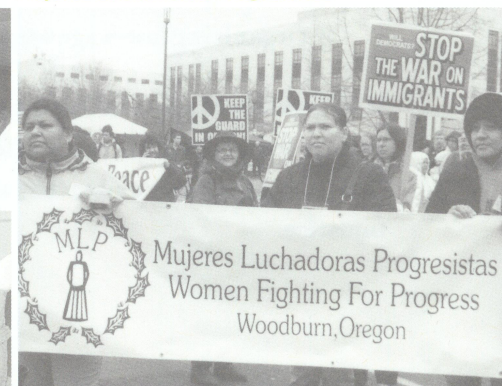
Cascadia Wildlands Project



Center for Intercultural Organizing

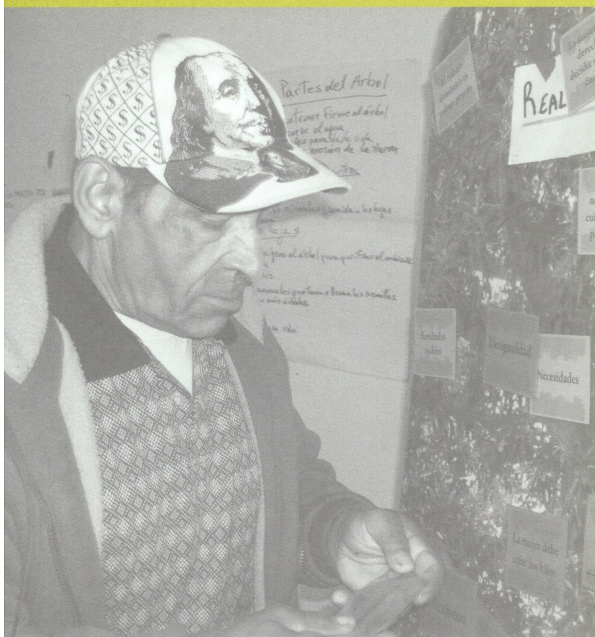


Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas



CHANGE WE CAN

DREAM OF



VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project Portland

Hundreds of day laborers gather on corners in Portland looking for work, and are often subjected to harassment and mistreatment. While the mistreatment of any worker is unfair, it also lowers the safety and dignity of all workers.

VOZ is part of a national movement of groups working to improve the lives of day laborers. VOZ has opened the Martin Luther King Jr. Worker Center to increase worker safety. Day laborers contribute to governing the center and have agreed to a minimum wage.

Over the last nine years, VOZ has won over local businesses and neighborhood associations who have come to understand the struggle of day laborers. VOZ will continue to change the conditions for day laborers and the public dialogue about these workers for years to come.

MRG Grant: \$13,000

Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas

Woodburn • \$10,000

Multicultural Association of Southern Oregon

Medford • \$10,000

Northwest Workers' Justice Project

Portland • \$10,000

Organizing People - Activating Leaders

Portland • \$12,000

Oregon Fair Trade Campaign

Portland • \$8,000

Oregon Farm Worker Ministry

Portland • \$8,000

Oregon Rural Action

La Grande • \$14,000

Oregon Toxics Alliance

Eugene • \$6,000

Portland Central America Solidarity Committee

Portland • \$7,500

Portland Jobs with Justice

Portland • \$10,000

Red Lodge Transition Services

Portland • \$9,000

Rogue Valley Oregon Action

Medford • \$10,000

Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality

Salem • \$10,000

Somali Women's Association

Portland • \$8,000

Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice

Ashland • \$10,000

Street Roots

Portland • \$10,000

Umatilla Morrow Alternatives

Irrigon • \$9,000

Umpqua Watersheds

Roseburg • \$9,500

Unete

Medford • \$10,000

VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project

Portland • \$13,000

Wisdom of the Elders

Portland • \$8,000

Peace Fund \$119,500

The Peace Fund strengthens Oregon's peace movement by funding groups that are building connections between peace and social justice; drawing new people into the movement; and organizing to direct policy and resources away from war and into peace and social justice.

