Activating our communities

MRG is based on the belief that when we lead and organize our communities against injustice, we can build a better world.

We build groups who are researching their communities, cultivating leadership and campaign for social justice. The grantees who have small budgets, and organize for social change or social justice.

These groups are truly the people who are actively fighting for their issues, who know what needs to happen to create a more diverse, more sustainable, more just world.

They’re engaging with families, farmers, legislators, and students all over the state. With our campaigns and our grantees, new communities, new movements, new struggles are being won every day and everywhere.

MRG grantees build solidarity with the farm, land, and Colonel Sherman Grove

This year, 87% of our grant support groups based in and led by communities of color.

EMERGING COUNCILS

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HUMAN RIGHTS GAINST

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Environmental Protection

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ECONOMIC JUSTICE

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LIBERTY & EQUALITY

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GAY & LESBIAN RIGHTS

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MCKENZIE RIVER GATHERING FOUNDATION ACTIVITY REPORT 2011-2012

Activating our communities

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This year, 87% of our grant support groups based in and led by communities of color.
Dear friends,

The world’s social justice sector is a vast and varied landscape, our communities, and our allies. It is a world that we all call home.

Whether you’re the leader of an organization, a community advocate for a better justice, or in your daily interactions, we all need to make sure that we use our social justice work to build something and make the world a better place.

I have been a part of this journey since I was a child. As a child, I learned to organize, to lead, and to change the world. I learned to make sense of the world around me, to find the joy and beauty in the struggles of the day.

Today, I am the executive director of MRG, a foundation that builds grassroots leadership—grant by grant, activating communities throughout our state.

I have a strong belief in the power of community-led action for change. I believe that we can create a world where we all have the opportunity to live and work without exposure to harmful chemicals. You helped us give over $460,000 in grants so that this work in Oregon can grow.

Thank you for stepping up and stepping out for justice— we couldn’t do this without you.

Justice is within reach—and it gets closer everyday because of you.

We receive annual gifts ranging from $5 to $75,000 and they all add up to make a difference.

Don’t miss this opportunity! Help us continue to activate relationships with organizers, communities, and supporters while witnessing the power of community-led action for change.

Sharon Gary-Smith
Executive Director

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Activating your resources

Visit mrgfoundation.org/donate for audited financial statements.

What our donors say

**SIRIUS BONNER**
**PORTLAND**

"I give generously to MRG because I know that the funding they provide to organizations offers the fertile ground needed for ordinary folks to do this extraordinary work. The work of building something new and deepening my understanding of what it means to be in the ‘grassroots’ has been more than I ever thought I could be. I am humbled by the dedication of the Oregon justice fund and to the people that work to keep us all strong."

**ALLEN HANCOCK**
**ENGAGE**

"I give generously to MRG for their innovative and passionate development of the grants. Their strategies and grants have helped me to understand the complex dynamics of social justice and to build community around that core mission. For my second year working at Oregon Justice Fund, I knew that MRG was the right home for my skills and talents."

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**What you can do today**

Join Us!

Join us in our work for social justice! Visit mrgfoundation.org/donate for information on ways you can make a gift today:

- **Set up a recurring gift**
- **Donate appreciated stock**
- **Make an annual or monthly gift online**
- **Contact our staff to discuss how you can activate your resources and our communities to sustain the movement and create a just and healed world.**

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Other ways you can help build grassroots leadership:

- **Volunteer**
- **Attend events**
- **Visit our website**

Visit mrgfoundation.org/donate for audited financial statements.

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**New to giving?**

Learn from our donors about their experiences with MRG.

**How to give?**

- **Annual Donations**
- **Donor-advised Grantmaking**
- **Grassroots Grantmaking**

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**What is a donor-advised grant?**

A donor-advised grant is a way for donors to make grants to organizations of their choice. The donor chooses the organization, sets the amount of the grant, and makes the grant at any time in the future. Donors can make grants to organizations that they support, or they can choose to make grants to organizations that they do not support.

