

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES

P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662

January 8, 2008

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Smart Justice, (*a crime reduction program that seeks alternatives to custody and promotes initiatives to change behavior and tackle the causes of crime*) and a follow-up discussion on the topic, **How Can EISCC Better Support Its Member Congregations?**

WELCOME: An opening prayer was offered by Rev. Jeanne Rempel of Evergreen Mennonite Church of Bellevue.

MINUTES: Brian Anderson (425-653-1652). The minutes for the December 11, 2007 meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: EISCC and CFH Treasurer Pat McDermott (425-643-7759) reported that until final 2007 disbursements are made, the financial report is unavailable. It will be emailed to EISCC members when complete.

EISCC dues statements for 2008 will be mailed this month. Members are encouraged to remit their dues in a timely manner.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS REPORT: CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803; steve@cfhomeless.org) reported the shelter is doing well having left Grace Lutheran Church in Bellevue and having moved to Redmond United Methodist Church. The shelter remains at capacity with a small waiting list.

The big news for CFH is that during the month of December 2007 the program placed 6 men in permanent housing—a record for the program! Congratulations to everyone who helped the program achieve this important milestone.

Life Coaches continue to be urgently needed. The contracts that exist between landlords and CFH that enable the men to be moved into permanent housing require that each man be paired with a life coach. If you or someone in your congregation is interested in being a true blessing in the life of a CFH client who is working hard to return to a normal, stable life, please call Steve at 206-295-7803.

CFH also has an ongoing need for blankets. EISCC members can bring them to the next EISCC meeting, drop them off at the CFH offices, or call Steve to arrange a pickup.

CFH Housing Director Sterling Bentsen also mentioned that the men who are moving into permanent housing have need of vacuum cleaners, microwaves, dressers, cooking utensils, and dinette sets. If you or someone in your congregation can help supply these items, please call Sterling at 206-609-5999.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 28 members and guests.

PROGRAM: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Mary Martin of Habitat for Humanity East King County shared with us the mission statement of their program, which is that “Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses, so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God's love and can live and grow into all that God intends.”

Habitat for Humanity of East King County serves eight communities east of Seattle, building affordable homes for low-income residents and selling them at no profit through interest-free loans. They are celebrating 20 years of service this year.

Their typical homeowner:

- Earns between 25% and 50% of the median income for the Eastside (generally \$11-15 dollars per hour);
- Has lived or worked on the Eastside for at least one year;
- Needs housing;
- Is willing to put in 500 hours of “Sweat Equity” construction work on their home or the home of a Habitat neighbor. This labor is the down payment on their Habitat house.

There is a genuine shortage of affordable housing on the Eastside. The current median housing price on the Eastside is some \$592,000, while the price that Habitat families can generally afford is about \$155,000. Habitat for Humanity’s goal is to build 20 new affordable homes on the Eastside each year.

What can congregations do to help?

- Congregations can pray for Habitat, asking God to be with them, sustain them, and guide them, their families, and their volunteers in the work they do.
- Congregations can solicit volunteers.
- They can donate money.
- And they can help Habitat find buildable land on the Eastside for single family homes and duplexes.

Congregations can also help needy families learn about owning their own home through a partnership with Habitat. Do you know a family that needs simple, decent, affordable housing? Can they afford a \$750 mortgage payment per month? Have they lived or worked in East King County of at least one year? Are they willing to put in 500 hours of “sweat equity” on their home or the home of a neighbor? Are they looking for a “hand-up,” not a hand-out? If so, these families are encouraged to contact Cathleen or Emily at 425-869-6007 or www.habitatekc.org.

TOGETHER WE BUILD: Together We Build is a group of Eastside Christian, Jewish & Moslem congregations that come together each year in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of East King County to build relationships even as they help build affordable housing. Participants share work, share meals, and share of themselves broadening understanding and community. If your congregation is interested in joining Together We Build, please contact Carol Ready of Eastgate Congregational UCC at caroleer@mindspring.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: EISCC members are allowed to share announcements pertaining to their congregations/agencies at each EISCC meeting. If you wish these announcements to appear in the minutes, please remember to make them well in advance of any event that you are publicizing and, to help insure accuracy, please provide them in writing to the recording secretary. Among the announcements made at the January 8, 2008:

EISCC members, their friends and families are cordially invited to the annual **SHARE THE DREAM CONCERT** to be held this year be held Sunday, January 20, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at Mount Zion Baptist Church (1634-19th Ave. in Seattle). Featuring soul-stirring performances from the Total Experience Gospel Choir, the Black Nativity Choir, the Center for Spiritual Living Choir of Light, local gospel powerhouse Josephine Howell, American Idol alum Karma Johnson and other special guests, this afternoon of music and inspiration celebrates the enduring legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Although there is no charge for admission, freewill offerings will be accepted to benefit the Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County. Feed your spirit as you help feed your hungry neighbors. Come Share the Dream!

For more information about Share the Dream, please call Brian Anderson at 206-329-0300 or visit EFP on the web at www.emergencyfeeding.org.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: The annual Souper Bowl of Caring will be held Sunday, February 3rd. Faith Communities are asked to make a special appeal to their members to bring in food donations on that day to benefit the local food bank or food distribution program of their choice. For more information or to register your food drive, please visit www.souperbowl.org.

Tuesday, January 29, 2008 is **FAITH ADVOCACY DAY** at the State Capitol in Olympia. This is your congregation's chance to worship with members of other faith communities and to learn about important legislative issues at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Olympia before moving to the capitol rotunda for an exciting rally. Meet your legislators and let your voice be heard! For more information, please contact David Coombs at the Lutheran Public Policy Office, 206-464-4133 or advocacy@gmail.com.

Paul Loeb, author of *Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time* will speak on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at 1:00 pm at East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 12700 SE 32nd St, Bellevue. Join us for "A much needed salvo against despair," (Psychology Today) and a "song of hope in these difficult times" (Bonnie Raitt). Sponsored by East Shore's PEACE team and underwritten by the People in Community Service Initiative. They are asking a \$5 donation for adults. Children and young people under 18 years-old are free and especially invited. Half price books will be available for signing. A follow-up book discussion group will be held at ESUU on Tuesdays, February 19, 26 and March 4 at 7:00 pm.

Juan Hernandez of **Hopelink** reported that their annual holiday gift room was a rousing success thanks in large part to the generosity of the Eastside faith community. Some 15,000 children received gifts this holiday season.

Juan also is looking for advocates to spread the word to needy individuals and families that might benefit from becoming Hopelink clients. A publication entitled *Pathways to Success* is

now available for distribution. In it, you'll find details of Hopelink programs aimed at, in the word's of Hopelink's well-known slogan, "helping people" and "changing lives." For copies of *Pathways to Success* or for other information about Hopelink and the services they offer, please contact Juan at 425-943-7559 or juanh@hope-link.org.

CLOSING PRAYER: A closing prayer was offered by Dr. Sally Wing of Grace Lutheran Church.

Submitted by Brian Anderson, Recording Secretary

For more information about Spring the Dream, please call Brian Anderson at 206-329-4300 or brian@springthedream.org.

WILL THERE BE A LOT OF VEGGIES? The annual Snapper House on 12th St. will be held January 11th. The event is a special opportunity for the community to come together and enjoy a meal of local food. The event is free and open to all. The food will be served from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The event is a great way to support local farmers and enjoy a healthy meal. For more information, please contact the event organizers at info@snapperhouse.org.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY is the State Capitol in Olympia. This is a great opportunity for citizens to meet with their legislators and express their concerns. The event is held on the 2nd floor of the Capitol building. The event is free and open to all. The event is a great way to voice your concerns and make a difference. For more information, please contact the event organizers at info@legislativeday.org.

THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY is a special event in a historic building. The event is a great way to learn about the future of our community and to share your ideas. The event is held on the 1st floor of the historic building. The event is free and open to all. The event is a great way to learn about the future of our community and to share your ideas. For more information, please contact the event organizers at info@futureofourcommunity.org.

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February 12, 2008

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Youth Eastside Services: Supporting the Community

WELCOME: An opening prayer was offered by Diana Stice of First United Methodist Church of Bellevue

MINUTES: Brian Anderson (425-653-1652). The minutes for the January 8, 2008 meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: EISCC and CFH Treasurer Pat McDermott (425-643-7759) reported that January cash balances totaled \$91,657. This is a decrease of \$14,211 from the prior month. February cash flow is expected to be positive because of the collection of accounts receivable during the month. Nothing unusual was noted during January.

EISCC dues statements will be going out to member congregations and agencies this month - \$40 for congregations and \$25 for agencies. EISCC members are encouraged to remit these dues at their earliest convenience.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS REPORT: Nadine Bentsen gave this month's report for absent CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803; steve@cfhomeless.org). Nadine reported the shelter is doing well having left Redmond United Methodist Church and having moved to St. Luke's Lutheran in Bellevue. The men have come together as a real community and this is great to see. Eastside Interfaith Housing (CFH's program to place clients in permanent housing) currently has 18 to 19 men placed, no small accomplishment after only one year of operation.

Life Coaches continue to be urgently needed. The contracts that exist between landlords and CFH that enable the men to be moved into permanent housing require that each man be paired with a life coach. If you or someone in your congregation is interested in being a true blessing in the life of a CFH client who is working hard to return to a normal, stable life, please call Steve at 206-295-7803.

CFH also has an ongoing need for blankets, bed linens, small appliances, vacuum cleaners, microwaves, dressers, cooking utensils, and dinette sets. If you or someone in your congregation can help supply these items, please call CFH Housing Director Sterling Bentsen at 206-609-5999.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 25 members and guests.

PROGRAMS:

HOW CAN EISCC BETTER SERVE ITS MEMBER CONGREGATIONS

Moderated by EISCC co-president, Rev. Rick Russell, a spirited discussion took place on the topic of how EISCC can better foster and support the outreach efforts of its member congregations. Much of this discussion centered on making the recently developed EISCC website (www.eiscc.net) work better for members. Among the suggestions:

- The website should have “Volunteer Opportunities” section where EISCC member congregations and agencies can list upcoming service opportunities.
- The website should have an “Agency Needs” section where EISCC members can list needs other than volunteers and financial donations. For example, this is where Congregations for the Homeless might list the items their shelter and permanent housing clients need.
- The current “Announcement” section should be broken down into three subsections: Volunteer/Service Opportunities, EISCC Agency Needs, and EISCC Member Events.
- The link to the PDF version of the complete EISCC newsletter should be featured more prominently.

As a result of the discussion, it was decided that the EISCC Executive Committee will draft an email to be sent to all EISCC congregations and agencies requesting that they share with EISCC any information they’d like to share on the website.

In addition to suggesting improvements to the EISCC website, it was suggested that all representatives attending EISCC meetings work to find creative and effective ways to communicate information learned at these meetings to their larger congregations, either through reports given to other church leaders, the sharing of announcements, church newsletter articles, or in other ways.

CROP WALK

Nancy Bent (nancybent@comcast.net) reported that the annual Bellevue CROP Walk will be held **Sunday, April 27, 2008**.

CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty and CROP Walks are the major fundraiser for Church World Service, a 60-year-old organization which works to eradicate hunger and poverty around the world. Of the money raised at this year’s CROP Walk, 75% will go to CWS for its work around the world and 25% will stay here in King County, divided equally between EISCC member agencies HopeLink and the Emergency Feeding Program. (Please note, sponsors of walkers also have the choice to designate their pledge for a specific group—Lutheran World Relief, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, American Friends Service Committee are a few examples.)

The Bellevue CROP Walk has raised over \$95,000 since it began, with between 100 and 300 walkers participating each year. But it’s about more than raising money. CROP Walk’s motto is “We walk because they walk.” Our very short (3.5 mile) walk reminds us of the walking that most people of the world must do every day for food, water, and fuel. The CROP Walk builds community by bringing together individuals within participating congregations and as a way for

different faith communities to join together in service. The CROP Walk shows downtown Bellevue that churches and synagogues are here and a main reason they are here is to serve the neediest among us. When 100 or 200 people walk around downtown Bellevue carrying signs and balloons, they get people's attention and draw the focus to a bigger world beyond the upscale downtown. Finally, the CROP Walk is a happy event—you'll see walkers talking, laughing, and sharing stories during the 3.5 miles, coming to walk with friends they know and friends they have yet to meet.

How can you participate in the CROP Walk?

- Come or send a representative to the **Recruiter's meeting to be held at 9:30 am on Saturday, March 22nd at Bellevue First Congregational Church**. At that hour and a half session you will learn about the work of the CWS, get a good supply of materials, advice on how to involve your congregation, and inspiration.
- If you can't make the meeting, you can still put up posters, get **April 27th** on your church calendar, and make announcements in church.
- If you can't do any of that, you can still walk! Contact Nancy for an envelope, collect a few sponsors, and come see what the CROP Walk is all about.

You can visit the Bellevue CROP Walk website at www.bellevuecropwalk.org and to learn more about Church World Service click on over to www.churchworldservice.org.

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NESES (Niños Estudiando El Salvador): Joy Pocasangre of Temple DeHirsch Sinai reported on her work with the nonprofit NESES (or Niños Estudiando El Salvador) which seeks to enrich the lives of orphaned and underprivileged Salvadoran children and to expand their knowledge of educational and occupational opportunities in their home county. For more information and to find out how you can be a part of this important outreach visit their website at www.neses.org.

2008 WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: Following up on last month's successful Faith Advocacy Day, Sally Wing of Grace Lutheran Church distributed copies of the 2008 Washington State Legislative Priorities as prepared by the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington. This list specific recommended actions to deal with the issues of:

- Hunger, Poverty & Economic Justice
- Housing and Healthcare
- Criminal Justice
- Environmental and Sustainable Agriculture
- Civil & Human Rights
- Tax Reform
- Immigration Reform
- Education Access & Quality

To obtain additional copies, visit <http://www.lppowa.org/issues/issues.html>.