One-year Grants

American Iranian Friendship Council Portland • \$5,000
BroadArts Theatre Portland • \$5,000
Central Oregon Peace Network Bend • \$5,000
Eugene PeaceWorks Eugene • \$5,000
Recruiter Watch Portland Portland • \$2,500
Witness for Peace Northwest Portland • \$5,000

Three-year Grants

We have entered the third and final year of multi-year funding for groups who are working for a vibrant and collaborative peace movement in Oregon.

American Friends Service Committee - Portland Chapter Portland • \$15,000
Center for Intercultural Organizing Portland • \$15,000
Community Alliance of Lane County Eugene • \$15,000
Oregon Action Portland • \$15,000
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste Woodburn • \$15,000
Rural Organizing Project Scappoose • \$15,000

*We made an additional \$2,000 grant to support a collaborative project among the six multi-year grantees.

Critical Response and Travel Fund \$13,540

Critical Response Grants \$8,290

Critical Response Grants support groups who are organizing a progressive response to an unanticipated event, opportunity or crisis.

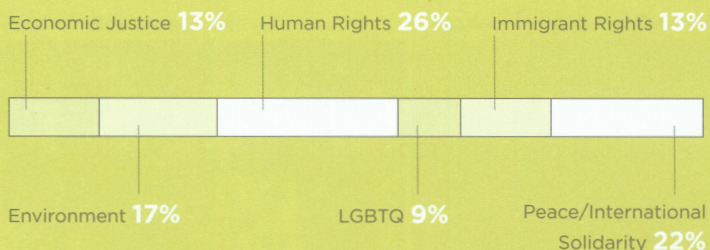
Clatsop County Citizens for Common Sense Warrenton
Columbia Pacific Common Sense Astoria
Latinos Unidos para un Futuro Mejor Scappoose
Multicultural Association of Southern Oregon Medford
Rural Organizing Project Scappoose

Travel Grants \$5,250

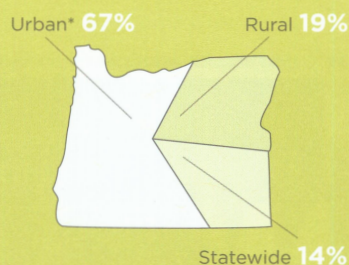
The purpose of this fund is to help grantees make national and regional connections and develop the leadership and skills needed for effective organizational development and organizing.

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon Portland
Community Alliance of Tenants Portland
Human Dignity Coalition Bend
International Center for Traditional Childbearing Portland
Love Makes A Family Portland
Oregon Fair Trade Campaign Portland
Recruiter Watch Portland Portland
Wisdom of the Elders Portland

Grassroots Grants by Issue Area



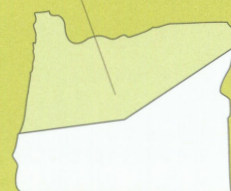
Grants by Geography



* Includes Ashland, Bend, Eugene, Medford, Portland and Salem

Racial Justice Grants

43% of our grants supported groups based in and led by communities of color working to create a racially-just Oregon



CHANGE WE CAN INVEST IN

Human Dignity Coalition **Bend**

Founded in 1992 as a local response to anti-gay legislation, Human Dignity Coalition has become the hub for progressive activism in Central Oregon. In 2007, they organized much-needed rural support for Oregon's landmark law protecting LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer) communities from discrimination.

Now, Human Dignity Coalition is making sure that this new law translates into real change in people's daily lives. They are working in local schools with youth, teachers, parents, and the local Gay-Straight Alliance to change the environment in schools and end the bullying and harassment of LGBTQ youth.

MRG Grant: \$10,000



Grantmaking Committees

General Fund

Lesley Adams, Elisa Aguilera, Gil Avery, Evelyne Ello-Hart, Anne Golden, Shizuko Hashimoto, Joan Quaempts, Alejandro Queral, Guadalupe Quinn, Liza Lynn Tran, Raquel Wells

Travel and Critical Response Funds

Penny Lind, Maud Powell, Terrie Quinteros, Ari Rapkin

Peace Fund

Chris Ferlazzo, Nancy Haque, Kathleen Pequeño, Esther Stutzman

Special Funds

MRG Foundation manages special funds created by donors that honor their loved ones while supporting MRG's grassroots grantmaking. These funds advance racial justice, peace, environmental protection, international solidarity and the arts.