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**What is grassroots grantmaking?**

Grassroots grantmaking is a way for donors to make grants to organizations that they support, or they can choose to make grants to organizations that they do not support. Donors can make grants to organizations that they support, or they can choose to make grants to organizations that they do not support.

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**How to give?**

- **Visit our website**
- **Contact our staff**

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- **Visit our website**
- **Contact our staff**

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Activating communities every single day, and continue to push forward because they know we all of Oregon's progressive movement. Our grantees and supporters are activating their communities throughout our state.

Whether you're on the frontlines organizing in your community, advocating for better conditions, or simply voting on the issues that matter, your gift makes it possible for community-led organizations and grassroots groups to lead the way for social justice.

When you activate your support for MRG by making a gift, you're a part of the movement for long-term, sustainable change. Your gift makes it possible for community-led organizations and grassroots groups to lead the way for social justice.

Join us!

Thanks to hundreds of people dedicated to social justice, MRG gives out nearly a half million dollars a year to activate grassroots action, support, and seed the seeds of social change. The work ahead for social justice brings to mind a single word: activate!

The past year brought the power of community-led action for change into the spotlight, and MRG stands ready with our people and our resources to activate, to push forward because they know we all of Oregon's progressive movement. Our grantees and supporters are activating their communities throughout our state.

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Join us!
Activating our communities

MRG is based on the belief that when we lead and organize our communities against injustice, we can build a better world.

We build groups who are becoming their communities' critical leadership and campaign for economic, social, and environmental justice. These groups either have small budgets or are just starting to build them. They are deeply rooted in the people they serve and are often led by those who have been most affected by the issues they address. Their campaigns are strategic, grassroots, and require better policy. They organize for social change, restorative practices, and student-led action across the state. In 2011-12, MRG partnered with 142 campaigns and built community-led action to create powerful change. This year, 36% of our grantees support groups based in and led by communities of color.

HUMAN RIGHTS

2011-2012 GRANTEES

Alien Policy - American Arab Networks of Oregon Portland
Common Cause Oregon Portland
Will Drummond Services Portland
Koinonia Collective for Social Justice Protection Association Portland
Crisis Intervention Services Portland
Latino Cultural Protection Association Portland
Native American Indian Center of Oregon Portland
Oregon Community Justice Portland
Community Justice Initiative Portland
Right 2 Survive Portland
Green Earth Portland
International Center for Traditional Chillobotry Portland
Oregon Springfield MACP Portland
Oregon Student Foundation Portland
Salem/Peter Cruis for Equality Salem
Alliance Committee of Support Oregon Project Medford
Multicultural Association of Southern Oregon Millennials Women’s Civic Improvement League Medford

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

2011-2012 GRANTEES

Koinonia Cultural Protection Association Portland
Cradle Center for Indigenous Organizing Portland
Cascadia Wildlands Eugene
Beyond Toxics Eugene
Crag Law Center Portland
Umpqua Watersheds Roseburg
Columbia Riverkeeper Portland
Northwest Women’s Law Center Portland
Portland Jobs with Justice Portland
Oregon Rural Jobs with Justice La Grande
Oregon Rural Jobs with Justice Roseburg
American Indian Tribal Council Portland
Russian River Watershed Project Portland
Momentum Alliance Portland
Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas Woodburn
Unite Oregon Portland
Cultural Access-Disability and Culture Project Portland
MindFreedom Eugene
Latino Club Salem
Komemma Cultural Protection Association Yoncalla
Red Earth Descendants Ashland
Common Cause Oregon Portland
HuMan Rights Environmental Protection Portland
Community Alliance of Tenants Portland
Portland Central America Solidarity Committee Portland
American Iranian Friendship Council Portland
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon Portland
Pacific Northwest Immigration & Environmental Protection Portland

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

2011-2012 GRANTEES

Oregon Anti-Hunger Project Portland
Northwest Workers’ Justice Project Portland
Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice Ashland
IWW / Black Worker Rights Education Project Portland
Oregon Rural Jobs with Justice Portland
Oregon Rural Jobs with Justice Roseburg

