

# EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES

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

~~December 8, 2009~~ January 12, 2010

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, February 10, 2010 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

**PROGRAM:** Immigration Issues – Michael Ramos, Church Council of Greater Seattle & Debbie Lacy of Eastside Refugee & Immigrant Coalition.

**LOCATION:** BRISTOL HALL, ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 4228

FACTORIA BOULEVARD SE, BELLEVUE (ACROSS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL)

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC Co-President JoAnne Way.

**OPENING PRAYER:** The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Elizabeth Maupin of the Issaquah-Sammamish Interfaith Coalition.

**SELF INTRODUCTIONS:** Self introductions were made by 20 members and guests

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the December 8, 2009 meeting were approved as circulated.

**EISCC EASTSIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND REPORT** (July 1 through Dec 31, 2009): Gerald Wright, Hopelink, 425-943-7558.

Donations to the EISCC Emergency Services fund during this period totaled **\$16,001.19** and were received from the following EISCC Congregations:

Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
Bellevue Christian Church  
Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Church of the Redeemer  
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church  
Eastside Friends Meeting  
Emmanuel Episcopal Church

First Congregational Church of Bellevue  
First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue  
First United Methodist Church of Bellevue  
Newport Presbyterian Church  
Overlake Park Presbyterian Church  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church  
St. Louise Catholic Church  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church

*Please note: These figures include only those donations specified for the EISCC Eastside Emergency Services Fund. Donations made to Hopelink's other programs and not reflected here. Please contact Gerald Wright at 425-943-7558 if your congregation intended to make donations to this fund.*

Services provided with the fund:

Motel Vouchers	\$23.75
Water/Utilities	\$3,130.55
Prescriptions	\$1,051.25
Bus Tickets	\$5,797.27

Total Households Served: 126

In addition to the services already provided by the fund, in the coming year, Hopelink expects to increasingly use the fund to help with eviction prevention.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS:** Steve Roberts, Executive Director, (206-295-7803 or [stever@cfhomeless.org](mailto:stever@cfhomeless.org)) reported that the program is coming off a great December. The dental van, the King County Library van, and stylists from Bellevue's 7 Salon all visited the shelter. The shelter is full and is currently at Redmond United Methodist Church.

Eight men moved into housing in December, four of them into a new program of Worksource called Rapid Re-housing.

CFH is still in need of blankets – men leaving the shelter for more permanent housing are encouraged to take them with them. If your congregation can help, please contact Steve.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-417-7575 or [director@sophiaway.org](mailto:director@sophiaway.org)) reported that the program ended the year ahead of their goals having helped 16 women into housing and growing the shelter from 8 to 10 women.

The Sophia Way has received a significant grant that will enable the program to help additional women find permanent homes of their own, but 2010 will be a tough year for the shelter as funds that will come available in 2011 are not yet available. The problem is that because the shelter program readies clients for a successful transition into housing, adequate funding of the shelter is the lynchpin of the program. Additional fundraising efforts are ongoing.

The Sophia Way's one-year anniversary created an opportunity for several mentions of the program in the local media. For links to some of these, please their website at [www.sophiaway.org](http://www.sophiaway.org).

**2010 CENSUS:** (Waiting for email from Gwen Rousseau, City of Bellevue; [grousseau@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:grousseau@bellevuewa.gov)).

### **PROGRAM: 2010 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

Nancy Amidei of the Civic Engagement Project ([amidei@u.washington.edu](mailto:amidei@u.washington.edu)) led a dynamic presentation on legislative advocacy.

Nancy gave an overview of the 2010 WA State Legislative session:

In 2008, Washington ended the year with a balanced budget and a surplus. Then the economy soured. By February 2009, the State was facing the need to plug a huge hole. So they cut about \$3.6 billion and did not raise revenues.

Now they are facing \$2.6 billion deficit. The Governor is required by law to send the legislature a balanced budget that does not include new revenues. (This is referred to as the "Book One" budget.) Right now the Governor is presenting a second budget that will include about one-third new revenues and two-thirds cuts.

The State's budget is some \$33 billion, but only \$10 billion is available to cut (the rest is protected). So the remainder, which is what funds so many health and human service projects, is what is on the table.