SEEDS OF COMPASSION: A five-day event to be held **April 11-15, 2008** in Seattle, Seeds of Compassion is an unprecedented gathering designed to engage the hearts and minds of our community by highlighting the vision, science, and programs of early social, emotional, and cognitive learning. Anchored by the deep wisdom of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, this community-focused event will celebrate and explore the relationships, programs and tools that nurture and empower children, families and communities to be compassionate members of society. Each of the 5 days will provide parents, educators, business and community leaders with an opportunity to better understand the real benefits of compassion, and concrete steps on how to bring compassion into their lives. For more information or to find out how you can help, please visit <http://www.seedsofcompassion.net/> or call 877-49-SEEDS (73337).

TENT CITY FOUR will be coming to Temple B'Nai Torah in May of 2008. Many volunteers will be needed. Watch for upcoming announcements to see how you can help.

JUST EATING: CREATING COMMUNITY WITH FOOD: Sarah Miles, author of *Take This Bread, A Radical Conversion* will be speaking **Thursday, March 6th** at First United Methodist Church of Bellevue. The book is the story of Miles' journey to faith and of her decision to take Jesus' call to feed others literally by establishing food pantries that feed thousands of people each week. A book signing is scheduled from 4:30 to 6:00 pm, followed by simple meal and Eucharist, ending with a lecture at 7:30 pm. For more information contact First United Methodist at (425) 454-2059 or www.fumcbellevue.org.

CLOSING PRAYER: A closing prayer was offered by Rev. Rick Russell of Eastgate Congregational United Church of Christ.

Submitted by Brian Anderson, Recording Secretary

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March 11, 2008

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Job Training and Education at Goodwill Industries

EISCC IS MOVING!!!!

Beginning in April (next month), the monthly EISCC meetings will be held at **St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3030 Bellevue Way NE** in Bellevue. The church is located just south of Highway 520 on Bellevue Way. **Please be certain to make a note of this change right away!**

WELCOME: An opening prayer was offered by Sonneva Wood of Eastside Friends Meeting.

MINUTES: Brian Anderson (425-653-1652). The minutes for the February 12, 2008 meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: EISCC and CFH Treasurer Pat McDermott (425-643-7759) reported that the financial condition continues to be strong. On 2/29/08 cash balances totaled \$84,371. This is a decrease of \$7,286 from the prior month. The \$18,379 that was expected in February from the county was not received until March 13, 2008.

Nothing unusual was noted during the month.

EISCC dues statements were sent out in February to member congregations and agencies this month - \$40 for congregations and \$25 for agencies. EISCC members are encouraged to remit these dues at their earliest convenience.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS REPORT: CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803; steve@cfhomeless.org) was on a mission trip to Haiti and in his stead, EISCC Co-president Marilyn Rands reported that she visited the CFH shelter at St. Luke's Lutheran last month and was most impressed as she watched the men visiting with their life coaches, sharing a delightful meal, and engaging in affirming fellowship. It was also reported that CFH has purchased a replacement trailer and is currently raising money to replace 30 sleeping mats used by shelter residents.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Special mention was made of the fact that starting next month EISCC general membership meetings will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church located at 3030 Bellevue Way in Bellevue. This arrangement is expected to continue until construction is complete at EISCC's long-time First Presbyterian home. EISCC members are encouraged to make special note of this change to avoid confusion next month.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 28 members and guests.

PROGRAMS:

YOUTH EASTSIDE SERVICES (YES): WORKING WITH AND FOR TEENAGERS

Linda Penhallegon, (425-747-4937) director of YES's chemical dependency program reported on their mission, which is Youth Eastside Services is a lifeline for kids and families coping with challenges such as emotional distress, substance abuse and violence. Through intervention, outreach and prevention, YES builds confidence and responsibility, strengthens family relationships, and advocates for a safer community that cares for its youth.

What YES does: For 40 years, YES has been improving the lives of our community's young people, helping them heal from and avoid drug and alcohol abuse, sexual abuse, dating violence, gang activity, and discrimination. In 2006, over 24,000 kids and family members discovered the inner strength to overcome painful crises and to make decisions that led them toward happy, healthy lives.

How YES does it: Through the efforts of 73 employees, nearly 19,000 annual hours of volunteer service and a \$3.3 million yearly budget, YES provides individual and family counseling; substance abuse education, prevention and treatment; community- and school-based violence prevention, family support, consultation and training. Contributions from individuals, businesses, foundations and public agencies help fund our work and, on average, more than 86 cents of every dollar go directly to providing services to kids and their families. At YES, a family's inability to pay for services never stands in the way of their finding the help they need.

How YES got here: YES was founded in 1968 as a grassroots movement by local volunteers concerned about the emergence of drug abuse among teenagers. In those early years, troubled youth found a drop-in center they could "rap" with sympathetic adult volunteers. Today, our approach has broadened to deal with the escalation of violence, substance abuse, teen alienation and family stress, along with a focus on the issues affecting young children aged six to 12, the dynamics of counseling whole families, and the unique challenges faced by culturally diverse communities living on the Eastside.

You can make a difference in the life of a child and in the life of our community: You can get involved in Youth Eastside Services in a variety of ways to help kids, families and our Eastside community.

As a donor, you can help us continue our good work to build confident and self-reliant kids, supportive families and a safe community. Your tax-deductible gifts mean that a family's inability to pay will never stand in the way of getting help for a child.

YES offers a variety of volunteer opportunities. Each year, YES depends on the work of more than 400 volunteers who donate nearly 20,000 hours a year to help us build self-reliant youth, strong families and a safe, caring Eastside community. Our volunteers receive training and support, along with the deep satisfaction of knowing you're making a real difference in the lives of young people. Here are just a few ways you can help:

- **Plan and coordinate fundraising events.** YES' annual Invest in Youth Luncheon is a fun, exciting event that relies on volunteers for everything from planning the program to

designing materials to setting up the venue for the big event. Other special fundraising activities throughout the year also depend on volunteer efforts.

- **Greet visitors and answer phone calls at our reception desk.** At our busy office in Bellevue, you'll be the first person to welcome clients, parents and other visitors. YES is fortunate to be able to rely on volunteers to provide 100 percent of our receptionist duties.
- **Assist with accounting tasks in our financial office.** For three hours a week in a flexible schedule to fit your needs, you'll help with day-to-day duties as well as special projects.
- **Repair and maintain computers.** Help us troubleshoot technology problems and keep our computer equipment up to date. Flexible hours to fit your schedule.
- **Interview youth and families.** Work with potential new clients at our Bellevue office to help determine the appropriate counseling programs or other services to meet their needs. As a volunteer "intake worker," you'll be asked to commit to one regular four-hour shift per week for at least nine months.
- **Mentor a student.** Provide the continuity and caring that may be missing from a young person's life. Volunteer mentors in our **SUCCESS** program receive quality training, weekly support, monthly newsletters and activities. You'll be asked to devote two to four hours per week for at least one year to your mentoring relationship.

It is the efforts of caring community members that ensures YES's success. To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Youth Eastside Services contact Marian Tillman at (425) 586-2306 or mariant@youtheastideservices.org.

And for more information on YES's many programs and to learn how you and your congregation can help them provide a lifeline for Eastside kids and families, either call them at 425-747-4937 or visit them on the web at www.youtheastideservices.org.

EISCC EASTSIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND REPORT: Representative from Hopelink reported on the good being done with funds available in the EISCC Eastside Emergency Services Fund. This fund—created by EISCC, supported by the donations of EISCC member congregations, and administered by Hopelink—is designed to provide assistance to needy individuals and families that may not be eligible for assistance through other sources by helping with eviction prevention, helping to cover move in costs, interim rent, providing motel vouchers, utilities, and help paying for prescription medicines. 100% of the dollars in the fund are utilized for people in need.

Between July 2007 and January 2008, EISCC and EISCC member congregations contributed \$16,490.70 to Hopelink generally. Of this, \$5,274.69 was designated for the EISCC Eastside Emergency Services Fund. This money was used to assist 122 households, with each household receiving an average of approximately \$198.00 in emergency financial assistance. Nine households received help with prescriptions, ten with utilities, seven with motel expenses, 12 with move-in expenses, and 84 households were helped cover rent (eviction prevention).

Congregations wishing their contributions to apply to this vital fund are asked to specify that their donations be designated to the **EISCC Eastside Emergency Services Fund**.

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SEEDS OF COMPASSION: A five-day event to be held **April 11-15, 2008** in Seattle, Seeds of Compassion is an unprecedented gathering designed to engage the hearts and minds of our community by highlighting the vision, science, and programs of early social, emotional, and cognitive learning. Anchored by the deep wisdom of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, this community-focused event will celebrate and explore the relationships, programs and tools that nurture and empower children, families and communities to be compassionate members of society. Each of the 5 days will provide parents, educators, business and community leaders with an opportunity to better understand the real benefits of compassion, and concrete steps on how to bring compassion into their lives. For more information or to find out how you can help, please visit <http://www.seedsofcompassion.net/> or call 877-49-SEEDS (73337).

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laughing, and sharing stories during the 3.5 miles, coming to walk with friends they know and friends they have yet to meet.

Please visit the Bellevue CROP Walk website at www.bellevuecropwalk.org to learn about how you can make a difference in the lives of hungry people both locally and throughout the world.

BRIDGE MINISTRIES: Once a month Bridge partners with a local church in hosting a Sunday Evening Celebration. The Celebrations are gatherings of persons with disabilities, their family and caregivers with members of host churches and other individuals from the local community. The purpose is to be together and to enjoy each other!

Celebrations are:

- A place where strangers become friends
- A place of warmth and respect, where gifts and abilities of all are affirmed
- A place to connect with each other and to celebrate God together

The Celebration takes place at the host church from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Participants enjoy a superb meal, good conversation with old and new friends, music, laughter, and the affirmation of God's love in action and in word. The church leads in a short program and persons with disabilities are given opportunities to share their gifts as well.

The Celebrations bring together people who might not meet otherwise, and also strengthen life-long friendships. These are special outings for persons we serve. They look forward to and appreciate the lively social interactions, food and program. Persons from host churches also look forward to these Celebrations as “not to be missed” opportunities.

Bridge Ministries is looking for two churches to host the Sunday Evening Celebration in June and July 2008. Churches should be accessible and willing to provide a dinner for about 100 people. If you or your congregation is interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Rev. Donna Whitmore, Chaplin of Church Development at 425-885-1006, ext.108 or DonnaW@bridgemin.org.

THE EASTSIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ELAP) is looking for intake volunteers who would work in their Kirkland, North Bellevue, or Issaquah legal clinics (days and times vary) helping low income clients prepare intake forms before they see volunteer attorneys. For 16 years, ELAP has helped thousands, bringing over 100 volunteer attorneys to those in need on the Eastside. To find out how you can help, please contact either Charlotte or Jennie at 425-747-7274.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD is encouraging congregations to take action to end hunger by participating in the 2008 Offering of Letters. Congregation members write letters to Congress in support of hunger-fighting legislation during their service and place them in the offering plate, dedicating the letters to God and saying special prayers for hungry and poor people. The Offering of Letters can be simple or as elaborate as a congregation wishes—from setting up a table in the entry hall to a full worship devoted to hunger concerns. Letter-writing can also take place as part of adult or youth education classes, youth groups, or women's organizations. More

information, including resources to help compose and direct the letters is available at www.bread.org.

The **YWCA EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTER** continues to look for individuals and groups willing to help provide the noon meal that is served to homeless women on their facility located at First Congregational Church of Bellevue, 732 – 108th Ave NE. Donors are asked to supply a meal for 18 to 20 people consisting of a soup, stew, entrée or casserole, a green salad or vegetable, milk or juice, bread, and fruit or a dessert treat. To learn how you can help please contact Jan Swanson, Center Lunch Coordinator at 206-275-0581 or centerlunches@fccbellevue.org.

The Bellevue Rotary Club's annual dinner and auction will be held Saturday, May 10, 2008 at the Meydenbauer Center as a benefit for the **YWCA EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTER**. The cost is \$175.00 per person. For tickets please call 206-461-4462.

AN EASTSIDE DISCUSSION OF MICROFINANCING with Terry Provance, Executive Director of Oikocredit—the world's largest and most experienced cooperative microfinance leader—is being planned for May, 2008. The exact time and date have yet to be determined, but for more information please contact Helen Leuzzi at outreach@fccbellevue.org or at 425-653-5893.

MANY VOICES, ONE SONG, a musical celebration of diversity to benefit Multifaith Works will be held Friday, April 18, 2008 at 7:00 pm. This year's performers include the Esoterics (Seattle's most innovative chorus), Aedonis (an a cappella men's ensemble), Seattle Kokon Taiko (an acclaimed Japanese American drum performance group), Captain Smartypants (an ensemble of the Seattle Mens' Chorus), Sankofa (a six member African American Women's Ensemble), and the Center for Spiritual Living's Choir of Light. Advance tickets are \$15 (they will be \$20 at the door) and are available online at www.multifaith.org or call James at 206-324-1520 ex.221.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELLEUE'S ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE will be held May 3, 2008 from 9am to 3pm at the church (). Come and shop at one the largest garage sales on the Eastside. There will be a snack bar on site. All are invited.

HEARTS AND HAMMERS is an annual two-day blitz to repair and rehabilitate the homes of those physically or financially unable to do so alone. The effort brings together Bellevue's Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, St. Louise Parish, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, and Temple B'Nai Torah. The repairs will include carpentry, plumbing electrical work, painting, plastering, heavy cleaning, and trash removal. There is no charge to the homeowners for labor or materials.

Who can volunteer? Skills are welcomed, but everyone can be put to work. Volunteers can apply at the Church of the Resurrection or you can call Vee & Demaris Drummond at 253-929-6310 or email them at durvee@aol.com.

CLOSING PRAYER: A closing prayer was offered by Sandy Lewis of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection.

Submitted by Brian Anderson, Recording Secretary

From: Susan Dewitt
To: EISCC
Date: 4/15/2008 1:04:11 PM
Subject: EISCC May Meeting at new location, April minutes

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 13, 2008, 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m., **GIRL SCOUTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON:** Empowering Girls for Community Action. Lunch will be available from the St. Luke's/Eastside Academy kitchens for \$3 per person.

