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 MRG, 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 MRG's co-founder and dear friend Leslie Brockelhank, 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 MRG's first grants were awarded.

That's another thing about MRG 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
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

Komemma 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
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

Portand 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
- Pinos 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

- Economic Justice 13%
- Human Rights 26%
- Immigrant Rights 13%
- Environment 17%
- LGBTQ 9%
- Peace/International Solidarity 22%

Grants by Geography

- Urban: 67%
- Rural: 19%
- Statewide: 14%

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

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.

www.mrgfoundation.org/grantees
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.

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 Monamud, Dianne Riley, Chris Winter
CHANGE WE CAN
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Michael Smith
Bill Farver & Kathryn Gordon
Quincy Sugarman
Betsy Sugarman
Harold Vatter
Joy Spalding

Volunteers
Rupert Ayton
Sabrina Anderson
Jody Anderson
Yujia Arakelian
Jessica Baik
Kodey Park Bambino
Julie Bryant
Nygel Burdick
Rebecca Burrell
Michael Carrigan
Cassie Cohen
Patricia Cortez
Barrett Stongharnes
Toby Ensign
Herb Everert
Lynne Fessender
Bobby Foutter
Liz Foutter-Branch
Lizzie Fussell
Elaine Hayes
John Hofer
Chris Kahle
Seth Kaplan
Cory Kirsthner-Lira
Colton Kirsthner-Lira
Margot Kniflin
Vanny Kong
Jeanne LaFrance
Lisa Leddy
Jenny Leis
Eliana Machuca
Jeanie Malito
Skye Malito
Flora Melhuca
Jered Molinsky
Adriana Montes
Brooks Nelson
Chrstle Nordin
Teresa O’Caer
Heather Pruess
Josh Remis
Deb Ross
Rivka Saderangani
Bernie Schlofsteif
Aria Seligmann
Rachelle Shin
Romeo Sosa
Natalie Stagg
Peter Stewart
Andrew Toney
Marjan Wazeka
Megan Wyckoff
Mo Young
Dick Zeller
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

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**Assets and Liabilities**

**June 30, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>$6,880,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance (AKA Net Assets)</td>
<td>$6,795,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses to Income**

**For the past two years**

**FY 07-08**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>$3,729,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>$1,321,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FY 08-09**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>$692,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>$1,350,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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**

**June 30, 2004: $4,728,000**

**June 30, 2009: $6,880,000**

**Growth in Grassroots Grantmaking**

**Grassroots grants 2004-05: $342,000**

**Grassroots grants 2008-09: $591,000**

**Endowment Total Size**

**June 30, 2004: $1,528,000**

**June 30, 2009: $2,041,000**

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
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.