Cutting \$2.6 billion of this \$10 billion would undo decades of progress made in providing for our most vulnerable citizens.

In other words, the 2010 WA State Legislative Session will be largely about the budget.

And it is only a 60 day session.

Legislators do listen to their constituents, particularly to in person visits, phone calls, letters and emails.

It is important to remember that the budget is not settled. (*The executive proposes; the legislature disposes.*) Contacting your legislator can make a real difference.

In this economy, raising revenues to continue funding important human services can seem like a tough thing to advocate for, but even though times are hard, it is the job of those who support such programs to make the case on behalf of those they serve so that legislators have good information and a more complete picture upon which to make the hard decisions.

### **Experienced advocates know three things.**

(1) Phone/letter/email campaigns remain effective. Elected officials (and their staff) note the issues that generate the most letters and calls; they are a useful gauge of community support for/against an issue. But,

(2) Broad appeals for action don't work. Alerts that sound too general, or too complicated, get set aside.

(3) The competition for attention is very keen. By now, there are so many groups sending out emails and "snail mails" requesting action that readers ignore much of what comes their way. And groups with tight budgets can't afford to waste scarce staff time or resources on maintaining lists, postage, paper/emails, for long alerts that don't get results.

### **Nancy offers five ideas for fitting advocacy into busy lives. They spring from one simple fact: ADVOCACY JUST MEANS SPEAKING UP.**

**Step 1: Sign up for good "Alerts."** Identify an advocacy group that works on issues you care most about. Ask to get their "legislative alerts:" information about legislative actions likely to affect your priority issue/program. They will keep you informed, provide a sample "message," and help you know when your voice is needed most. (Many also offer advocacy trainings.)

### **Step 2. Use the TELEPHONE or WRITE**

Washington has a TOLL-FREE hotline to the State Capitol: 1-800-562-6000. Operators will take your message and send it to your Senator, both your legislators, and the Governor (or just one of these). Most days it only takes about two minutes -because you can use the message provided in the "alert" you signed up for in Step # 1.

Or you can send a simple email message. Mention the bill number or issue in the subject line; state clearly what you want the legislator to do; and be sure to put your home address so they know that you live in their Legislative District. Keep it short, polite, and to the point.

Finding telephone numbers and/or email addresses is easy: just go to the website for the State Capitol - [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov) - and follow directions to look up your legislators. Or, contact the League of Women Voters; ask for copies of "They Represent You."

### **Step 3. Help others to.**

- Make cardstock "telephones" with the Capitol website, telephone number, and the dates when the Legislature is in Session. Add your own logo, website, or agency name. Make up a supply, and give them to everyone you encounter: board members, staff, consumers, friends, neighbors, extended family.... You and they should pledge to make one toll-free call or email every week the legislature is in Session.
- Set up a "TAKE FIVE" TABLE. Make it easy for others to write or call their elected officials. Bring a laptop and/or cell phone and use the handout headed "Take Five." You can also sign people up for your Network, or send messages about a budget item or issue.

### **Step 4. Advertise your issue. not Nike.**

- Anytime you are around elected officials (e.g., at a City or County Council hearing, a Town Hall Meeting, in Olympia, etc.), wear or carry something (a conspicuous badge, a briefcase, or bag) that identifies you with your issue or agency. Bold lettering on a neon background will be seen even from a distance - e.g., FEED KIDS, or, SUPPORT the PTA. The politicians present will quickly realize those badges mean there's an organized group that cares about a particular issue, and has its members in the audience.
- Write a slogan or the name of your group on the folder holding your "fact sheets" or handouts. Then carry the folder to Hearings or Candidate Forums so the slogan shows.

**Step 5. Talk.** Mention key bills, issues, and budget items at every opportunity. Talk to anybody who will listen: at a meeting, in a grocery store line, waiting for the light to change, after services on Sunday.... Get your key issues on other voters' radar screens.