Maud T. Kernan Fund

Michael Smith Fund

L'Chaim Fund

Lilla Jewel Fund for Women Artists

If you are interested in setting up a fund at MRG and want to learn more, contact sheryl@mrgfoundation.org.

Donor Advised Grants \$141,210

In addition to our grassroots grantmaking, MRG also administers donor advised grants for people who want support in making donations to other organizations.

Opening a donor advised fund at MRG can help you simplify your giving and provide immediate tax benefits, while offering a flexible timetable for deciding where you want your donations to go. Donor advised giving is especially helpful for people who wish to remain anonymous, who would like to make a larger donation in one tax year and spread the impact out over time, or who make more than \$10,000 in donations.

If you would like more information about creating a donor advised fund, contact Sheryl Sackman at sheryl@mrgfoundation.org, or visit www.mrgfoundation.org/tools.

Change takes YOU

In a world where we face such big challenges, it's hard to remember that **each of us can be a part of making change**. Each of us has a role to play to create a just and joyful world.

Giving to MRG is a way to **put your money where your values are** and to make a powerful statement about justice. Your gift will join with the gifts of others to fund community groups as they protect human rights, develop grassroots leaders, organize workers, and preserve our wild areas.

Ways to Give

Send a check to MRG

Make a gift online at
www.mrgfoundation.org

Donate
appreciated stocks

Name MRG in your will

Make a monthly donation

Ask your employer to
match your gift to MRG

Your gift counts, whether you can give \$10/month to support your vision for justice, or make an annual gift, or designate MRG as a beneficiary in your will. Your gift to MRG will go directly to work in organizations across Oregon.

We asked some of our donors why they give to MRG, and they told us.

- **Marjan** grew up in a rural community and now lives in Portland. She donates because she knows MRG supports groups she hasn't heard about, but who are making a difference throughout Oregon.
- **Kathy and Dagoberto** are activists in Southern Oregon. They give because they want to fund groups that are bringing justice, respect, dignity and a voice to communities.
- **Chris** gives because he knows that grassroots activists are in a unique position to make effective grants using MRG's grantmaking process.

To read more about these donors, check out
www.mrgfoundation.org/support

Tools for Giving

We know you face a lot of decisions about how to use, invest and donate the money you have in a way that aligns with your values. MRG offers the following resources that can help you have a positive impact with your financial resources:

- **Personal assistance** identifying effective organizations working on issues you care about
- **Information** about wills and estate planning tailored for people of all income levels
- **Workshops** on socially responsible investing
- **Donor advised grantmaking** (see page 7)
- **Gatherings** for progressive people with wealth

Thanks to our Donor Relations Committee for their work: Carole Zoom, *Chair*; Yee Won Chong, Shizuko Hashimoto, Muna Mohamud, Dianne Riley, Chris Winter

For more information about the many ways you can make a gift or about the tools for giving we offer, visit www.mrgfoundation.org/tools, or contact Sheryl Sackman at sheryl@mrgfoundation.org or 503-289-1517.

CHANGE WE CAN CARE ABOUT

Donors MRG Foundation thanks the following people and businesses for their support:

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 Sabrina Anderson
 Jody Anderson
 Yulia Arakelyan
 Jessica Baik
 Kodey Park Bambino
 Julie Bryant
 Nygel Burdick
 Rebecca Burrell
 Michael Carrigan
 Cassie Cohen
 Patricia Cortez
 Barrett Ebright Karnes
 Toby Ensign
 Herb Everett
 Lynne Fessenden
 Bobby Fother
 Liz Fother-Branch
 Lizzie Fussell
 Elaine Hayes
 John Hofer
 Chris Kahle
 Seth Kaplan
 Cory Kirshner-Lira
 Colton Kirshner-Lira
 Margot Kniffin
 Vanny Kong
 Jeannie LaFrance
 Lisa Leddy
 Jenny Leis
 Eliana Machuca
 Jeanine Malito
 Skye Malito
 Flora Melhouse
 Jered Molinsky
 Adriana Montes
 Brooks Nelson
 Chrystle Nordin
 Teresa O'Caer
 Heather Pruess
 Josh Remis
 Deb Ross
 Rivka Sadarangani
 Bernie Schlotfeldt
 Aria Seligmann
 Rebecca Shine
 Romeo Sosa
 Natalie Staggs
 Peter Stewart
 Andrew Toney
 Marjan Wazeka
 Megan Wyckoff
 Mo Young
 Dick Zeller