LGBTQ

2011-2012 GRANTEES

Oregon Action Portland
Oregon Rural Action La Grande
Oregon Rural Jobs with Justice Portland
Oregon Rural Jobs with Justice Ashland
Oregon Rural Jobs with Justice Roseburg

MRG GRANTMAKERS

Amanda Aguilar Shank • Andrea Miller • Kayse Jama • Esther Gutierrez • Raquel Wells
• Patricia Cortez • Alejandro Queral • Francis Etherington • Penny Lind • Terrie Quinteros • Amanda Miller
• Andrea Miller • Kayse Jama • Esther Gutierrez • Raquel Wells • Patricia Cortez • Alejandro Queral • Francis Etherington • Penny Lind • Terrie Quinteros • Amanda Miller
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NELLA PARKS OREGON RURAL ACO

MRG has been our most reliable and important partner, not only of Oregon Rural Action, but of Oregon Rural Action’s 12-year history. We are grateful for their ongoing support and investment in justice movements, including rural communities, economic justice, and the environment. We are grateful for their ongoing support and investment in justice movements, including rural communities, economic justice, and the environment. We are grateful for their ongoing support and investment in justice movements, including rural communities, economic justice, and the environment. We are grateful for their ongoing support and investment in justice movements, including rural communities, economic justice, and the environment.
We build groups who are becoming their communities' intellectual and campaign repository. We provide the grantees with small grants and organizational support to build their capacity. These groups are truly the people and not only affecting others for whom we have said needs to happen. They are using the combined MRG’s communications, organizing, and advocacy network, and a better policy. They are mobilizing educators, farmers, legislators, and students across the state. With such a large network and such committed staff, these groups are building a strong and far-reaching influence.

MRG is based on the belief that when we lead and organize our communities against injustice, we can build a better world.

MRG is the basis for the belief that with our youth — they are the greatest impact. It does not only help further our mission — it connects us to the larger movement for social justice in our state.

We know that when we organize our communities against injustice, we can build a better world.

Immigration & International Solidarity

Immigration & International Solidarity

2011-12 GRANTEES

Activating our communities

MRG is the largest provider of funding for immigrant and refugee-led organizing in the United States. Today, MRG invests in over 500 organizations across the United States, building a socially just Oregon for all of us.

Our grantees are making things happen in their communities and beyond. They’re building relationships, grassroots networks, and working to build a better future for Oregon. These groups are led by the people who are directly affected by the issue, who know what needs to happen.

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Immigration & International Solidarity

GRANTS Leadership Initiator: Worldwide Center for International Organizing
Grant Impact of Oregon Project
United We Dream
Migrants United and Organized for Rights and Justice Worldwide
Amigos de la Raza Service Center Eugene
Allegro Latino Coalition Eugene
Migrants Organized to Achieve Justice Portland
Maine Alliance for Immigrant Rights
South of the Border Project Portland
American Indian Alliance of Oregon Portland
International Alliance of Cities-Connecting Communities

Environmental Protection

Grants Overview: Education
KidSport Schools
Flathead Lake Coalition
Wildlife Conservation Society
Cascadia Bioregional Center
Greenpeace
Defend Our Coast
Natural Resources Defense Council

Political Advocacy

Grants Overview: Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Oregon Action Portland
Oregon Rural Action La Grande
Oregon Conservation Council Portland
Project Reconomy Central Point
Voz Workers’ Rights Education Project Portland
Portland Jobs with Justice Portland
Oregon Fair Trade Campaign Portland
Northwest Workers’ Justice Project Portland

Human Rights

Grants Overview: Portland City of Portland
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon Portland
HuMAN RIGHTS eUGene
Latino Club Salem
Red Lodge Transition Services Portland
komemma Cultural Protection Association Yoncalla
Common Cause Oregon Portland
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon Portland

LGBTQ

Grants Overview: Portland
Oregon Environmental Council
Portland Jobs with Justice Portland
Northwest Workers’ Justice Project Portland

Economic Justice

Grants Overview: Portland
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Northwest Workers’ Justice Project Portland
South of the Border Project Portland
ICW Workers Rights Education Project Portland
Oregon Drug Action Portland

Grants Overview: Portland
MRG has been our most steadfast and responsive supporter over the years. MRG Foundation is committed to justice movements, including the movement to end racism, end poverty, end war and environmental destruction. We are grateful for their leadership and support as we emerge from a unique moment in our history and look ahead to the next phase of our collective work for social justice in our state.