**For the 9 weeks of the Legislative Session, consider having a meeting at a table after services to give your fellow congregation members information about specific bills, contact information for their legislators, and a chance to make their views known.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** EISCC members may share announcements pertaining to their congregations/agencies. If you wish these announcements to appear in the minutes, please provide them well in advance of any event that you are publicizing and to help ensure accuracy please provide them in writing to the recording secretary. Among the announcements at the January 12, 2010 meeting were:

**2010 CENSUS** - The City of Bellevue along with the US Census Bureau will be hosting a meeting for faith-based organizations about Raising Awareness of the Upcoming 2010



Census in Faith-based Communities on **Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010** from **12 noon to 1:30 pm** at **Bellevue City Hall**.

Representatives from the US Census Bureau and City staff will answer questions about the upcoming Census and provide information and materials on how your organization can be a strong voice in our community encouraging participation.

Over the past decade Bellevue's population has become increasingly diverse with more than 30 percent of our population having been born in a foreign country and an even higher percentage of our population speaking a language other than English at home. These factors combined with others make getting a complete count of our population a challenge. Your help is needed to alleviate people's concerns and encourage their participation in the 2010 Census.

Getting a complete count of everyone is essential to ensuring our community receives the federal funding and political representation it deserves. A complete count is also critical for helping us identify where funding is needed most to enhance community initiatives and programs. Census data also aid faith-based and non-profit organizations in applying for grants to support programs and activities that are invaluable to our community.

Please RSVP to Gwen Rousseau, City of Bellevue Demographer, by Email at [grousseau@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:grousseau@bellevuewa.gov) or by phone 425.452.2743 if you plan to attend so that materials can be planned for accordingly.

**2010 INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY:** Tuesday, February 16, 2010 is Interfaith Advocacy Day. Join people of faith from around Washington at the state capitol in Olympia to bring a message of justice and peace to our elected representatives.

A \$25 registration fee includes an advocacy packet and a free continental breakfast. For more information visit the WA Association of Churches at <http://thewac.org/>.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** The meeting was closed with prayer by Soneva Wood of Eastside Friends Meeting.

Brian Anderson, EISCC Secretary

**EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662**  
**February 10, 2010**

**OPENING PRAYER:** Nancy Bent (425-957-4756, [nancybent@comcast.net](mailto:nancybent@comcast.net)) provided the opening prayer.

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS:** Self-introductions were made by 27 members and guests. Diana Stice (First United Methodist) alleviated anxiety about Tent City, which has been occupying their parking lot.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the 1-10-2010 meeting were approved as printed.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS:** (Steve Roberts (206-295-7803, [steve@cfhomeless.org](mailto:steve@cfhomeless.org)) reported that the shelter is full, and the shower trailer (which also contains washer and dryers) is fully functioning. A medical and dental team comes to the shelter monthly.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** (Helen Leuzzi, 425-653-5893, [Director@sophiaway.org](mailto:Director@sophiaway.org)). Shelter space has been increased to 10 women. Further fund-raising will be announced.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS:** (Nancy Jacobs, 425-883-6406, [bnjacobs@verizon.net](mailto:bnjacobs@verizon.net)) More congregations are sought in order to assist more children with backpacks and school supplies. A website, ([congregations4kids.org](http://congregations4kids.org)) is in preparation.

**LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR:** (Nancy Bent, 425-957-4756, [nancybent@comcast.net](mailto:nancybent@comcast.net)). Calls are requested to the state legislative hotline (1-800-562-6000) to support HR 6843, to extend Initiative 960 (require majority rather than 2/3 vote to raise taxes) to 2011.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The Financial Report will be included in Minutes.

**REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR:** (Sandy Lewis, 425-562-1228) thanked providers of refreshments: Dawn Cerasuolo, Nancy Jacobs, Diane Richards, Trish Rogers, and Sonneva Wood.

**PROGRAM: "Immigration Issues and Congregational Involvement."** Michael Ramos, Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle (206-525-1213, ext. 3950, [mramos@thechurchcouncil.org](mailto:mramos@thechurchcouncil.org)) and Debbie Lacy, Co-Chair, Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition (206-709-3948, [debbie\\_lacy@comcast.net](mailto:debbie_lacy@comcast.net)).