PLEASE NOTE: EISCC HAS MOVED!

Beginning in April, the monthly EISCC meetings are held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3030 Bellevue Way NE in Bellevue. The church is located just south of Highway 520 on Bellevue Way.

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES

P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662
April 8, 2008

WELCOME: An opening prayer was offered by Nancy Bent of First Congregational Church of Bellevue.

MINUTES: Brian Anderson (425-653-1652). The minutes for the March 11, 2008 meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: EISCC and CFH Treasurer Pat McDermott (425-643-7759) reported that the financial condition continues to be strong. He is preparing to send quarterly billing statements to the county and funding cities. March's financials are still being compiled, but nothing unusual has been noted.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS REPORT: CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803; steve@cfhomeless.org) reported that the shelter is currently at Westminster Chapel and will be moving to Cross of Christ Lutheran next month. A replacement trailer has been purchased for the shelter program and is currently being refitted to meet their needs. All of the sleeping mats are being replaced (the originals were purchased in 1994) at a cost of \$125.00 apiece. Funds are still being raised. In addition, the housing program continues to be strong. As Steve put it, "All things are good."

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 22 members and guests.

PROGRAM: JOB TRAINING AND EDUCATION AT GOODWILL INDUSTRIES.

Rob Clements, Director of Planning and Program Development at Seattle Goodwill Job Training and Education Programs (rob.clements@seattlegoodwill.org or 206-860-5793, ext.793) was on hand to share that although perhaps best known for their thrift stores, the goal of Goodwill is to help people remove economic barriers to self-sufficiency through work.

- * More than 80% of Goodwill students have an annual income of less than \$10,000.

- * More than 80% have never touched a computer

- * 34% have never held a job prior to coming to Goodwill

- * More than half are immigrants or refugees with little knowledge of the English language or the American workplace

- * Many have struggled to overcome homelessness, criminal history, domestic abuse and illiteracy.

Goodwill offers job training and education programs designed to help their students to reach the first step on the workforce ladder, which leads to better opportunities in the future.

All of Goodwill's programs and services are free. They are supported by proceeds from Goodwill store sales, generous grants from corporations, businesses and foundations, and financial gifts from individuals.

Goodwill's Job Training Program offers a unique combination of services. They offer retail and customer service training (using their network of popular Goodwill retail stores as hands-on laboratories), as well as a bank skills and financial services training program that gives participants the necessary training to get entry-level jobs in the banking industry, which often lead to future advancement opportunities.

In addition, to help fill gaps in education and to improve basic skills in preparation for successful job training, Goodwill offers participants free Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes. Classes are small, so instructors are able to work with each student to ensure that the program and approach meets their academic and personal needs. Some of the courses offered are English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), computer literacy, basic reading, writing and math, and more.

While employers are able to teach their employees the technical skills needed to do a particular job, they often can't teach the intangibles that make an employee reliable, accountable and adaptable. A recent survey of 431 human resource officials shows that concepts as critical thinking, teamwork and communication are viewed as more important than the standard technical skills. Goodwill Works is a "soft skills" program focused on the skills, abilities and traits that pertain to personality, attitude and behavior rather than to formal or technical knowledge. Without these basic life skills, it is difficult to succeed in a job. Proper workplace behavior, timeliness and communication are some of the components of the three-week Goodwill Works program.

Because Goodwill is committed to helping its students find and keep gainful employment. In order to ensure that goal, we offer a number of support services to participants, including case management, career counseling, retention services and customized training. Each student works with a workforce development professional to create a career plan designed to enhance professional growth. Goodwill's experienced Case Managers refer our clients for additional services such as childcare, transportation or counseling from other community partners when Goodwill does not provide a service, clearing potential barriers to learning. After clients find employment, our specialists regularly consult with them, and with the employer, to assess their progress and determine the need for additional services.

Goodwill recently opened an Eastside Job Training Center. It is located at 14515 NE 20th Street Bellevue, WA 98007. Since the program is new on the Eastside, Goodwill Job Training is particularly interested in learning from existing community groups, programs, and faith communities about how they can partner to provide the best possible help for those in our community struggling to achieve a better life for themselves and their families.

To find out more about Goodwill Job Training and how you can become involved, please contact Cynthia Johnson, Bellevue Job Training & Education Program Specialist at 425-289-0040 or cynthia.johnson@seattlegoodwill.org.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: A call was made to EISCC members willing to volunteer on the nominating committee which is charged with developing a slate of candidates willing to serve as the EISCC officers to be voted on at the September 9, 2008 meeting. Karen Mae Smith of St. Madeline Sofie Catholic Church graciously agreed to serve on the committee. More volunteers are needed. Please take a few moments to thoughtfully consider if you too are called to serve in this capacity.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR Sandy Lewis (425-562-1228) thanked the individuals who helped provide refreshments for the April meeting and passed around a signup sheet for future meetings. Please contact Sandy if you are also willing to help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: EISCC members are allowed to share announcements pertaining to their congregations/agencies at each EISCC meeting. If you wish these announcements to appear in the minutes, please remember to make them well in advance of any event that you are publicizing and, to help insure accuracy, please provide them in writing to the recording secretary. Among the announcements made at the April 8, 2008 meeting:

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELLEVUE'S ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE will be held May 3, 2008 from 9am to 3pm at the church (). Come and shop at one the largest garage sales on the Eastside. There will be a snack bar on site. All are invited.

HOPELINK is once again teaming up with the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) to put on the annual NALC FOOD DRIVE on May 10, 2008. Volunteers 16-years-old and older how can lift up to 30 pounds are needed both at the Hopelink Bellevue Center and at local post offices. To find out how you can be part of the fun, please contact Sonny White at 425-943-7561 or lutherw@hope-link.org.

TENT CITY FOUR will be moving to Temple B'nai Torah in Bellevue on Thursday, May 8, 2008. Volunteers are needed to help break camp, drive residents to Bellevue and help set up the new camp. The current census of

Tent City Four is between 90 and 100 people, so several drivers will be needed. This phase of the moving operation will take place in Kirkland beginning around 9:00am and ending around noon.

The effort at Temple B'nai Torah in Bellevue will begin at 8:00am with unloading the (moderately heavy) pallets and plywood on which the tents are placed. Trucks will be unloaded with the residents' belongings and camp supplies as they arrive and help will be needed to get everything set up. The work is expected to be finished by 3:30 or 4:30pm.

Volunteers are welcome to help for either the full day or just part of the day.

If interested, please contact Carrie and Dick Stein at dick_stein@rocketmail.com or 206-367-6432. Please include the hours you are available and, if you can help transport folks from Kirkland, how many seat belted passengers you can bring.

If you are unable to help on moving day but would like to provide a meal during their stay at Temple B'nai Torah, please check the calendar at <http://prem.calendars.net/tcmeals> and then email Irene at ipasternack@a.templebnaitorah.org to sign up.

Tent City Four will be at Temple B'nai Torah for 3 months.

CROP WALK: The annual Bellevue CROP Walk will be held Sunday, April 27, 2008.

CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty and CROP Walks are the major fundraiser for Church World Service, a 60-year-old organization which works to eradicate hunger and poverty around the world. Of the money raised at this year's CROP Walk, 75% will go to CWS for its work around the world and 25% will stay here in King County, divided equally between EISCC member agencies HopeLink and the Emergency Feeding Program. (Please note, sponsors of walkers also have the choice to designate their pledge for a specific group—Lutheran World Relief, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, American Friends Service Committee are a few examples.)

The Bellevue CROP Walk has raised over \$95,000 since it began, with between 100 and 300 walkers participating each year. But it's about more than raising money. CROP Walk's motto is "We walk because they walk." Our very short (3.5 mile) walk reminds us of the walking that most people of the world must do every day for food, water, and fuel. The CROP Walk builds community by bringing together individuals within participating congregations and as a way for different faith communities to join together in service. The CROP Walk shows downtown Bellevue that churches and synagogues are here and a main reason they are here is to serve the neediest among us. When 100 or 200 people walk around downtown Bellevue carrying signs and balloons, they get people's attention and draw the focus to a bigger world beyond the upscale downtown. Finally, the CROP Walk is a happy event—you'll see walkers talking, laughing, and sharing stories during the 3.5 miles, coming to walk with friends they know and friends they have yet to meet.

Please visit the Bellevue CROP Walk website at www.bellevuecropwalk.org <<http://www.bellevuecropwalk.org/>> to learn about how you can make a difference in the lives of hungry people both locally and throughout the world.

AN EASTSIDE DISCUSSION OF MICROFINANCING: You are invited to attend an intimate discussion with Terry Provance, Executive Director of Oikocredit on microfinancing. Participants will be limited to local clergy and mission leaders. Oikocredit Support Northwest is hosting this event on May 28th from noon to 2pm at the Bellevue First Congregational Church. Lunch will be served. One of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals is to significantly reduce extreme poverty in the world. Microfinancing plays an integral role in achieving this goal. Please join us to learn more about how micro credit impacts the poorest of the world's poor. RSVP's by May 14th to Helen Leuzzi at 425-653-5893 or outreach@fccbellevue.org. **THE EMERGENCY FEEDING PROGRAM** is encouraging groups to participate in their **PREVENT SUMMER HUNGER FOOD DRIVE**. Businesses, schools and congregations are asked to collect donations of these protein-rich foods:

- * Peanut Butter (18-oz plastic jar)
- * 6-oz cans tuna
- * SPAM
- * Canned Vienna sausages
- * Canned Soup (low-sodium soup is particularly needed)
- * 24-oz cans of beef stew

- * 15-oz cans of chili
- * 12-oz cans of evaporated milk
- * 1-qt envelopes of powdered milk.

For more information, for promotional flyers, and to find out how you can help, please contact Brian Anderson, EFP operations director at 206-329-0300 or log on to www.emergencyfeeding.org
<<http://www.emergencyfeeding.org/>> .

BRIDGE MINISTRIES: Once a month Bridge partners with a local church in hosting a Sunday Evening Celebration. The Celebrations are gatherings of persons with disabilities, their family and caregivers with members of host churches and other individuals from the local community. The purpose is to be together and to enjoy each other!

Celebrations are:

- * A place where strangers become friends
- * A place of warmth and respect, where gifts and abilities of all are affirmed
- * A place to connect with each other and to celebrate God together

The Celebration takes place at the host church from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Participants enjoy a superb meal, good conversation with old and new friends, music, laughter, and the affirmation of God's love in action and in word. The church leads in a short program and persons with disabilities are given opportunities to share their gifts as well.

The Celebrations bring together people who might not meet otherwise, and also strengthen life-long friendships. These are special outings for persons we serve. They look forward to and appreciate the lively social interactions, food and program. Persons from host churches also look forward to these Celebrations as "not to be missed" opportunities.

Bridge Ministries is looking for two churches to host the Sunday Evening Celebration in June and July 2008. Churches should be accessible and willing to provide a dinner for about 100 people. If you or your congregation is interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Rev. Donna Whitmore, Chaplain of Church Development at 425-885-1006, ext.108 or DonnaW@bridgemin.org.

THE EASTSIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ELAP) is looking for intake volunteers who would work in their Kirkland, North Bellevue, or Issaquah legal clinics (days and times vary) helping low income clients prepare intake forms before they see volunteer attorneys. For 16 years, ELAP has helped thousands, bringing over 100 volunteer attorneys to those in need on the Eastside. To find out how you can help, please contact either Charlotte or Jennie at 425-747-7274.

The YWCA EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTER continues to look for individuals and groups willing to help provide the noon meal that is served to homeless women on their facility located at First Congregational Church of Bellevue, 732 – 108th Ave NE. Donors are asked to supply a meal for 18 to 20 people consisting of a soup, stew, entrée or casserole, a green salad or vegetable, milk or juice, bread, and fruit or a dessert treat. To learn how you can help please contact Jan Swanson, Center Lunch Coordinator at 206-275-0581 or centerlunches@fccbellevue.org.

The Bellevue Rotary Club's annual dinner and auction will be held Saturday, May 10, 2008 at the Meydenbauer Center as a benefit for the YWCA EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTER. The cost is \$175.00 per person. For tickets please call 206-461-4462.

HEARTS AND HAMMERS is an annual two-day blitz to repair and rehabilitate the homes of those physically or financially unable to do so alone. The effort brings together Bellevue's Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, St. Louise Parish, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, and Temple B'Nai Torah. The repairs will include carpentry, plumbing electrical work, painting, plastering, heavy cleaning, and trash removal. There is no charge to the homeowners for labor or materials.

Who can volunteer? Skills are welcomed, but everyone can be put to work. Volunteers can apply at the Church of the Resurrection or you can call Vee & Demaris Drummond at 253-929-6310 or email them at durvee@aol.com.

HOPELINK IS OFFERING FREE FINANCIAL SKILLS CLASSES. Hopelink is offering free financial literacy classes to adults (18 years or older) in Bellevue and Kirkland in April. People who want to increase their financial

success may choose to attend any of these classes, free of charge:

Financial Foundations – Monday, April 21, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 10021 NE 124th St., Kirkland. This class will help you analyze your beliefs and attitudes about money and how to use them to create financial success. Learn how to best use the assets you already have, set financial goals and make step-by-step plans to reach those goals for your successful financial future.

Planning for Financial Success – Saturday, April 26, 2008, 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at Hopelink's Bellevue Center, 14812 Main St., Bellevue. This new workshop will teach you the tools you need to create the financial future you want. Learn to set and reach financial goals, control your money and keep more of the money you earn.

Banking for Success – Monday, April 28, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 10021 NE 124th St., Kirkland. This class will address the important tools to financial success that banks have to offer. Learn how to choose the best bank for you, avoid banking fees and keep more of your money.

Classes are free. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Interpreters and childcare at no charge are available by request in advance. For more information on these and other classes and to register, call Sebastian at 425.644.7911. A complete schedule of all Hopelink classes can also be found at www.hope-link.org/gethelp/classes [<http://www.hope-link.org/gethelp/classes>](http://www.hope-link.org/gethelp/classes) .