Grants for organizations based in and led by communities of color.

2011-12 GRANTEES

Activating our communities

MRG is based on the belief that when we lead and organize our communities against injustice, we can build a better world.

We seek groups who are building their communities culturally rooted and anti-racist campaigns for greater social and economic justice. The groups who have applied for support are from Portland and Oregon.

Grants are only paid to the groups that we are directly asking for, those who have shown a commitment to organizing for change, and who are committed to working with communities who are marginalizing.
Activating our communities

MRG is based on the belief that when we lead and organize our communities against injustice, we can build a better world.

We believe that people who are already organizing in their communities hold the greatest possibility for change. Our grantmaking seeks to amplify the voices and leadership of community organizers and organizers for social justice. MRG seeks to support and grow community organizing efforts: grassroots networks, campaigns, coalitions, and organizations that work to create change in their communities and beyond. We are a network of funders who believe in organizing for social, economic, and environmental justice and work to support this ecosystem of organizing efforts.

MRG created the Activating our Communities Fund (AOC) in 2011 to support and grow organizing efforts in the state of Oregon. The AOC is a network of funders who are dedicated to supporting organizing efforts that are led by people who are organizing in their communities. The AOC is a network of funders who are dedicated to supporting organizing efforts that are led by people who are organizing in their communities. The AOC is a network of funders who are dedicated to supporting organizing efforts that are led by people who are organizing in their communities.

In 2011-12, we supported 51 community organizations and individual organizers across the state of Oregon. We invested over $460,000 through our General Fund, Travel Grants, and Critical Response Grants.

Here are 10 examples of our grantees:

- **Right 2 Survive, Portland**: This organization focuses on housing rights and tenant protections for people who are facing displacement or eviction. They organize tenancy rights workshops, legal clinics, and direct actions to protect the homes of tenants.
- **PFLA - Portland Black Chapter, Portland**: This group works to address systemic racial injustice and support communities of color. They organize protests, rallies, and community events to raise awareness about issues facing Black communities.
- **Lotus Rising Project, Medford**: This organization works to address the issue of water contamination in Medford and other communities across the state. They organize events to raise awareness about the contamination and advocate for clean drinking water.
- **Community Alliance of Tenants, Portland**: This organization works to protect the homes of tenants and organize for tenants’ rights. They organize tenant rights workshops, legal clinics, and direct actions to protect the homes of tenants.
- **Oregon Rural Action, La Grande**: This organization works to protect the rights of farmers and ranchers in rural Oregon. They organize events to raise awareness about the issues facing farmers and ranchers and advocate for policies that support rural communities.
- **Volunteer Oregon, Portland**: This organization works to connect volunteers with community organizations across the state. They organize events to raise awareness about the importance of volunteering and connect volunteers with opportunities to make a difference in their communities.
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Activating our communities is not just about supporting community organizations. It’s about supporting the people who are organizing in their communities. It’s about building relationships, grassroots networks, and social justice. Our grantees often have small budgets and large visions for a better future for Oregon. We fund groups who are activating their communities to build leadership and win campaigns for a better world. We believe that when we lead and organize our communities against injustice, we can build a better world.

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**ESTHER STULZMAN**, Executive Director, MRG Foundation
Dear friends,

The word social justice palette to bring to a unique color palette: Activism! Movements happen in our communities, our organizations, and the people involved who work for it all.

Whether you’re part of a grassroots group advocating for better policies, or engaged in building a new community, or involved in activism at the local level, MRG is here to support you in our social justice work.