CHANGE WE CAN COUNT ON

Even in this tough economy, **MRG Foundation has maintained a strong financial position** and is able to provide unwavering support to Oregon's progressive movement.

In the fiscal year between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009 ("FY09") we met 90% of our goal for fundraising, while our assets dropped just 5% as a result of the fluctuations in the stock market. While, like many organizations, we saw a dip in donations and our investments decreased in value, our losses were relatively minor and we were in a strong enough position to deal with these changes.

Equally important, we were able to increase our grants to community-based organizations at a time when many other foundations were cutting back. In FY09 we gave out more grants than ever before. Our "bottom line" shows us spending more than we took in this year, thanks to a historic \$3 million gift we received in 2007. We're using a portion of that gift to jump-start a growth in MRG's capacity.

We know that now — more than ever — progressive groups need financial support to create the change we need. Our increased capacity means we can make more grants right now and also reach more people who will become future supporters.

The charts on this page show how our assets, income, grantmaking and other expenses have changed over time. This way, you can see how our continued growth translates into support for the progressive movement in Oregon.

Our full audited financial statements are available on our website: www.mrgfoundation.org/about.

Thanks to our Finance Committee for their work: Olga Turner, Chair; Tom del Savio, Miriam Levitt, Arbrella Luvert, Kim To

Assets and Liabilities

June 30, 2009

Assets **\$6,880,000**

Liabilities **\$85,000**

Fund Balance (AKA Net Assets) **\$6,795,000**

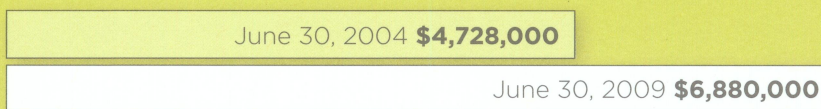
Expenses to Income*

For the past two years



***Note:** MRG's endowment and other long-term funds cover a significant portion of our annual expenses. Because the funds were established in previous years, they are not included here as new income.

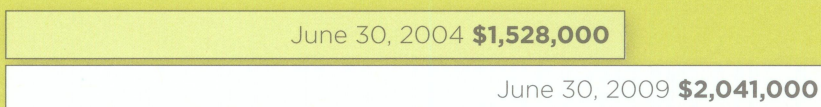
Growth in Assets



Growth in Grassroots Grantmaking



Endowment Total Size



Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.



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www.mrgfoundation.org



Leslie Brockelbank

1923-2009

2009 marked a major transition in Oregon's social justice movement as we said farewell to MRG Foundation co-founder Leslie Brockelbank, who died in Eugene in August at the age of 85.

Leslie was a lifelong activist who was beloved by many communities, but here at MRG we have a special gratitude to her. In 1976, Leslie and Charles Gray gave a gift to the community of \$500,000 — seed money for what became MRG Foundation.

The remarkable thing wasn't that they were willing to give this money. It was that Leslie felt strongly that it shouldn't be up to her, as a person with wealth, to decide the best use of the money. Leslie and Charles summoned people who were directly involved in the social justice movement to the banks of the McKenzie River for a weekend gathering to decide how to use the money to support peace and justice.

In the decades that followed, Leslie stayed connected and was a sounding board for the people who led the organization day-to-day without trying to direct their work. She believed she was just one of many people working for justice and that each person brought great value to our collective work for a better world. She lived her beliefs of respect for people and equality.

To honor Leslie's vision and persistence, we have created the **Leslie Brockelbank Memorial Fund** to support Oregon groups working for peace, the environment, and human rights. This annual report highlights a small number of the many groups we have supported thanks to Leslie's decision so many years ago. Please join us in carrying her legacy on.