CLOSING PRAYER: A closing prayer was offered by Karen Mae Smith of St. Madeline Sophie Catholic Church.

Submitted by Brian Anderson, Recording Secretary

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES

P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662

May 13, 2008

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 10, 2008, 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

CITY OF BELLEVUE NEEDS STUDY. Meeting location: **St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3030 Bellevue Way NE** in Bellevue. The church is located just south of Highway 520 on Bellevue Way.

OPENING/WELCOME: The meeting was opened and conducted by EISCC Co-president Rev. Rick Russell and the following opening prayer was offered by Dr. Sally Wing of Grace Lutheran Church.

“May God bless you with DISCOMFORT ... at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with ANGER ... at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with TEARS ... to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough FOOLISHNESS ... to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

Imagine a faith community that exemplifies this benediction. Each moment would be vital and people would listen fully with their hearts. Lively discussions and questions would prevail. Because everyone would foolishly believe they could make a difference, the world would be transformed.

Franciscan benediction.

MINUTES: Brian Anderson (425-653-1652). The minutes for the April 8, 2008 meeting were received.

TREASURER'S REPORT: EISCC and CFH Treasurer Pat McDermott (425-643-7759) reported that as of 4/30/08 cash balances totaled \$70,702. Accounts receivable totaled \$55,139, primarily the result of first quarter billings to the cities and county. The majority of this should be collected by May 15th, increasing cash balances. Year to date expenses have exceeded income by \$33,311. Net equity remains a strong \$105,919. Nothing unusual was noted during the month.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS REPORT: CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803; steve@cfhomeless.org) reported that the shelter is currently at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church and will be moving to Christ the King Lutheran Church next month.

The recently purchased replacement trailer is being refurbished (the interior is being worked on and lockers are being installed). Life coaching continues and there is an ongoing need for additional life coaches. There is a CFH staff retreat scheduled for Friday, May 16th.

CFH is always in need of additional blankets. If you can help, please contact Steve or bring them to the next EISCC meeting.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 20 members and guests.

PROGRAM: GIRL SCOUTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON: EMPOWERING GIRLS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION.

Teresa Woods, Manager of the East King County office of the Girl Scouts of Western Washington (425-614-1126 or TeresaAW@girlscoutsww.org) reported on the work of the Girl Scouts in our area.

Girl Scouts is the pre-eminent organization devoted solely to girls. Grounded in the values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law, it offers girls a safe, supportive environment.

Partnering with caring adults, girls design fun and challenging activities that empower them to discover, connect, and take action around issues that concern them, serving more than 27,000 girls ages 5-17 in Western Washington.

Girl Scouts of Western Washington sponsors several outreach programs.

- **Girl Scouts Skills for Life**
Geared toward girls living in public housing communities - many of whom are immigrants with limited access to out-of-school activities - participants learn life skills such as time and stress management, how to make healthy and safe choices, and how to investigate careers.
- **Girl Scouts Fostering a Future**
Girl Scouts Fostering a Future serves girls ages 5-17 who have been removed from their homes by the state due to abuse or neglect and placed in foster homes. First of its kind in the nation, this unique program was designed to address the instability and social needs faced by girls in foster care.
- **Girls Scouts Beyond Bars**
A program for daughters of incarcerated mothers, activities are designed to build self-esteem and life skills and include monthly meetings planned by moms and held at Washington State Corrections Center facilities.
- **Girl Scouting in the School Day**
Girl Scouts meet weekly in the classroom during the school day at several local elementary schools. Activities are designed and taught by Girl Scouts staff to meet the teachers' academic goals for the students.

Volunteer Opportunities: There are many ways that you and your congregation can help Girl Scouts of Western Washington support girls on the Eastside. Some ideas:

- **Meeting Rooms** (either Free or a minimal cost) for troop meeting and events. (This is currently their biggest need.)...this is currently our biggest need.

- **For Girl Scouts Beyond Bars and Foster a Future**, there are approximately 5 girls on the Eastside who need mentors and volunteers to provide them with transportation to and from meetings.
- **Opportunities for Troops/Girls to Participate in Community Service.** Troops are always looking for opportunities to help in the community. Troops can help provide meals, organize drives for blankets, food, and other necessary supplies. Ideally when donating/doing a drive/participating in any community service, GSWW would like to participants to complete the circle, to hear and/or see what/how their community service has impacted/made a difference. For example, when doing a warm coat drive, the Service Unit typically invites a spokesperson to talk with the participating troops to share the impact that their service project made in the community and how much of a difference they have made.
- **To Serve God Awards.** Each congregation can promote the To Serve God Award which encourages participating scouts to explore and better understand their particular faith tradition. Some 27 different faith traditions have produced resources that help scouts keep their promise "to serve God." These resources are available directly from each religious organization and additional information is available from Girl Scouts.
- **Experts.** Girl Scouts are always looking for "experts," people who are passionate about what they do, to share their passion with troops. For example, perhaps you are passionate about sewing or hiking or photography or you or someone you know is from another country and can share information about the language, history and culture. Think about the things you know and enjoy and take time to share them with a troop.

For more information about how you help make a difference in the lives of these girls, even as they make a difference in our community, please contact Teresa Woods at 425-614-1126 or TeresaAW@girlscoutsww.org.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: A call was made to EISCC members willing to volunteer on the nominating committee which is charged with developing a slate of candidates willing to serve as the EISCC officers to be voted on at the September 9, 2008 meeting. Karen Mae Smith of St. Madeline Sofie Catholic Church graciously agreed to serve on the committee and Kerri Nielson of the Redmond LDS Church is looking to her schedule to see if she too will be able to serve. More volunteers are needed. Please take a few moments to thoughtfully consider if you too are called to serve in this capacity.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR: EISCC Refreshment Coordinator Sandy Lewis (425-562-1228) is looking for volunteers to help provide refreshments for the June and July EISCC meeting. Please contact her if you can help

ANNOUNCEMENTS: EISCC members are allowed to share announcements pertaining to their congregations/agencies at each EISCC meeting. If you wish these announcements to appear in the minutes, please remember to make them well in advance of any event that you are publicizing and, to help insure accuracy, please provide them in writing to the recording secretary. Among the announcements made at the May 13, 2008 meeting:

SOA WATCH PUGET SOUND: Joy Pocasangre introduced Greg Speltz of SOA Watch Puget Sound, a group working with members of the U.S. Congress to close the infamous School of the Americas which “exists to serve the military dictators who oppress the poor, suppress dissent, and keep Latin American countries safe for American business interests.” Greg and Joy reported that there has been legislation before Congress since 1993 to close SOA and last year passage in the U.S House of Representative came within six votes. All Democratic House members from Washington state support the closing of SOA and SOA Watch Puget Sound is encouraging Representative Dave Reichert to join them. But Representative Reichert needs to hear from his constituents. A postcard was distributed that EISCC members were encouraged to send to Rep. Reichert. The text ran as follows:

To: Representative Dave Reichert – Please Co-sponsor HR 1707

The School of the Americas (WHINSEC) at Fort Benning, Georgia, trains Latin American military and police at the expense of United States taxpayers. It teaches counter insurgency and oppressive interrogations techniques

The School is intensifying a negative image of the United States throughout Latin America. Five countries have stopped sending their military to the SOA. Two more are considering it. Others will likely follow.

It is time to close this School, Representative Reichert. You would not have sent your deputies to such a school. Help close a school that has such a negative history. Its graduates have used their training to suppress their own people.

Please contact Rep. Jim McGovern’s office to co-sponsor.

I look forward to your reply.

Name, Date
Address
City, State, Zip

Rep. Reichert’s address is:
Representative Dave Reichert
1223 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

See www.soaw.org for more information.

AN EASTSIDE DISCUSSION OF MICROFINANCING: You are invited to attend an intimate discussion with Terry Provance, Executive Director of Oikocredit on microfinancing. Participants will be limited to local clergy and mission leaders. Oikocredit Support Northwest is hosting this event on **May 28th from noon to 2pm at the Bellevue First Congregational Church.** Lunch will be served. One of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals is to significantly reduce extreme poverty in the world. Microfinancing plays an integral role in

achieving this goal. Please join us to learn more about how micro credit impacts the poorest of the world's poor. RSVP's by May 14th to Helen Leuzzi at 425-653-5893 or outreach@fccbellevue.org.

REDMOND HUMAN SERVICES PLAN: The City of Redmond is looking for stakeholder input from churches to inform their Human Services Strategic Plan. They are looking for interested individuals to participate in a focus group facilitated by one of our consultants. If you are aware of emerging trends or issues impacting human services on the Eastside, specifically the City of Redmond, they would love to hear from you. Please contact Brooke Buckingham at bbuckingham@redmond.gov or 425-556-2416 for more information or to sign up for a focus group. Your input is greatly appreciated.

THE EMERGENCY FEEDING PROGRAM is encouraging congregations and youth groups to participate in their **PREVENT SUMMER HUNGER FOOD DRIVE** by soliciting donations of these protein-rich foods:

- Peanut Butter (18-oz plastic jar)
- 6-oz cans tuna
- SPAM
- Canned Vienna sausages
- Canned Soup (low-sodium soup is particularly needed)
- 24-oz cans of beef stew
- 15-oz cans of chili
- 12-oz cans of evaporated milk
- 1-qt envelopes of powdered milk.

For more information, for promotional flyers, and to find out how you can help, please contact Brian Anderson, EFP operations director at 206-329-0300 or log on to www.emergencyfeeding.org.

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS. EISCC Co-president Rick Russell announced that the EISCC Executive Board had been approached by members of the steering committee of **Congregations for Kids**, a local interfaith effort that brings together Eastside congregations to prepare 1,200+ backpacks for area school children, which are then distributed through the Bellevue School District's Family Connections Centers. In addition, Congregations for Kids collects and distributes warm coats to school children each October.

The efforts of Congregations for Kids have been so successful that the steering committee realized that in order to continue to meet the growing need, there will have to be organizational change. **Congregations for Kids asked the EISCC Executive Committee about the possibility of bringing Congregations for Kids under the EISCC umbrella so they could expand their efforts without the necessity of forming their own independent 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation.**

Rick checked with EISCC Financial Secretary Pat McDermott if bringing Congregations for Kids under the EISCC umbrella as a constituent program would create any substantial

difficulties. Pat felt that this could be done without difficulty. Rick entertained a motion that EISCC take Congregations for Kids under its wing. **The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.**

CLOSING PRAYER: A closing prayer was offered by Diana Stice of First United Methodist Church of Bellevue.

Submitted by Brian Anderson, Recording Secretary

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES

P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662

June 10, 2008

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 8, 2008, 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

**EASTSIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM & EASTSIDE HOMELESS
ADVISORY COUNCIL: COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO PRESSING NEEDS.**

Meeting location: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3030 Bellevue Way NE in Bellevue.

The church is located just south of Highway 520 on Bellevue Way.

OPENING/WELCOME: The meeting was opened in prayer and was conducted by EISCC Co-president Marilyn Rands.

MINUTES: Brian Anderson (425-653-1652). The minutes for the May 13, 2008 meeting were received.

TREASURER'S REPORT: EISCC and CFH Treasurer Pat McDermott (425-643-7759) was unable to attend the June meeting. Although he sent word that nothing unusual was noted for the month, the May 2008 financial report will be distributed by email when available.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS REPORT: CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803; steve@cfhomeless.org) reported that the shelter is currently full and will be moving from Christ the King Lutheran Church in Bellevue to St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Medina in July.

The recently purchased replacement trailer has been outfitted with lockers and storage for the new sleeping mats. A painting party is being organized to paint the interior of the trailer on June 14th at First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue.

Steve reported that discussions are now underway regarding the possibility of adding an additional trailer that would include shower and laundry facilities.

CFH's housing arm, Eastside Interfaith Housing, reports that their Rose Hill House is full occupied and that they are looking for available apartments. CFH has money available for rent buy-downs and other subsidies, but not enough rental units are available even at full rent. Part of CFH's mission is to make the landlord/tenant relationship work for its clients. CFH case workers offer ongoing support to clients, helping them learn the skills they need to successfully transition to permanent housing and holding them accountable. CFH also offers landlords rent guarantees and a 24-hour phone service designed to address any problems they have with a CFH client within one day of receiving a complaint. Congregations are encouraged to reach out to landlords in their congregations that are willing to see how a partnership with Congregations for the Homeless can be a real win/win for both the landlord and the entire community. For more information, please contact Steve Roberts at 206-295-7803 or steve@cfhomeless.org.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 19 members and guests.

PROGRAM: CITY OF BELLEVUE NEEDS STUDY. Alex O'Reilly, City of Bellevue Human Services Planner and editor of the bi-yearly Bellevue Needs Study was on hand to present the findings of the latest study.

Current human services funding has a wide impact. For example, last year: 2,840 Eastside residents received emergency financial assistance to maintain housing. The Children's Response Center helped 74 children with counseling who had no insurance to pay for it. 148 people (93%) in Jewish Family Service ESL classes improved their writing scores.

But despite this impact, the Eastside still suffers from unmet needs: Eastside Domestic Violence Program turned away 163 households due to lack of shelter space. Child Care Resources has 13 Bellevue families on a waiting list for scholarships. There is more demand for emergency financial assistance programs. There is 30% more demand for dental and medical care that is currently being met.

The study found that among the biggest needs in the community are:

Affordable Housing

Issues

- Almost 70% of residents identify this as a major/moderate issue.
- Large % of renters and homeowners pay more than 30% of income on housing.
- Over 1,800 homeless housing units are needed.