Ramos characterized immigration as not a problem but a human phenomenon, and suggested that people of faith can alleviate human suffering and remove fear. He reported that worksite arrests have increased during the past decade, part of negative strategy which includes detention and deportation of workers who are trying to survive and support their families. He noted lack of comprehensive immigration reform for the 12 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. He cited data that includes 1000 people each night at the detention center in Tacoma; 90% of those detained lacking legal representation, and many children (American citizens) separated from their parents. He identified values supporting reformation of the broken national immigration system: timely family reunification; legalization and a pathway to citizenship and participation in society; workplace protection, including compensation and working conditions; and due process so that refugees are informed of their basic rights. Ramos stated that Washington has the largest population of immigrants of any state, and that study forums and discussions are needed, as well as stories of immigrants to emphasize that they are part of one united country.

Ramos noted that a Sunday worship service in Spanish at St. Louise Catholic Church is attended by 1200 people. He identified such needs for community action as educating ourselves and sharing information. Proposed bills in Congress are awaiting clarity on health care and midterm elections, so that local forums and calls to representatives are recommended. A 2009 law called the New Americans Initiative has not been funded, although it would provide education. Local restrictions on housing and employment have been declared unconstitutional. A King County ordinance has affirmed local police enforcement for criminal matters. Sojourners magazine was cited as providing a recent series on immigration. Raising the level of discussion may include listening to refugees' stories. Ramos noted the presence of the Sanctuary Movement in 20 U.S. cities, including Seattle, with several congregations supporting immigrants financially, in particular, to obtain education. The OneAmerica website lists opportunities.

Lacy provided statements on immigration reform and stories of immigrants (which will be submitted for the website) who had to choose between employment and housing, education and income, and lack access to legal resources. Refugees seek more promise than in the countries from which they came, including safety and opportunities for employment. In Bellevue, 31% of the population is foreign born (vs. 18% in Seattle and 12% in Washington). Refugees are likely to be wary of the census in order to avoid contact with the federal government, despite the need to gather information to obtain federal resources. There are many bilingual, multilingual and "linguistically isolated" households, in which no one over 14 speaks English. 80 languages are spoken in Bellevue schools (vs. 74 in Washington). English as a second language classes are needed that provide child care. Anti-immigrant sentiment is evident in hostility, discrimination, and segregation, and there is nothing to stop such threats as increased rent.

The all-volunteer Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition, brings people together in forums to discuss change. Both information and volunteer assistance are needed re: job search. The Cultural Navigator Program provides multicultural, multilingual drop-in assistance to local resources at the Bellevue Mini-City Hall in the Crossroads area. Information: Phen Ng, [phen@cisc-seattle.org](mailto:phen@cisc-seattle.org). The next forum for sharing information about needs and resources will be held on Thursday, February 25, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., at Highland Community Center, 14224 Bel-Red Road, Bellevue.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**BELLEVUE CROP WALK:** CROP Walk will hold an informational meeting Saturday, March 13, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., at Bellevue First Congregational Church. The Crop Walk will take place on Sunday, May 2, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Information: Nancy Bent (425-957-4756, [nancybent@comcast.net](mailto:nancybent@comcast.net)) or [www.bellevuecropwalk.org](http://www.bellevuecropwalk.org).

**CHILD CARE RESOURCES** holds free drop-in Play and Learn groups in various languages; teaches about child development; and presents workshops about child care. Information: 425-865-9350, [ccr@childcare.org](mailto:ccr@childcare.org), [www.childcare.org](http://www.childcare.org).

**HOPELINK'S 'END SUMMER HUNGER' CAMPAIGN:** The grassroots End Summer Hunger campaign begins March 1 and ends August 31, and seeks support from schools, individuals, businesses, and organizations. This program is particularly important because donations to Hopelink historically drop during the summer. Schools that support the program encourage children in classrooms to collect coins, while businesses, organizations and civic or community clubs hold food drives, fund drives, or both, according to what works best for them. For information on how to get involved in End Summer Hunger, go to [www.hope-link.org](http://www.hope-link.org).



**CLOSING PRAYER:** Closing prayer was offered by Diana Stice (425-557-9601, [ddstice@msn.com](mailto:ddstice@msn.com)).

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.,

**PROGRAM:** "The Sophia Way: Services for Homeless Women."

**LOCATION:** BRISTOL HALL, ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 4228 FACTORIA BOULEVARD SE, BELLEVUE (ACROSS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL)

Sally Wing

Secretary Pro Tem

**EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662**  
**April 13, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC Co-President JoAnne Way.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Sandy Lewis of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection provided the opening prayer.

