

**IT
TAKES
ALL OF
US**

**WHAT
DOES
ILLEGAL
LOOK LIKE**



**McKENZIE RIVER GATHERING
FOUNDATION**

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011



Lotus Rising Project • Medford



Red Lodge Transition Services • Portland



Oregon Fair Trade Campaign • Portland



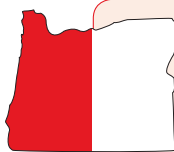
Oregon Rural Action • LaGrande

IT TAKES OUR GRANTEES

We fund groups who are organizing their communities to take on injustice. Our grantees all have small budgets, but a big vision for a just world. These groups are led by people directly affected by the issue, who know what needs to happen in their communities and beyond.

Sometimes it's a rally, sometimes it's a visit to a legislator or a conversation with a neighbor at the kitchen table. Whatever it takes, these groups are organizing for justice all across Oregon.

Learn more at
www.mrgfoundation.org/grantees



50% of our grants supported groups based in and led by communities of color

INVESTING IN ORGANIZING PAYS OFF

In the fall of 2010, a national watchdog group unveiled research showing that over a five- year period in the Northwest, every \$1 invested in advocacy and organizing returned \$150 in impact. What kind of impact? The benefits came in the form of higher wages, expanded services, increased investments in housing and other programs, and the defeat of damaging ballot initiatives.

When foundations and individuals invest in organizing and advocacy, it pays off for communities.

That's why we're committed to funding organizing, and to **getting more foundations and individuals to fund this kind of effective work across the state of Oregon.**

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IT TAKES LEADERS

VOZ HISPANA CAUSA CHAVISTA WOODBURN, \$10,000

Daniel Legaria is a PCUNCito: a part of Oregon's farmworker movement, and a member of Voz Hispana Causa Chavista.

Through the PCUNCitos program, he has learned about the history of Oregon's farmworker movement, how Oregon's political process works, and how both these things have affected his family. He has registered voters, spoken to community groups, and met with state legislators to talk about the need for local immigration reform.

When over 4,000 people marched for immigrant rights in Salem, he and other PCUNCitos led the way.



Daniel Legaria

BEYOND TOXICS (FORMERLY OREGON TOXICS ALLIANCE) EUGENE, \$8,000

Lisa Arkin is the director of the Oregon Toxics Alliance. Lisa spends a lot of time in Salem and in neighborhoods working on laws to protect Oregonians from exposure to toxics.

Walking up to the Capitol in Salem one day, Lisa saw a worker spraying the grass with a weedkiller that formed a mist over the sidewalk. Then she saw a woman with two small children stroll right through the mist, unaware it was poison.

Lisa is leading the Safe Public Spaces Campaign to ensure that walking with your children near a state office building doesn't mean having to breathe in toxics. Learn more at www.safepublicplaces.org.



Lisa Arkin

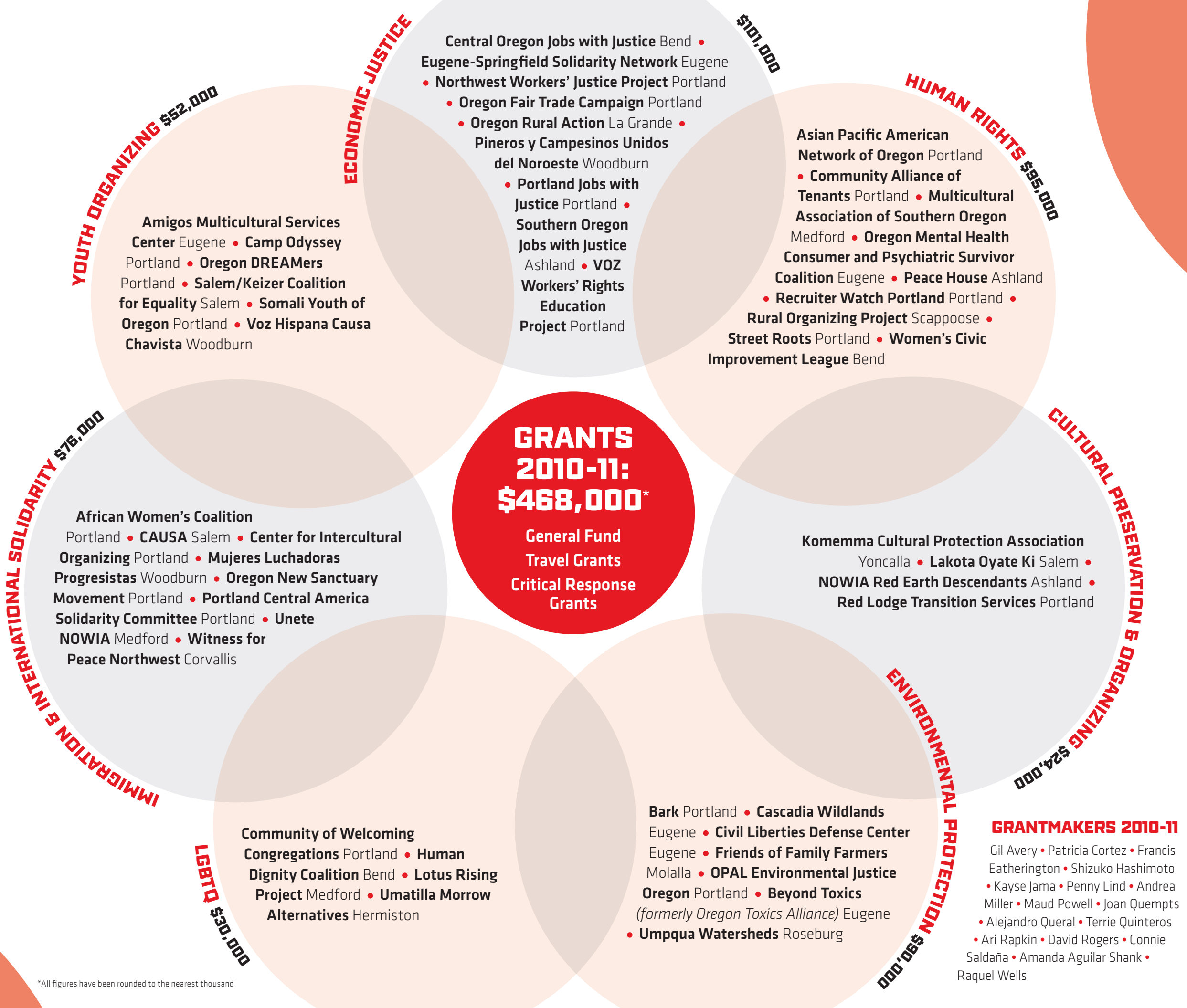
SOMALI YOUTH ASSOCIATION PORTLAND, \$8,000