Health & Dental Care

Issues

- Affordability of medical insurance and care #2 problem of residents.
- 9% of Eastside residents lack health insurance.
- The need for dental care and mental health services increasing

Older Adults

Issues

- Living longer and needing more funds for long term care, caregiver support
- Lack of transportation is a major barrier to mobility and access to social services
- More emphasis on aging in place health promotion
- Increase in reports of adult abuse

Immigrants and Refugees

Issues

- 25-30% of population speak a language other than English; 70 languages spoken in the Bellevue School District.
- Continued need for ESL and citizenship classes, interpreters
- Eastside Public Health Clinic provided 12,590 interpreted visits in 2206, doubling in 4 years

- Legal services, employment, childcare, health care all complicated by cultural and language barriers.

Veterans

Issues

- Numbers in Bellevue unclear but impact is expected to begin with increased need for services, such as mental health and domestic violence prevention.
- Veterans and Human Services Levy bringing additional funds to the county
- Need for accurate data to define the actual numbers is critical

Emergency Preparedness for Vulnerable Populations

Issues

- Critical gaps have been discovered in response system
- Older adults, people with disabilities and residents speaking other languages than English are most at risk
- Staff members are participating on a number of city and county wide task forces.

Other Issues

- Domestic violence reports to the Bellevue Police are down, but services still much in need
- Low-cost legal assistance continues to be a gap
- Research points to importance of early learning related to success in school and in life
- High cost of gas and food becoming an issue (Spring 2008)

Next Steps

Human Services Commission is considering these issues and others for the next funding cycle and will make recommendations to the City Council for 2009-10 funding this fall.

The entire report is available at

http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/humanservices_needs_update.htm.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR: Betty Spohn (425-451-3651) is taking over the role of EISCC Refreshment Coordinator. Volunteers are needed to help supply refreshments for the July EISCC meeting. If you can help, please contact Betty.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: EISCC members are allowed to share announcements pertaining to their congregations/agencies at each EISCC meeting. If you wish these announcements to appear in the minutes, please remember to make them well in advance of any event that you are publicizing and, to help insure accuracy, please provide them in writing to the recording secretary. Among the announcements made at the June 10, 2008 meeting:

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE: The yearly observance of the International Day of Peace will take place on September 21, 2008 at Bellevue Community College. The event is still in the planning stages, but will be moving indoors this year. Stay tuned for further updates.

STANDING AGAINST TORTURE: Sonneva Wood of the Eastside Friends Meeting announced that a group of Eastside Quakers will be meeting June 13, 2008 to discuss his position on torture. For more information about this issue, please visit the WA Religious Campaign Against Torture at <http://www.wrrcat.org/>.

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS: Congregations for Kids (now operating as a constituent agency of EISCC) is gearing up for its 13th year of providing backpacks, school supplies, and warm coats to needy Eastside kids. Over 2,000 backpacks will be assembled for distribution in the Bellevue School District. Watch this space for more information about how you and your congregation can be part of this ministry.

CLOSING PRAYER: A closing prayer was offered by Betty Spohn of Newport Presbyterian Church of Bellevue.

Submitted by Brian Anderson, Recording Secretary

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES

P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662

July 8, 2008

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 9, 2008, 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS: NEW DIRECTIONS IN OVERCOMING HOMELESSNESS. Meeting Location: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3030 Bellevue Way NE (just south of Highway 520). **There will be NO meeting in August.**

OPENING/WELCOME: EISCC Co-President Marilyn Rands opened the meeting, with prayer by Helen Leuzzi, First Congregational Church.

MINUTES: Brian Anderson (425-653-1652). Minutes for the June 10, 2008 meeting were accepted as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat McDermott (425-643-7759). Because cities and King County have recently been billed, additional receipts are expected. Grants are in process for life coaching.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS: Steve Roberts (206-295-7803) The September program will serve as the annual report. The new trailer, which has more space for supplies, will be ready for use on July 10, after being painted by professionals and volunteers. The old trailer will be returned to First Presbyterian Church for anticipated conversion to a shower trailer. The shelter will move next month to Overlake Park Presbyterian Church. There are currently 28 housing residents. There are 15 active life coaches and more are needed. Karen Mae Smith volunteered to cut hair. Blankets (twin bed size) are always needed.

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS: Nadine Bentsen (425-747-1543) announced Good Start Back to School, for collection of school supplies and donations by the end of July, for an anticipated 1200 children.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS: There were 23 members and guests present.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Marilyn Rands (425-746-5249) The committee has met and will have a report in September.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR: Betty Spohn (425-451-3651) thanked volunteers Jeanne Rempel and Diane Richards.

PROGRAM:

"Eastside Domestic Violence Program and Eastside Homeless Advisory Council: Community Response to Pressing Needs."

Barbara Langdon, Director, Eastside Domestic Violence Program (425-562-8840, ext. 228, barbaral@edvp.org)

Brief Historical Survey. EDVP is part of the Eastside consortium of providers of housing, who are working together to end homelessness. The agency began services 26 years ago, with congregations providing safe homes, in response to two murders of women, whose husbands then committed suicide.

Physical abuse is most prevalent, as well as emotional and financial abuse, and there is considerable abuse in the Latina community by threats of deportation. Abused women become isolated (from family in particular) and come to believe they have no choices and are responsible for the abuse. Langdon emphasized that power and control by abusers is a learned behavior and can be unlearned. Abused women will often stay with abusers because of lack of financial resources and need to care for children (the abuser may often threaten to assume custody). The congregation may be the first place a woman feels safe to talk about the abuse. Since a woman is more likely to be killed after she leaves her abuser, safety planning for a woman and her children is emphasized.

Services: EDVP's options and opportunities show respect for a woman's decision. Of three domestic violence agencies on the Eastside, EDVP primarily serves northeast King County. Langdon noted that there are more animal shelters than domestic violence shelters in the United States. Services of EDVP include community advocacy, support groups for women out of a relationship or lacking the choice of leaving, and a 24-hour crisis line providing life support for many women. Since domestic violence can be generational -- boys learn to hit and girls to be submissive -- children's groups emphasize work on roles and feelings. There are also teen support groups. Housing is another emphasis, since domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women. About one-fourth of women can expect to be in a domestic violence situation during their life. There is a hotel/motel program and emergency shelter for up to 90 days in 10 apartment units. Langdon noted that 15 women are turned away for every one who is taken into a shelter. Transitional housing includes five bedrooms in each of 12 houses, and permanent housing includes 10 units, in which a single woman can stay for up to five years, at a cost of \$175.00 per month. Help is provided for obtaining jobs and permanent housing.

Arthur Sullivan, Program Manager, ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) , (425-861-3677 or asullivan@bellevuewa.gov)

The Eastside Homeless Advisory Council began four years ago, after a county-wide look at homelessness two or three years earlier. East King County has a one-night count of more than 150 homeless persons. Based on study of reasons for becoming homeless, needs are: prevention (of excessive medical bills and job loss), and supportive housing, including shelters. A county-wide survey showed more single adults, for whom there are currently 30 shelter spaces and six to 10 permanent spaces, with a need for 800 more, including interim housing. There are 120 apartments for families, with 900 more needed in the next seven to eight years. There are 30 domestic violence units, with a need for 75 more. Youth/young adults currently have 21 units, through Friends of Youth, with a need for 100 units.

EHAC meets monthly, serving as a voice to develop county-wide programs, engaging communities in a search for solutions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: EISCC members may share announcements pertaining to their congregations/agencies. If you wish these announcements to appear in the minutes, please make them well in advance of any event that you are publicizing and to help insure accuracy please provide them in writing to the recording secretary. Among the announcements at the July 8, 2008 meeting:

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS. There are currently 400 boys and 150 girls in King County are waiting for mentors. Big Brothers & Big Sisters is looking to connect with congregations who can help provide these kids with mentors. This is not only a great opportunity to touch the life of a young person, but also an opportunity that will profoundly touch you as well. Volunteers are asked to work with a child twice a month for six months or one year. For more information please contact Sam Flynn, Regional Recruitment Supervisor at 206-407-4304

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS. Elizabeth Maupin, Outreach Minister (425-392-6447). An ESL class will be offered at Community Church of Issaquah, 205 Mountain Park Boulevard SW, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from July 14 through August 28. Child care is available for young children.

KIDS NEED SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE: Hopelink, the largest social services agency serving East and North King County, is collecting school supplies to distribute to low-income schoolchildren, as part of its annual *Kids Need School Supplies* drive. from July 14 to August 18. From July 14 to August 18, Hopelink will be collecting monetary donations as well as backpacks, dictionaries, calculators, notebooks, binder paper in college- and wide-ruled sizes, rulers, pencil boxes or pouches, pens, pencils, markers, binders and tab dividers for three-ring binders, among other supplies, for local low-income kids. The school supplies will be distributed in late August through Hopelink's six food bank locations (*Shoreline, Northshore, Kirkland, Bellevue, Redmond and Sno-Valley*). For more information, contact Teresa Andrade at 425.485.6521 or teresawa@hope-link.org, or visit www.hope-link.org.

EASTSIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ELAP) wants to remind EISCC members that we welcome referrals from your clients. We provide free legal advice to low income residents of east King County in family law, general law, and immigration law clinics. We also provide legal assistance to domestic violence survivors who live anywhere in King County. Please ask your clients to call 425-747-7274 for appointments.

In addition to our volunteer attorneys, we rely on intake volunteers to help run the legal clinics, help clients with the paperwork, and assist the attorneys. **EISCC member congregations are urged to help recruit intake volunteers for our legal clinics.** The clinics vary in the days and times they meet; some meet weekly, twice a month, or once a month. Some meet in the afternoon and some meet in the evening. **The need for intake volunteers is urgent.** We cannot fill all of our appointments unless we have adequate intake volunteer coverage.

Please call Charlotte Cline (Administrative Assistant) or Jennie Bigley (Program Director) at 425-747-7274 to inquire about volunteer opportunities. We can provide staff training, flyers, brochures, applications, and other information.

MAYORS DAY OF CONCERN FOR THE HUNGRY FOOD DRIVE: The Emergency Feeding Program is gearing up for its biggest yearly food drive. To be held **Saturday, September 27, 2008** and supported by the mayors and city councils of 24 King County cities, Mayors' Day calls attention to those in our community whose nutritional needs are not being met. The Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County, the program that has coordinated this yearly effort since 1992, is seeking volunteer teams to staff to their neighborhood store with volunteers who hand out flyers at the door asking that certain nutritional foods be donated. Shoppers then purchase these items, depositing them in barrels on their way out of the store. EFP will provide the flyers, barrel delivery, and pickup. You provide the hearts and hands that will ensure success. On past Mayors' Days, EFP has been able to recruit volunteer teams to staff as many as 80 different local markets. **With so many more families in our community struggling this year, the goal is to staff at least 100 markets—a goal that cannot be reached without your help.** For more information on how your congregation can be part of this vital effort, please call the Emergency Feeding Program at 206-329-0300 or visit them on the web at www.emergencyfeeding.org.

PLAN AHEAD: EISCC meetings in October and November will be held at Eastgate Congregational UCC Church, 15328 SE Newport Way, Bellevue.

CLOSING PRAYER: Karen Mae Smith, St. Madeleine Sophie Catholic Church.

Sally Wing
Secretary Pro Tem

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES
P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662
Sept 9, 2008

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 14, 2008, 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.

PROGRAM: AGENCY PRESENTATIONS: OUR YEARLY OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR OF THE WORK OF EISCC MEMBER AGENCIES, PART ONE (part two will take place in November).

CHANGE OF LOCATION! Because of increased expected attendance for this program, the location for our October and November meetings will change to Eastgate Congregational United Church of Christ, 15318 SE Newport Way, Bellevue, WA 98006, (425) 746-2411

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was opened and conducted by EISCC Co-President Rev. Rick Russell.

OPENING PRAYER: The meeting was opened in prayer by Marcia Bean of the LDS Church of Redmond, Sammamish, Carnation and Duvall.

MINUTES: Brian Anderson (425-653-1652). Minutes for the July 8, 2008 meeting were accepted as printed.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS: Self-introductions were made by 28 members and guests.

PROGRAM:

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS: NEW DIRECTIONS IN OVERCOMING HOMELESSNESS. Steve Roberts (206-295-7803) and staff

Congregations for the Homeless Executive Director Steve Roberts explained that the CFH provides emergency shelter and permanent housing to homeless, single men on the Eastside.

There have been many important developments over the last year. A new trailer has been outfitted to house shelter resident's belonging, sleeping mats, and other shelter necessities. The old trailer will soon see new life as a home to shower and laundry facilities for use by host churches that lack them.

David Johns Bowling is now full-time shelter director and has taken over complete responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the CFH shelter.

When CFH launched its permanent housing program in 2006, the biggest problem facing them was the lack of available units. Since then, CFH has led an Eastside Landlord Liaison Project (*a startup program in support of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County*) which has resulted in the availability of enough units to house the Eastside

homeless population. This is because of the supportive housing services offered by CFH. Applicants are screened, have been teamed with life coaches and case managers who will work with them to acquire and use the life skills necessary to make their successful transition from the streets and shelter housing to permanent housing, and should a problem arise with one of its clients, CFH promises landlords that the problem will be dealt with within 48 hours. This makes placing a CFH client in an apartment vastly more attractive to prospective landlords.

The challenge that remains for CFH to raise funds for enough rent subsidies to house all of the men who qualify for the program.

CFH Treasurer, Pat McDermott (425-643-7759) presented a history of CFH funding that demonstrated that although the financial situation has been very stable (*reflecting how well managed the program has been through the years*), as the program expands its services and places more and more men in subsidized housing, funding too must expand. **CFH currently has the funds in place to house 30 individuals in permanent housing. The latest reports indicate that it would take some 800 units to house every man who is homeless on the Eastside.**

David Johns Bowling, CFH Shelter Director, reported on the continued success of CFH's shelter operation. The shelter is staffed by 3 regular site managers (*along with a fill-in site manager*) making for a well-supervised, safe environment for clients. CFH has worked to better address the unfortunate reality that addiction issues too often follow clients into shelter life. Because shelter policy is that men cannot be in the shelter when under the influence, in the past there was little they could do for these individuals but ask them to leave. With the addition of case managers, CFH is now able to guide these men into treatment.