I have been honored to serve as our first-year executive director leading our organization in helping people work together, collectives, communities, and support while advancing the power of Oregon’s progressive movement. Our grantees and supporters are powering our communities across the state, and we look forward to building on the foundation you’ve laid and the work we’ve done in the past year.

There you can stop and stop for the beauty; you can’t do it any more. And I think that’s important to do. It’s how we’re activating our resources and our communities to support the movement and create a more just and equal world.

As long as we’re working together to build a better world, you know that it’s possible to work together and make a difference.

In the spirit of social justice and change,

Executive Director

Sharon Gary-Smith

Thank you for stepping up and stepping out for justice! We couldn’t do this without you.

Because of you, our grantees will continue to make social change happen, and because of you, our grantees will continue to make social change happen.

The past year brought the power of community-led action for change into the spotlight, and MRG stands solidly with our local and national organizers who are at the center of our justice struggle. MRG organized and supported community organizing, including the founding of several boards across the state.

Whether you’re on the frontlines organizing in your community, advocating for better policies, or you’re digging deep into your pockets to contribute to MRG to make this social change happen, you are part of the movement for social change in our state.

Thank you for giving and for the incredible work you’ve done to help us make a difference.

Sharon Gary-Smith
Dear friends,

The work ahead for social justice brings to mind a single word: Activate! The word is full of energy and urgency, a call to mobilization and action. It’s the kind of word that resonates with those of us who are committed to building a world that works for all of us.

The past year brought the power of community-based action for change into the spotlight, and MRG stood in solidarity with national and local social justice partners who were fighting for justice. MRG organized community gatherings, provided national leadership, honed its direction, and activated our grantees and supporters to push forward because we know we all stand on the threshold of critical shifts.

Thank you for stepping up and stepping out for justice — we couldn’t do this without you. Your contributions make a world of difference: a world where every Oregonian can live and work without exposure to harmful chemicals. You helped us give over $460,000 in grants so that this work in Oregon can grow.

Through the lens of recent events, it is clear that many of today’s challenges are more about organizing for change than they are about fighting individual battles. More than ever, a powerful social movement is needed to protect and advance the rights of our communities, workers, and environment.

The work ahead for social justice brings to mind a single word: Activate! The word is full of energy and urgency, a call to mobilization and action. It’s the kind of word that resonates with those of us who are committed to building a world that works for all of us.

When you activate your support for MRG by making a gift, you’re a part of the movement for long-term, sustainable solutions for social justice. By making a gift to MRG today, you join a community of passionate leaders who are working together to build a world that is fair, just, and joyful.

Thank you for stepping up and stepping out for justice — we couldn’t do this without you. Your contributions make a world of difference: a world where every Oregonian can live and work without exposure to harmful chemicals. You helped us give over $460,000 in grants so that this work in Oregon can grow.

As long as we are moving together, we are building power, and that power is what makes us unstoppable when we need to be.

In the spirit of social justice and change.

Sharon Gary-Smith
Executive Director

Visit mrgfoundation.org/donate for another avenue to discuss how you can activate your resources.

How we fund our work

- 41% Grassroots Grantmaking
- 29% Donor Advised Grantmaking
- 13% Community Education
- 7% Administration
- 5% Development

To learn more about our role in social justice, or to inquire about a donation or a grant, please reach out to us at 503-289-1517 or at donate@mrgfoundation.org.

How to contribute

- Make a monthly gift online
- Set up a donor advised fund
- Make an annual or monthly gift online
- Set up a dedicated fund
- Make a gift for a named gift
- Name MRG in your will, as a beneficiary
- Make a large gift today and make your gift even larger
- Join an audit of your Foundation
- Give through your estate to leave a lasting legacy
- Gifts like these ensure that MRG carries forward the work of our grantees

Visit mrgfoundation.org/donate to learn more.

Activate your resources!

Donations over time

At the end of 2012, the Portland-based MPRG, which focuses on social justice, received $1.6 million in institutional giving, a 29% increase over the previous year. This growth is being driven by increased support from foundations and individual donors.