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS:** Self-introductions were made by 19 members and guests. A special "welcome back" cake was shared in celebration of the return of EISCC Co-president Lloyd Van Vactor who has been recovering from surgery.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the 3-9-2010 meeting were approved as printed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report and March Financial Statements will be sent via email to membership when they are ready.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS:** David Johns Bowling (425-749-8369) reported that the shelter is currently at Westminster Chapel. The shelter is somewhat down in numbers at present. They are at 25 men instead of the usual 34 to 35. The good news is that the men in the program are committed, actively working the program, and progressing steadily. There are 40 men currently in the housing program.

CFH is still in need of blankets. As men transition out of the shelter they are encouraged to take their blankets with them, resulting in an ongoing need.

CFH recently added a 3<sup>rd</sup> leased house. (Each of CFH's houses is home to between 4 & 6 men, one of whom serves as the house manager.) A student from the International School helped with the decorating. An open house was held. The house is now truly a home.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Helen Leuzzi, (425-417-7575, [Director@sophiaway.org](mailto:Director@sophiaway.org)) reported that the next six months will be the hardest of the year for the program as they are operating outside the funding cycling for public funds. The financial support of congregations and individuals is vitally important, particularly right now.

The shelter is full and serving 35 women – ten in the shelter and 25 in supportive housing. Unfortunately, 39 women who were qualified for the program have had to be turned away because there simply was no room.

Congregations are urged to consider holding a special offering (perhaps on Mother's Day) to support the work of the Sophia Way on behalf of Eastside homeless women.

Creating Community will be a theme of the coming year and the Sophia Way is working to rent a block of eight apartments in a single complex to help the women feel welcomed and supported. They are also negotiating with East Shore Unitarian Church to turn their Holly House into shared housing.

**PROGRAM: THERAPEUTIC HEALTH SERVICES:** Joellen Monson, THS Eastside Branch, (425-747-7892 or [joellenm@ths-wa.org](mailto:joellenm@ths-wa.org))

Therapeutic Health Services (THS) provides quality treatment for children, youth and families challenged with chemical dependency and mental health disorders. THS was founded in 1972 to meet the growing need for accessible, culturally relevant, and affordable health services within King County.

At THS, they believe in treatment that deals with the whole person and every aspect of his or her life. Their approach includes a full range of integrated support services such as information/referral, parenting education, vocational rehabilitation, acupuncture, childcare, and day treatment.

THS operates seven locations in King and Snohomish counties. Their clinicians provide a complete range of primary and supplementary services including chemical dependency and mental health treatment, language and cultural expertise, family and community support, vocational services, crisis intervention, parenting and communications classes, nutritional education, alternative therapies, housing assistance, and community education. Their staff includes licensed Mental Health Counselors, Certified Social Workers, Children Specialists, Certified Chemical Dependency Counselors, physicians, nurses/advanced RN practitioners, acupuncturists, psychiatrists, and psychologists.

#### **THE NEED FOR TREATMENT IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

**Substance Dependence and Abuse:** In 2007, an estimated 22.3 million persons (9.0 percent of the population ages 12 or older) were classified with substance dependence or abuse in the past year based on criteria specified in the DSM-IV.

Of those classified with substance dependence or abuse, 3.2 million were dependent on or abused both alcohol and drugs, 3.7 million were dependent on or abused illicit drugs but not alcohol, and 15.5 million were dependent upon our abuse alcohol but not illicit drugs.

**Mental Health:** In 2007, there were an estimated 24.3 million adults aged 18 or older in the United States with Serious Psychological Distress (SPD) in the past year. This represents 10.9 percent of all adults in the U.S.

In 2007, there were 2.0 million youths (8.2 percent of the population aged 12-17) who had Major Depressive Episodes (MDE) during the previous year. An estimated 1.4 million (5.5 percent) had MDE with severe impairment in one or more role domains (chores at home, school, or work; close relationships with family; or social life.)

Rates of SPD in 2007 were highest for adults aged 18-25 (17.9 percent) and lowest for adults aged 50 or older (7.0 percent)>

**Implications for general population in King County:** With an estimated population of in 2008 of 1,875,519, over 187,500 (10 percent of the population) would benefit from treatment for alcohol and/or drug dependency or mental health issues.