The men living in the shelter are becoming more and more invested in the community, taking increased responsibility for both their shared living situation and for each other.

The shelter is anticipating that 150 men will have gone through CFH's shelter program by the end of 2008. Helping this many men as they struggle with homelessness and all of its attendant issues has been a huge benefit to the Eastside community and has real and lasting impact on the men themselves.

The CFH shelter provides the men with a community that cares about them, looks after them, and is interested in their future.

Transitioning from the streets to a shelter and from a shelter to permanent housing is a difficult process. Bruce Boremans, one of CFH's full-time case managers, noted that one of the reasons for the success of CFH clients is that CFH provides in-depth, comprehensive case management—taking clients to appointments, helping them fill out paperwork, teaching them how to create and keep to a budget, and helping the men connect with other community resources that help address their concerns. One of their

core values is the ability to set aside pre-judgments and really seeing each client as capable of achieving their goals.

In addition to two full-time case managers, CFH has ten active volunteer Life Coaches working with the men. This has been a real key to the success of the program. It is the supportive nature—looking at a client's strengths and being future-focused—that resonates with the men, enables them to overcome barriers, and helps them build success in the future.

Sterling Bentsen, CFH Housing Director, reminded EISCC that it was only one and one half years ago that CFH placed their first client in subsidized housing. At present, there are 28 men in CFH supportive housing. (*Only one man has ever left and he is in housing elsewhere.*) Sterling reiterated that the key to success is the case managers, the life coaches, and the fact that if there is a problem with a client, CFH will handle it within 48 hours of the report of the problem. That is their promise.

Again, success brings with it its own challenges and as CFH has expanded its services, the program will need to expand its fundraising efforts as well. **Congregations interested in helping support a man in housing (it costs about \$400.00 per month) should contact CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts at (206-295-7803)**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Karen Mae Smith, who along with Marilyn Rands and Keri Nelson formed the Nominating Committee, read the slate of proposed officer candidates that will be voted on at the October EISCC General Membership Meeting. They are:

- Co-presidents: Rev. Lloyd Van Vactor & Marilyn Rands
- Vice-president: Sally Wing
- Treasurer: Pat McDermott
- Assistant Treasurer: Louise Wong
- Secretary: Brian Anderson
- Member at Large: Sandy Lewis

ANNOUNCEMENTS: EISCC members may share announcements pertaining to their congregations/agencies. If you wish these announcements to appear in the minutes, please make them well in advance of any event that you are publicizing and to help insure accuracy please provide them in writing to the recording secretary. Among the announcements at the September 9, 2008 meeting:

FACES East: Please join FACES East (*Families And Children Early Support*) – an early childhood education and school readiness networking group in East King County – for a **Legislative Candidate Forum on Thursday, October 8, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Mercer View Community Center (8236 SE 24th St., Mercer Island).** Join us for a presentation of key issues in early childhood education and school readiness, followed by a question and answer session with legislators and challengers in District 5, 41, 45, and 48. This forum is co-sponsored by the Eastside Human Services Forum, SOAR – helping kids reach for the sky, and the United Way of King County. For more

information please contact Alex O'Reilly at 425-452-2824 or aoreilly@bellevuewa.gov or Judy Manchester at 425-587-3321 or JManchester@cikirkland.wa.us.

EASTSIDE OVERNIGHT WOMEN'S SHELTER: An interfaith group is forming to provide a much needed overnight shelter for single women on the Eastside. As the YWCA Eastside Women's Center continues to see increased numbers of women, we are trying to prepare for winter shelter needs by having a pilot shelter from December 1st, 2008 to March 31st, 2009. The **First Congregational Church of Bellevue** is spearheading this effort and if your community would like to participate, we welcome you. Our plans are to work with a service organization for staffing needs and to host the shelter at FCCB from Sunday through Thursday throughout the period. The **United Methodist Church of Redmond** has stepped up to be one partner to act as weekend host and we are looking for at least one more community who would like to serve in this manner, **St. Thomas Medina** has offered to work to procure material needs and we are looking for a partner to coordinate meals with the aide of the whole community. Please feel free to contact Helen Leuzzi at outreach@fccbellevue.org or 425-653-5893 for more detail!

MAYORS' DAY OF CONCERN FOR THE HUNGRY – Volunteers are still needed to help staff local grocery stores for the Mayors' Day of Concern for the Hungry food drive to be held on **Saturday, September 27th**. This day of fun and fellowship, supported by the mayors and city councils of 24 King County cities, the governor and the King County Executive, calls attention to the plight of our neighbors who struggle to put healthy, nutritious meals on the family table. If you or your faith community can spare a few hours to help collect food for the increasing numbers of households pushed to the financial brink by the souring economy and high food and fuel costs, please contact Brian Anderson at the Emergency Feeding Program at 206-329-0300 or brian@emergencyfeeding.org.

FALL FOOD FOOD DRIVE – In addition to Mayors' Day, the Emergency Feeding Program is encouraging congregations to join them in collecting food for their Fall Special Diets Food Drive. This effort targets items such as low-sodium soups and vegetables, no salt peanut butter, vegan soups, jars of pure beef and chicken baby food, and sugar-free instant pudding—foods that used by individuals on restricted diets. These are items that it is difficult to maintain in adequate supply. For additional information and promotional posters, please either visit the EFP website at www.emergencyfeeding.org or contact Brian Anderson at 206-329-0300.

TOGETHER WE BUILD - The 7th Annual Together We Build project for Habitat for Humanity will take place at Snoqualmie Ridge in Snoqualmie, Washington, on **October 10-12 and October 16-18, 2008**. Together We Build is an Interfaith Coalition of Christians, Jews, and Muslims seeking to find common ground and learning from one another as we work together to build houses for low-income families in our community. For additional information or to sign up to help, please visit www.togetherwebuild.org or contact Habitat for Humanity of East King County at (425) 869-6007.

INTERFAITH SERVICE – In conjunction with the Together We Build project, an Interfaith Devotional Service is being planned. The time and place of the service will be announced at October's EISCC meeting.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE – The annual International Day of Peace Celebration will take place Sunday, September 21, 2008 at Bellevue Community College (3000 Landerholm Circle, SE) in the L Building Lobby from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The celebration will feature art, music, a giant peace dove parade, a circle dance, the world peace prayer ceremony, candle lighting, stories and poems of peace, and a peace concert featuring local singer, songwriter, activist and humorist, Dana Lyons. For more information, please

REMINDER: EISCC meetings in October and November will be held at Eastgate Congregational UCC Church, 15328 SE Newport Way, Bellevue.

CLOSING PRAYER – A closing prayer was offered by Steve Roberts of Congregations for the Homeless.

Brian Anderson
EISCC Recording Secretary

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES

P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662

October 14, 2008

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 11, 2008, 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: AGENCY PRESENTATIONS: OUR YEARLY OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR OF THE WORK OF EISCC MEMBER AGENCIES. PART TWO. Please note: To allow for the agency presentations, the November & December meetings are scheduled to run an additional half hour

CHANGE OF LOCATION! Because of increased expected attendance for this program, the location of our November meeting will change to Eastgate Congregational United Church of Christ, 15318 SE Newport Way, Bellevue, WA 98006, (425) 746-2411.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was opened and conducted by EISCC Co-President Rev. Rick Russell

OPENING PRAYER: The meeting was opened in prayer by Nancy Bent of First Congregational Church of Bellevue.

MINUTES: Brian Anderson (425-653-1652). Minutes for the September 9, 2008 meeting were accepted as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: EISCC Treasurer Pat McDermott (425-643-7759) was unable to attend and submitted a written report in his absence:

At 9/30/08 cash balances total \$81,638. Accounts receivable total over \$63,000 because of the third quarter billings to the cities and King County. For the first nine months of the year expenses have exceeded income by approximately \$8,700.

Nothing unusual was noted during the month.

The question was asked if it should be considered alarming that for the first nine months of 2008 expenses have exceeded income. In an email response sent after the 10-14-08 meeting, Pat responded thusly:

"This is a good question. Each year we make a forecast of receipts. There are known amounts – like from the cities and county. The big unknowns are contributions from the congregations and other sources. We make our best guess and plan disbursements accordingly. For the full year 2007 our receipts exceeded our disbursements by approximately \$49,000, a very good year. I anticipate this full year (2008) we may have a shortfall of approximately \$10,000. So, for the last two years we will still be ahead by \$39,000. This match of receipts and disbursements is something I closely monitor. If it appeared that any negative trends would continue in the future we would ramp up our fund raising efforts and make sure our disbursements matched our receipts. Hope this helps. I have no concerns at this time."

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS: JoAnne Way of Congregations for Kids and Eastshore Unitarian Church reported that 27 different congregations and service agencies participated in this year's distribution of backpacks and supplies to needy kids in the Bellevue School District. An initial 1052 kids were served with an additional 79 backpacks distributed since school started.

Warm Coats for Kids is another program of Congregations for Kids that is going on right now.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS: Sandy Lewis of Congregations for the Homeless and the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Bellevue reported that the CFH shelter program was going fantastically. Because the shelter works to move men into permanent housing, more and more men are being served each year.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS: Self-introductions were made by 29 members and guests.

PROGRAM: AGENCY PRESENTATIONS (Part One)

- **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS:** Ruving Munden of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound was on hand to report on their work and to inform EISCC members of volunteer opportunities with BBBS. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound partners with actively involved community members to match caring adults with children, both of whom benefit from their one-to-one mentoring programs. BBBS of Puget Sound is the largest mentoring organization in Washington State, serving 2,500 children in King, Pierce, Jefferson, Kitsap and Clallam counties. The mentors (*called Bigs*), children (*called Littles*), and families served come from all walks of life. What Littles have in common is a desire to have a caring adult other than their parent or guardian in their lives. What Bigs have in common is willingness to share fun, little moments that have a big impact on a young person's life. BBBS matches these children and adults, supports their relationship, and presents them with opportunities to learn, grow, and explore the world together.

For more information please visit their website at www.bbbs.org/pugetsound or contact Ruving Munden at 206-763-9060, ext. 241.

- **ACRES OF DIAMONDS:** Acres of Diamonds is a Christian home in Duvall that helps homeless women and their children get off the street and back on their feet. AOD is a 501(c)3 faith-based nonprofit dedicated to helping these women who are "diamonds in our own backyard," nurturing them back to being productive members of our community.

Acres of Diamonds is hosting a Night of Harmony and Hilarity on Thursday, November 6th at Lake Sammamish Foursquare Church (14434 NE 8th St, Bellevue, WA). This evening of comedy dinner theater will feature Christian comedians and harmony stylists the Stratton Half Brothers. Doors will open at 5:30 for a opportunity to meet Acres of Diamonds staff and some of the women whose lives have been transformed by their involved with the program. Tickets can be purchased for \$40 at www.ticketweb.com/snl/Search.action?query=acres+of+diamonds.

For more information contact Acres of Diamonds at (425) 788-9999 or info@acresofdiamonds.org

- **THE EMERGENCY FEEDING PROGRAM OF SEATTLE & KING COUNTY:**

The Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County is a food distribution program that packs 14 different varieties of non-perishable, nutritionally-balanced emergency food bags and makes them available through a network of over 130 social service agencies, schools, food banks and faith communications located throughout King County. In a typical year, EFP distributes some 20,000 food bags to over 56,000 individuals and families who are in crisis and often have no other food available. But 2008 has been anything but typical. In the wake of historic increases in the cost of food and fuel and with an increasing sour economy, our community has seen more and more local families pushed to the edge financially. Far more of our neighbors are finding it difficult to keep food on the family table without reaching out for help. Since February of this year, EFP has seen an 81 percent increase in orders for emergency food bags from its distribution partners. This increase in requests for help has far outstripped EFP's ability to collect enough food and to raise enough operating funds to meet the demand.

More and more of our neighbors face the daily prospect of going hungry. Congregations are urged to join local hunger relief program like the Emergency Feeding Program in ensuring that no one in our community is compelled to skip meals in order to pay for prescription medications, to put gas in the car so they can go to work, to buy school clothes and supplies for their children, or to meet any of the other myriad expenses they face.

You can partner with EFP this holiday season by holding a food drive, by sending a volunteer group to their Seattle warehouse to help pack food bags, or by inviting someone from EFP to come speak to your congregation about the growing crisis of hunger in our community. For more information, please contact EFP Operations Director Brian Anderson at 206-329-0300 or brian@emergencyfeeding.org. The simple fact is that people are going hungry and you can make a real difference.

- **FRIENDS OF YOUTH:** Friends of Youth delivers a broad range of services to youth and their families to improve their emotional stability and self-sufficiency. Friends of Youth envision all youth having the opportunity to succeed, offering residential services, homeless youth services, youth and family services, and youth development services that provide safe places for young people to gather, explore their interests, build job and learning skills, and move toward self sufficiency – in short, developing their full potential.

This holiday season, Friends of Youth is looking for help with their Thanksgiving Food Basket Program that aims to provide less fortunate families with a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. They are conducting a Giving Tree Program dedicated to fulfilling the holiday wishes of youth in King and Snohomish County that would otherwise go without gifts. They could also use help providing a Thanksgiving dinner to the homeless that stay at the Landing—the Eastside's only homeless youth shelter—located after-hours

at the Bellevue Family YMCA. For more information on how your congregation can make a difference in the lives of these young people, please contact Friends of Youth Volunteer Coordinator Cheryl Schnelle at 425-869-6490 ext. 309 or Cheryl@FriendsofYouth.org.

- **HOPELINK:** Since 1971, Hopelink has served homeless and low income families, children, seniors and people with disabilities. Hopelink's mission is to promote self-sufficiency for all members of our community, helping people make lasting change. Hopelink provides a wide variety of services from food banks to providing emergency financial assistance and emergency shelter and transitional housing; from adult literacy and lifelong learning to family development and employment services.