The organization received $1.6 million in donations, a 29% increase from the previous year.

Additional resources

- Contact our staff at 503-289-1517 to discuss your options for activating your resources for social justice.

To see how we’re allocating our funds, visit mrgfoundation.org/finance.

What our donors say

SIRIUS BONNER
PORTLAND

When you give to an organization’s development efforts, you are supporting the growth of a movement. Your gift helps us to continue building a better Oregon and a better future. Please join us!

ALLEN HANCOCK
EUGENE

I’ve witnessed ordinary folks become passionate leaders of social change as they care about and over time emerge into communities of activists. I’ve seen that there is a special joy and satisfaction that comes from knowing you’re part of a group that is making a difference. Please join us to make Oregon a better place to live and work by giving.

Donor Spotlight

Turpin Tompkins

I came to Oregon in the 1950s to work as an activist, and my career with MRG has spanned nearly 50 years. I’ve witnessed a lot of change, and I’ve seen the value of building grassroots leadership — grant by grant, activist by activist.

While you are building a future for Oregon by making a gift, you are part of the movement to stop climate change, support community leaders for social change, and encourage everyone to join the movement.

Thank you for stepping up and stepping out for justice — we couldn’t do this without you.

Sharon Gary-Smith
Executive Director

Visit mrgfoundation.org/donate to learn more.

MRG wants you to activate to!

Visit mrgfoundation.org/donate to learn more.
Activate your resources

Visit mrgfoundation.org/donate for updated information.

Dear friends,

The work of social justice is complex and requires a range of resources, our communities, and our allies in order to do the work of justice.

Thank you for stepping up and stepping up to the plate! We could not do this without you. I believe that the power lies in our hands to make change happen. It's up to us to activate our resources and our communities to sustain the movement and create a better world.

As long as we are working together, building relationships, knowing that we all hold the capacity to do incredible things. In the spirit of social justice and change.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

MRG is bringing 30 years of knowledge and experience to expand social justice grantmaking in our region. Our year-end campaign goals are ambitious and very exciting. We are working on changing the narrative and shifting funding so that the vision of funding makes sense.

We are thankful for the power of community to act for change to the spoken word, and we must act with solidarity and our voices to make a difference. Mobilizing our community to participate in the powerful coalition to end foreclosures and promote a healthier environment where folks of all backgrounds can thrive.

When you activate your support for MRG by making a gift, you are a part of the movement for long-term, sustainable social change. Your gift can connect our movement to the power of community and inspire others to activate as well.

Thank you for your support!

Sharon Gary-Smith, Executive Director

What our donors say

SIRIUS BONNER PORTLAND

“In my role as an activist and movement developer, my work is about uniting people. I am committed to this work and have been working with MRG for many years.

When I first met SR, I knew she was the one I wanted to work with. She’s a leader and she’s a doer. She’s someone who truly lives her values and is always willing to take action.

I know that SR values and respects the work of others and is always willing to listen. She’s someone who truly cares about social justice and is always willing to take action.

I’m honored to have the opportunity to work with someone like SR and am looking forward to our work together.

— SR, Executive Director, Momentum Alliance

ALLEN HANCOCK EVANSTON

I give generously to MRG because I believe that the power of community to act for change is a powerful force. I know that when we come together, we can make a difference.

I am committed to supporting organizations that are working to end poverty and racism.

I know that the work of social justice is not easy, but I am willing to do my part to support MRG in their mission.

— Allen Hancock, Evanston, IL

MRG wants you to activate!

While many of you have supported MRG by making a gift, you are a part of the movement for social justice. Your support is critical to building a thriving movement that builds grassroots leadership—given by grass, activités, and community throughout the world.

Your gift makes a powerful contribution to our community-organizing work. Your support is critical for a better Oregon and a better future. Please visit mrgfoundation.org/donate to learn more.

What are some ways you can activate?

- Join a committee or task force
- Attend an event or meeting
- Share your story with others
- Volunteer your time or skills