In November, 2010 a young Somali man in Portland was arrested for participating with FBI agents in a plot to set off a bomb in Pioneer Courthouse Square. It was a shock to many Oregonians, but especially to Shamsa Hussein.

Shamsa knew that there would be a backlash against Somali youth. She pulled together other young Somalis who wanted to act in a positive way for their community. They came together for conflict resolution training, leadership development and storytelling. Now they have taken the initiative to approach the Beaverton and Portland police departments about how to dispel stereotypes about the Somali community. Learn more at www.somaliyouths.org.



Shamsa Hussein



*All figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand

ALL OF US

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Estate of Eleanor Townsend

IT TAKES YOU

Scan this list for your name. *Go ahead, you know you want to.*

If you're on this list, thank you. Your name is here because you've put your money where your values are: racial and economic justice, environmental protection and peace.

There aren't many places where every dollar you give – whether it's \$5 or \$50,000 – supports so many different pieces of organizing for justice in communities across Oregon.

If your name isn't on this list, shouldn't it be? Do you want to support grassroots organizing in Portland, La Grande and Medford? Do you want to be part of a community that invests nearly half a million dollars annually in social justice organizing for Oregon?

Because to support the groups you'll see inside, it takes all the donors listed here.

It takes you.

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Thanks to the employees of the City of Portland, employees of Metro, and State of Oregon employees who give to MRG Foundation and our grantees year-round via payroll deduction.

SPECIAL FUNDS

Maud T. Kernan Fund • Michael Smith Fund • L'Chaim Fund

Thank you to former MRG staffers Marjory Hamann (Executive Director) and Dave Cutler (Finance and Administration Director).



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503-232-1731 (fax)
www.mrgfoundation.org

IT TAKES MONEY

At MRG Foundation, we give out close to half a million dollars a year to support social justice organizing. *Where does this money come from?*

At MRG, virtually our entire annual budget is funded by *donations from individuals*, but the income shows up in different ways.

Annual donations: These are gifts that people like you make year after year. The donations range from \$5 to \$50,000, and they really add up. **MRG donors gave \$480,000 this fiscal year.**

Longer-term sources:

- Large donations made in previous years for use over time
- Donor advised funds that people set up at MRG to support specific organizations (see sidebar)
- Our endowment, which was funded by individual donations of all sizes. MRG invests these funds while taking a portion out each year for current activities.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Donor advised funds are useful tools for individuals who wish to make larger donations that support multiple groups. Donor advised funds can simplify your giving while still giving you flexibility and support for your charitable giving. If you have questions about how a donor advised fund can make your giving easier, **contact Sheryl Sackman: sheryl@mrgfoundation.org or visit www.mrgfoundation.org/support.**

And where does it go? You can look at the graph below to see our expenses for the year. Roughly 78% of our budget went to grantmaking and our community education programs: \$1,030,000.

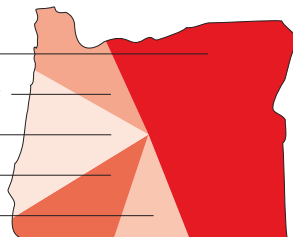
For more information on our finances and our audited financial statements, check out our website: www.mrgfoundation.org.

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Sharon Gary-Smith
Executive Director
Cris Lira
Grants Program Assistant
Kathleen Pequeño
Communications Director
Anita Rodgers
Interim Associate Director
Sheryl Sackman
Development Director
Annah Sidigu
Community Engagement Manager

EXPENSES FY 2010-11 \$1.32 MILLION*

- 51% Grassroots Grantmaking***
- 10% Donor Advised Grantmaking***
- 17% Community Education**
- 11% Fundraising**
- 11% Administration**



*Figures have been rounded, grantmaking figures include program costs such as staff