This holiday season, Hopelink is looking for financial donations and donations of the following food items: tuna or other canned meat; peanut butter; pasta or rice; cereal; soup; canned fruit & tomato products; vegetable oil; onions and potatoes; and grocery store certificates. For their annual Gift Room, they are looking for clothing for ages 0-18; gift certificates from places like Target, Fred Meyer, Old Navy, Borders, etc; and gifts for teen like portable CD players, jewelry, sports equipment, etc. Please include only new, unwrapped toys, clothing and other gifts in your donation. Hopelink is also looking for volunteers to, among other things, organize holiday giving trees. For more information please contact Jessica Ivey at 425-943-7558.

- **SOUND MENTAL HEALTH:** For 41 years it has been the mission of Sound Mental Health (*formerly Seattle Mental Health*) to strengthen our community and serve the needs of their clients by delivering excellent health and human services tailored to their clients' needs.

Needs: Clients with mental illnesses need work—either paid or volunteer work. If you or someone you know has a position that would benefit a Sound Mental Health client, please consider giving Sound Mental Health a call to investigate how this job could have real impact for someone who really needs a helping hand.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Thanksgiving and Christmas parties that Sound Mental Health holds for clients, allowing them to share in the joy of the season. If you are interested in helping, please call Teri McNeely at 425-653-5000 or email her at teresam@smh.org.

- **YWCA ANGELINE'S EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTER:** The YWCA Eastside Women's Center is celebrating its second anniversary serving Eastside homeless women. This holiday season, they are hoping to provide 30+ women with Christmas stockings stuffed with the following:

Nail polish; nail clippers; tweezers; gloves; caps; razors; deodorant; pocket-size planners; stamps; small bottle of cologne.

They could also use donations of the Christmas stockings themselves.

And throughout the year, they could use donations of phone cards and general use gift cards from places like grocery stores, Target, Fred Meyer, etc.

For more information, please call Katie or Crystal at 425-241-8711.

- **CHILDREN'S RESPONSE CENTER:** Children's Response Center, a program of Harborview Medical Center, provides services and support on the Eastside for children and youth under the age of 18 who have experienced sexual assault or other traumatic events. Services are also available for non-offending family members and children and youth who display sexual behavior problems.

This holiday season, the Children's Response Center is looking for volunteers to help with their annual Adopt a Family program. In early 2009, they will be setting up a parent support group and will be looking for volunteers to help provide child care while the parents are meeting. For information on how you can help, please contact prevention and education coordinator Rebecca Milliman at 425-688-5130.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS: The following slate of EISCC officer candidates was presented to the general membership for their approval:

- Co-Presidents: Rev. Lloyd Van Vactor, Marilyn Rands
- Vice-President: Sally Wing
- Treasurer: Pat McDermott
- Assistant Treasurer: Louise Wong
- Secretary: Brian Anderson
- Member-at-Large: Sandy Lewis

The slate was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: EISCC members may share announcements pertaining to their congregations/agencies. If you wish these announcements to appear in the minutes, please make them well in advance of any event that you are publicizing and to help insure accuracy please provide them in writing to the recording secretary. Among the announcements at the October 14, 2008 meeting:

TOGETHER WE BUILD: The 7th Annual Together We Build project for Habitat for Humanity was held at Snoqualmie Ridge in Snoqualmie, Washington, on October 10-12 and October 16-18, 2008. Together We Build is an Interfaith Coalition of Christians, Jews, and Muslims seeking to find common ground and learning from one another as we work together to build houses for low-income families in our community. The effort garnered some media attention when the Seattle Times featured it in their October 13th edition. For those who missed it, you can read the story at http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2008259777_togetherbuild13m.html.

HOPELINK'S ANNUAL TURKEY TROT will be held Sunday, November 16th in downtown Kirkland. Turkey Trot is a 3-mile benefit walk to raise money to help Hopelink provide emergency services for low-income families in our community during the winter months when they face added pressures such as higher home heating costs and additional food needs.

Walkers gather at Marina Park (25 Lakeshore Plaza in Kirkland). Registration begins at noon. The cost is \$20 per person. Families or teams of four or more can walk at a discounted rate of \$15 per person. Strollers and anything on four legs is free. Participants are also encouraged to collect pledges; for every \$100 in pledges an individual raises, they are eligible for a special prize drawing.

Volunteers are needed on the day of the trot to help with set-up and registration; to help stuff "goody bags;" to place signs along the walk route; to greet and direct participants, to hand out water, t-shirts and other items to participants, and to help clean up after the event. Most volunteers are needed from 9:30am until 2:00pm. If you or your community group is interested in helping out, please contact Lil Klein at lilk@ope-link.org or 425-869-6005.

REMINDER: The November EISCC meeting will be held at Eastgate Congregational UCC Church, 15328 SE Newport Way, Bellevue.

CLOSING PRAYER – A closing prayer was offered by Rev. Jeanne Rempel of Evergreen Mennonite Church.

Brian Anderson
EISCC Recording Secretary

From: Wayne Spohn

Date: 11/26/2008 8:38:16 PM

Subject: FW: Minutes of November 2008 EISCC Meeting

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES

P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662

November 11, 2008

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: A PRESENTATION BY SHELLY SHELLABARGER, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, CITY OF BELLEVUE

CHANGE OF LOCATION! The December 17, 2008 meeting will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church at 3030 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004, (425) 822-7907.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was opened and conducted by EISCC Co-President Marilyn Rands.

OPENING PRAYER: The meeting was opened in prayer by Diana Stice of Bellevue's First United Methodist Church.

MINUTES: Brian Anderson (425-653-1652). Minutes for the October 14, 2008 meeting were accepted as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: EISCC Treasurer Pat McDermott (425-643-7759) was unable to attend and submitted a written report in his absence:

As I mentioned last month, on an annual basis receipts can be either greater than or less than disbursements, primarily depending on the amount of contributions from congregations and other grants. This is because the amount from these sources is not as predictable as the amounts received from the cities, King County, and United Way. Each year we budget receipts to equal disbursements. However, because of the lack of predictability in receipts, actual results will vary from the budgeted amounts. 2007 was an excellent year as receipts exceeded disbursements by approximately \$49,000. I anticipate that for 2008 total disbursements will exceed receipts by \$10,000 - \$15,000.

Following are the monthly net results since January 2008 (in thousands). A bracketed number indicates that disbursements exceeded receipts.

Jan	(17)	April	(26)	July	(16)	Oct	(26)
Feb	(20)	May	(14)	August	(24)		
March	30	June	39	Sept	39		
Total – Qtr	(7)		(1)		(1)		

As you can see, there is a pattern. The third month of the quarter is positive because of billings to the cities and King County that happen during that month. I anticipate this pattern to continue.

At 10/31/2008 cash balances remain a strong \$103,000.

Nothing unusual was noted during the month.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Pat

THE SOPHIA WAY: Co-President Rands reported that on October 24, 2008 the EISCC Executive Committee met with representatives of The Sophia Way, a new program that will provide temporary shelter, life skills education and case management to single homeless women on the Eastside with the aim of placing them successfully in permanent housing. The Sophia Way will act as a logical next step in the journey that these women begin taking at YMCA's Angeline's Eastside Women's Center (located at First Congregational Church of Bellevue). There single homeless women are offered a safe place to stay during the day (9am to 3pm) as well as a warm meal, warm showers, laundry facilities, as well as career counseling, resources to find overnight assistance, bus passes, and access to nursing care.

Having utilized these services, clients who are ready to make life-changing choices would be recommended to take part in Phase II called the E-WISH Program (Eastside Women Interfaith Step Up to Housing). E-WISH is an education-based interim housing solution. A small group of 8 women will spend overnight time together with access to case management and daily life management educational opportunities, giving them the resources to lead them toward independence. The program will operate as a pilot from December 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009. The hope is that following the completion of a successful 6 month pilot program that the program would continue to serve this vulnerable population into the future.

At that October 24th meeting, the EISCC Executive Committee was asked to allow the Sophia Way program to operate under EISCC's 501(c)3 status and to utilize the services of EISCC treasurer Pat McDermott to keep their books and monitor their funds. The EISCC Executive Committee voted to recommend this to the general membership at their November meeting.

A motion to that effect was made and seconded.

Steve Roberts, Executive Director of Congregations for the Homeless—one of the program's that currently operates under such an arrangement—reported that the Sophia Way would be a huge first step in providing adequate shelter to homeless Eastside women. The Sophia Way would act as a stand-alone project, raising its own funds. There is virtually no risk financially to EISCC.

The motion to allow the Sophia Way to operate under EISCC's 501(c)3 status in the same manner as Congregations for the Homeless and Congregations for Kids was carried.

Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi will be given an opportunity to present information about the program in greater detail at either the December or January meeting.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS: CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803; steve@cfhomeless.org) reported that CFH has moved its offices to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (2650 148th Ave SE in Bellevue). The offices are much bigger and afford them much needed private space for counseling. CFH is in the process of hiring a graduate student.

CFH will be hiring a graduate student intern who will specialize in counseling.

Currently, CFH has 32 men in permanent housing. Rent is set at 30% of the client's income. Rent is reviewed every six months. A couple of these men are ready to move away from subsidized housing into market housing, which is the ultimate goal for every client.

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS: JoAnne Way reported that the Back-to-School program that provides backpacks of school supplies to needy students in the Bellevue school district was successful and it currently on hiatus.

CFK's Warm Coats for Kids program was something less than totally successful this year. Over 600 requests for specific sized coats for specific kids were gathered by the Bellevue School District's Family Connection centers. CFK collected donated coats then purchased the remaining requested coats and was able to fill every request. However, only half of the students actually picked up their coats. Of course, all of the donated and purchased coats were disbursed to needy individuals through programs such as Eastside Baby Corner, Tent City, and others. But the Warm Coat program plans to take next year (2009) off during which time they will investigate ways to avoid the problem they encountered in

2008.

THE SOPHIA WAY: Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-652-5893) thanked EISCC members for taking the program under its wing. She reported that the intake process for the shelter will begin December 1, 2008. By January she expects to be able to report how many women they are sheltering.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS: Self-introductions were made by 34 members and guests.

PROGRAM: AGENCY PRESENTATIONS (Part Two)

- **BRIDGE MINISTRIES:** Executive Director, Jack Staudt explained that Bridge Ministries is designed to bridge isolation. In their service to persons with physical and/or developmental disabilities, Bridge Ministries seeks to build a bridge between people with disabilities and churches, social and government agencies, and society at large, providing a way to re-integrate people with disabilities back into the community.

Bridge Ministries has a variety of volunteer opportunities for both individuals and groups. Volunteers choose to give of themselves and their time to engage in relationships with persons who have disabilities—some through one-on-one relationships, some through involvement in a Circle (a small group) with a person with a disability, and others through participation in special events alongside persons they serve. Volunteers choose to use their skills in office support, equipment repair, or project planning and implementation in order to serve persons with disabilities by assisting them to be out in the community. One phone call, one visit, one piece of equipment giving the gift of independence and mobility – all of these efforts mean so much to the persons they serve who are often isolated and who are sometimes made to feel “on the outside looking in” in social gatherings and in relationships with others!

Bridge Ministries is holding Guardianship Christmas Parties on Tuesday, December 16 from 1:00-3:00pm at St. Matthew's Parish (1230 NE 127th St. in Seattle) and on Thursday, December 18th at Southminster Presbyterian Church (19834 8th Ave S. in Des Moines). Join the Bridge staff as they celebrate the holidays with members of their Guardianship Family. Cookies and punch are needed for approximately 30 guests. Volunteers are needed to help set up, clean up, and serve.

For more information about these and other volunteer opportunities at Bridge Ministries, please contact Colleen Dodson at 425-828-1431, ext. 113 or colleend@bridgemin.org.

And because spiritual care is Bridge's calling, their Church Connections Project offers an opportunity for Bridge staff and a "Core Team" of experienced volunteers to form partnerships with area churches to help them in their efforts to more fully involve persons with disabilities in their congregation. If your congregation is interested in having the Church Connections Project work with your faith community, please visit them on the web at <http://www.bridgemin.org/churchcommunity/churchcommunity02.html> or contact e-mail their Chaplain, Rev. Dr. David Emery at Chaplain1@bridgemin.org.

- **CRISIS CLINIC:** Crisis Clinic provides crisis intervention and information and referrals efficiently, effectively and with compassion to all people of King County. Crisis Clinic offers year-round volunteer opportunities.

The 24-Hour Crisis Line and Teen Link depend on a select group of volunteers to staff the phone lines. All volunteers receive extensive training, supervision and ongoing support.

Crisis Line volunteers must be at least 21 years of age, agree to serve a 4 ½ hour shift per week for at least one year and be available for on-call and holiday coverage. Training is scheduled six times per year.

Teen Link volunteers must be between 13 and 20 years of age and may choose to be on the help or serve as outreach volunteers who help to educate their peers about youth suicide prevention and Teen Link.

For more information about volunteering at Crisis Clinic please contact Volunteer Services Manager Mildred Smith at 206-461-3210 ext. 611 or msmith@crisisclinic.org.

Crisis Clinic is hosting a Volunteer Open House on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 from 4-7pm. Learn about opportunities at Crisis Clinic, meet current staff and volunteers, and enjoy holiday appetizers. RSVP to 206-461-3210, ext. 638 or volunteerservices@crisisclinic.org.

- **EASTSIDE BABY CORNER:** Eastside Baby Corner makes a positive difference in the lives of children and families in need by collecting and purchasing children's items and distributing them, free of charge, through local service care providers. Baby Corner is a volunteer-driven organization that collects items that children use from birth to age 12 and distributes them, free of charge, through service care providers directly to families in need. In a 12 month period EBC collects \$225,000 in cash donations, but distributes over \$4 million in goods! Baby Corner is a nonprofit children's charity which depends on volunteers to prepare items for distribution, give community presentations, and help with accounting and public relations.

Volunteer opportunities are available for both individuals and groups on an ongoing or one-time basis:

- Sort incoming donations or fill orders
- Knit baby sweaters, hats, baby blankets, quilts
- Website and database maintenance.
- Handyman projects
- Grant writing or bookkeeping

Eastside Baby Corner is particularly in need of your help during these tough economic times when the number of requests has risen dramatically and that amount of cash donations has dwindled. In short, they are in great need of your generous and continued support.

For more information visit them on the web at www.babycorner.org or contact them at 425-865-0234 or babycorner@gte.org.

- **JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE:** Jewish Family Service of Seattle began in 1892 with the sole purpose of resettling Eastern European and Sephardic Jewish refugees. Today, JFS supports the adjustment and employment of refugees and immigrants from all religions and cultures world wide, including Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Through their many social service programs such as financial assistance, ESL, citizenship classes, job placement and the Morris Polack Food Bank (which serves some 1500 people every month!), JFS helps new Americans become fully integrated members of our community.

Volunteer opportunities with JFS include working as an English-as-a-Second-Language tutor, a housing/donations assistant, community mentor, homework helper and tutor, and helping out in the food bank. For more information about how you can help, please visit the JFS website at www.jfsseattle.org or call them at 206-461-3240.

- **KINDERING CENTER:** Kindering Center is a not-for-profit neurodevelopmental center that has been providing comprehensive services for children with special needs and their families since 1962. Each year nearly 3,000 infants and children receive crucial therapies, special education, and counseling.

One in five children has special needs—needs most often caused by complex disability or medical condition, but which can sometimes be the unfortunate result of abuse or neglect.

How you can help: Kindering Center's services rely on the support of the community. Please call to pledge your help:

- Serve on a committee of the board of directors
- Volunteer in preschool classrooms or with evening childcare

- Include Kindering Center in your estate and planned giving arrangements
- Contribute to Kindering Center's Endowment
- Raise funds through special events
- Donate goods or services

For more information on how you can help, please visit their website at www.kindering.org or call them at 425-747-4004.

- **NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI):** NAMI Eastside works to improve the lives of persons affected by mental illness through support, education and advocacy. Who are the mentally ill? There are 40,000 caused of mental illness. One in four people nationwide will suffer from mental illness this year.

NAMI Eastside is the East King County chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). Our members include families, friends, and people with mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, (manic depression), major depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, general anxiety disorder and ADHD. NAMI sponsors free support groups and educational programs and advocates for improvements to the mental health delivery system in terms of access to care, standards of care, continuity of care, recovery, housing and rehab.

Needs:

- Financial – Congregations are urged to adopt NAMI as a benevolence. Individuals are urged to become members of NAMI Eastside. Basic membership is \$35 a year, but other membership levels (both lower and higher than the basic membership) are available. Check out the membership page at <http://www.nami-eastside.org/giving/membership.htm>.
- Library Book Donations – Donations of books for the NAMI library are welcome.
- Be a Stigma-Buster! – When someone says something about mental illness that is misinformed, be prepared to correct that information.
- The Holidays are a lonely time. If you know someone who is isolated, invite them to a function, to dinner, to church or temple, etc.

For more information about how you can help, please contact Sherri Brown at 425-885-5361 or sbbrown106@gmail.com.

- **HERO HOUSE:** Hero House, a program of NAMI Eastside, uses the clubhouse model of psychiatric rehabilitation where adult members determine the need and actually run the program. Hero House is a place where people with serious mental illness can go to rebuild their lives and rejoin their community.

Hero House Wish List:

- Espresso Machine
- Industrial Kitchen Stove
- Kitchen Exhaust Fan
- Light Box
- Laptops
- Cassette Player and Headphones
- WRAP electronic materials
- Books on Tape/CD
- Canned Pop Dispensing Machine
- Transportation Support (gas, volunteer drivers)
- Prof. Knife Sharpener
- LCD Projector
- Seahawks Tickets
- Wheeled Pushcart

To help, support, donate or volunteer, please contact Roberta Lyon at 425-614-1282 or robertajlyon@comcast.net.

- **BAIT UL MAL PNW:** An Islamic community services safety net and referral organization for the metropolitan Seattle/Puget Sound Region. Bait UL Mal is currently helping the following individuals on a monthly basis:

- Sisters of the Sunnah Islamic Services - Women's shelter for homeless Muslimas with children (\$100 a month)
- Al-Shifa Clinic who provides medical treatment for families and children (\$100 a month)
- Single senior Muslims who need help with their medical supplements (\$100 a month)
- A family of five who needs help with their rent or food expenses (\$300 to \$500 a month)
- Occasional Rent, Utility bills, food and transportation expenses like bus passes. (\$300 - \$500) whenever requested

For more information about Bait UL Mal PNW visit their website at <http://www.baitulmal.org/> or email them at info@baitulmal.org.

- **GOODWILL JOB TRAINING & EDUCATION CENTER:** The Bellevue Goodwill Job Training and Education Center is looking for volunteers to help with a new initiative that will provide one-on-one tutoring in English as a Second Language for non-native speakers. They are also interested in setting up an ESL Council that will attempt to coordinate ESL courses on the Eastside making it easier for students to conveniently get the help they need.

Goodwill is also looking for childcare providers to enable parents who have no other available childcare to attend classes.

For these and other volunteer opportunities, please contact Andy Herbst at 425-289-0040 or andy.herbst@seattlegoodwill.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: EISCC members may share announcements pertaining to their congregations/agencies. If you wish these announcements to appear in the minutes, please make them well in advance of any event that you are publicizing and to help insure accuracy please provide them in writing to the recording secretary. Among the announcements at the October 14, 2008 meeting:

THE SOPHIA WAY: As the Sophia Way, the Eastside homeless women's shelter, becomes a greater part of the EISCC family, Eastside faith communities are urged to take on roles that they feel comfortable with in order to make the program as successful as possible. To learn how your community can take part, please contact Helen Leuzzi at 425-653-5893 or sophiaway@comcast.net.

BRIDGE MINISTRIES: Bridge Ministries is holding their annual **Christmas Party** on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 12:00 to 2:30pm at St. Theresa's Community Church at 3939 SW 331st St in Federal Way. Come join them and enjoy a wonderful meal, music, Mr. and Mrs. Claus and a whole lot of fun.

NESES (Niños Estudiando El Salvador): NESES is a non-profit organization for the education and enrichment of children living in Salvadoran orphanages. In 2008, NESES gave 14 scholarships. Five of those students will graduate from high school. But NESES lacks the funds to honor their applications to college/higher education. In December, 13 students will finish the study tour and graduate from the 9th grade, but NESES hasn't the money to offer them scholarships either. These children have nothing to look forward to if they do not at least complete high school. **The NESES Scholarship program is vital for these kids' future. For more information about NESES and the students they help, visit their website at www.neses.org.** And to find out how you can help provide a successful future for these worthy children, please contact NESES at 425-747-0877 or email Joy Pocasangre at joypoca@neses.org.

THE EMERGENCY FEEDING PROGRAM: The Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County is urging congregations, schools & businesses to help local families struggling in this dismal economy by participating in their **Holiday Food Drive**. Groups are encouraged to collect donations of the following "most-needed" foods:

- o Peanut butter (18oz plastic jars)
- o Canned corn, peas, green beans
- o Canned peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail
- o Canned Pineapple & Tomato Juice (48oz)
- o SPAM
- o Canned Beef Stew (24oz)
- o Canned Tuna (6oz)
- o Canned Soup
- o Canned Beef Chili
- o Canned Evaporated Milk
- o Powdered Milk Packets
- o Vegetable Oil (24oz)
- o Fish Sauce
- o Macaroni & Cheese

The Emergency Feeding Program will provide any support that you need—flyers, donation barrels, etc—and will gladly pickup donations at the end of the drive. The important thing is that you and your congregation/organization join in this countywide effort to ensure that no family has to face this Holiday Season hungry.

Hunger is 100% preventable. We have the resources. What we need are willing hearts to share them.

For more information visit their website at www.emergencyfeeding.org or contact Brian Anderson at 206-329-0300 or brian@emergencyfeeding.org.

HOPELINK: People are suffering in this weak economy, causing requests for Hopelink services to rise as much as 71 percent over one year ago. So to meet the increasing need, Hopelink is requesting the community to be generous with its donations of food, new toys, clothing and monetary contributions this holiday season.

Hopelink offers more than 40 programs and services to 50,000 people in need annually in north and east King County. In 2007, Hopelink provided holiday gifts to 1,482 low-income families with children and the ingredients for holiday meals to more than 11,000 hungry people.

These numbers are expected to rise dramatically for the 2008 holiday season, considering the sharp increase in requests for help that the agency has experienced recently. For example, the number of families served at Hopelink's six food banks has increased approximately 26 percent over the past year, while requests for emergency food bags have increased 71 percent during the same period. Calls requesting information on housing have climbed from approximately 30 calls per day to more than 50 per day. This urgent need is expected to continue growing through the holidays and beyond.

Hopelink's wish list for donated food includes the same staples that are needed year-round: canned tuna fish, rice, pasta, canned fruit, peanut butter, cereal, baby food, tomato products, non-perishable juice and grocery gift cards. We also welcome donations of festive holiday foods. Donations of gifts that are particularly appreciated include toys, books, games and other gifts for children of ages; gift cards for stores such as Target, Fred Meyer, and Barnes & Noble; and items specifically for teens, such as MP3 players, jewelry and sports equipment. New clothing for children ages newborn to 18 is also welcome, particularly for high school-age children. This age group is easily overlooked at this time of year but their need is just as great. Gift cards to stores such as Old Navy, Target, Fred Meyer, and the Gap are great ways to donate clothing for older children.

Please include only new, unwrapped items in your donation. Cash donations will be used to purchase additional items for categories not already filled by "in-kind" donations. Additionally, Hopelink is able to use cash donations to buy food items in bulk, thereby stretching those dollars to feed more families.

During the holidays, our clients are grateful for the festive food and gifts we provide to help them better enjoy the season. The clothing and toys donated to Hopelink are available to low-income parents and grandparents who can "shop" at any of Hopelink's six centers for the children and

grandchildren in their families, and select just the right gift to make the holidays happier and more memorable.

Companies, organizations and families can also share their giving spirit with those in need in a number of ways, such as by including a request for donations when inviting guests to a holiday party; purchasing Hopelink's holiday greeting cards; or hosting a giving tree. More information about these options can be found on Hopelink's website, www.hope-link.org.

REMINDER: The December EISCC meeting will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, at 3030 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004, (425) 822-7907.

CLOSING PRAYER – A closing prayer was offered by Rev. Rick Russell of Eastgate Congregational United Church of Christ.

Brian Anderson
EISCC Recording Secretary

From: Brian Anderson
To: brian@emergencyfeeding.org
Date: 12/17/2008 4:18:29 PM
Subject: December EISCC Minutes

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES
P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662
December 9, 2008

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.
PROGRAM: THE SOPHIA WAY—SERVICES FOR EASTSIDE HOMELESS WOMEN &
REPORT OF THE EISCC EASTSIDE EMERGENCY FUND

IMPORTANT!!! NOTE LOCATION CHANGE - BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2009, EISCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN BRISTOL HALL, ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH LOCATED AT 4228 FACTORIA BOULEVARD SE, BELLEVUE (ACROSS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Lloyd Van Vactor at noon at St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

OPENING PRAYER: Sonneva Woods gave the opening reading.

SELF INTRODUCTIONS: Self introductions were made by the 20 attendees.
Minutes of the November 11th meeting were approved as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Pat McDermott reported that EISCC assets at the end of November were \$103,000. Checks for \$32,000 and \$55,000 have been received for Sophia Way.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS: Congregations for the Homeless Director Steve Roberts reported that CFH is currently housed at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, while the usual December host, First Presbyterian, is being remodeled. CFH offices are now at St. Andrew's. The shower trailer is under construction, and will be ready for use at St. Luke's in February. The trailer will contain a washer and two dryers as well as the showers. Steve is currently contacting congregations who do not already have these facilities to make sure the new trailer can be hooked up at each place. The trailer refit was financed by \$4400 from the Nadine Shannon Fund. Steve would welcome donations of a washer and two dryers in good working condition. Thirty-two men are currently in housing.

THE SOPHIA WAY: Helen Leuzzi will give a full presentation of the Sophia Way in January. The overnight housing and education program for homeless eastside women opened December 8th with one woman. It is expected that the number of participants will quickly go to eight. Sophia Way has received a grant from the city of Bellevue.

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS: JoAnne Way reported that Congregations for Kids will be inactive (except for grant writing) until time to get ready for school next year.

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS: JoAnne Way reported that Congregations for Kids will be inactive (except for grant writing) until time to get ready for school next year.

PROGRAM: Steve Roberts introduced Shelly Shellabarger, Volunteer Coordinator for the City of Bellevue. Shelly's job is to: support and enhance the city volunteer program; market the volunteer program, and recruit and train volunteers; and conduct outreach. She publishes a "hot sheet" which lists many volunteer opportunities with the city of Bellevue. Next year, she hopes to involve more youth in volunteer activities. To support outreach, Shelly works with other cities, goes to schools and organizations, and is working to establish a coalition for non-profit volunteer opportunities. Her objective is to make volunteering a positive experience for the volunteers and the organizations.

Non profits can contact Shelly at volunteer@bellevuewa.gov to add volunteer opportunities to the Hot Sheet.

The city has 38 programs which can use volunteers. They include: work in the areas of environmental stewardship, such as planting trees or working at the botanical garden; civic engagement, which includes serving on boards or commissions, providing information on city and community services at Crossroads Mini City Hall, and supporting the police force; and supporting the arts and recreation including helping at Bellevue Youth Theater, working at the Voices in Diversity radio show, helping at the Skate Park, or Crossroads Community Center. Shelly is also working on developing business contacts in the community to market volunteer opportunities to employees.

Shelly can help congregations in several ways. Faith communities can put volunteer opportunities in the Hot Sheet. She can refer potential volunteers to you. She will serve as a resource for development of a volunteer program; connect you to similar organizations; and refer you to other city programs.

CLOSING PRAYER: Sandy Lewis gave the closing prayer.

REMINDER: The next meeting, January 13th, will be held at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 4228 Factoria Blvd. SE, Bellevue.

JoAnne Way, secretary for this meeting