**Implications for City of Bellevue:** The estimated population of the City of Bellevue is 120,600. This means that over 12,060 individuals in Bellevue alone would benefit from treatment.

#### HOW EFFECTIVE IS THS?

According to THS surveys, at discharge 9 out of 10 THS participants report that they are no longer using alcohol or drugs, 8 out of 10 participants report being employed at the time of their discharge, and two-thirds of THS participants report having a stable place to live and only 2% are homeless.

**THS is a nonprofit organization that offers its services on a sliding price scale. If members of EISCC congregations know individuals who are struggling with alcohol, drug, or mental health issues, they are encouraged to contact THS at 425-747-7892.**

Although the Eastside branch currently works only with adults, *(youth are served out of the Central Youth & Family Services branch in Seattle)*, they are always happy to refer callers to their other branches when there are specific services not provided at that location.

For more information about THS services and locations, please visit them on the web at <http://www.ths-wa.org>.

**EISCC EASTSIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND REPORT** (January 1 through March 31, 2010): Gerald Wright, Hopelink (425-943-7558 or [gwright@hope-link.org](mailto:gwright@hope-link.org).)

Donations to the EISCC Emergency Services fund during this period totaled **\$8,419.92** and were received from the following EISCC Congregations:

- Aldersgate United Methodist Church
- Church of the Redeemer
- Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
- Eastgate Congregational Church
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Newport Presbyterian Church
- Overlake Park Presbyterian Church
- St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
- St. Louise Catholic Church

*Please note: These figures include only those donations specified for the EISCC Eastside Emergency Services Fund. Donations made to Hopelink's other programs are not reflected here. Please contact Gerald Wright at 425-943-7558 if your congregation intended to make donations to this fund.*

Services provided with the fund:

Water/Utilities	\$2,041.98
Prescriptions	\$849.64
Eviction Prevention	\$4,930.30
Bus Tickets	\$598

Total Expenditures: \$8,419.92

Total Households Served: 93

Many thanks for all your contributions to this important fund.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**THE SOPHIA WAY** will hold its first training for people interested in becoming part of their Companioning program on **Saturday, April 24, 2010** from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Sophia Way offices in downtown Bellevue. Sophia Way Companions spend 1-2 hours per week with their partner acting as advocates, supporters, and most of all, caring friends as they work to foster a safe, trustworthy relationship and help their partner build and participate in a supportive and sustaining community. Life companions should be willing to commit at least 6 months to the program.

Companions will learn about issues related to homelessness and specifically homeless women and will also learn a variety of skills including listening, hospitality, boundary setting, and communication, and spiritual practices that support soulful relationships, mindfulness, and compassionate presence. Craig Rennebohm of the Mental Health Chaplaincy and author of *Soul in the Hands of a Tender God* will also be on hand.

A donation of \$40 is suggested, but not required. Lunch is included. Please RSVP to Helen Leuzzi ([director@sophiaway.org](mailto:director@sophiaway.org)).

**CROP WALK:** The 2010 Bellevue CROP Walk will be held on **Sunday, May 2nd, beginning at 1 pm.** EISCC members are encouraged to join faith communities on the Eastside to raise money to help eradicate hunger and poverty. 75% of the funds raised go to the overseas work of Church World Service; 25% stays here in King County, shared by the EFP and Hopelink.

The walk also reminds us of the walking most people in the world must do every day for food, water, and fuel and also shows downtown Bellevue that we churches and synagogues are here, and a big part of why we're here—to serve the neediest. 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 our own downtown.

For more information, contact Nancy Bent ([nancybent@comcast.net](mailto:nancybent@comcast.net); (425) 957-4756) or go to [www.BellevueCropWalk.org](http://www.BellevueCropWalk.org).

**PEACEMAKING THROUGH DIALOGUE:** May 7-9, 2010 is PEACE Weekend and will focus on the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's (UUSC) work with Women/Girls in Central Asia. Events will be held all weekend:

**Working with Women & Girls: UUSC & its Partners in Afghanistan** (Potluck & Program), Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:30 p.m., East Shore Unitarian Church (12700 SE 32<sup>nd</sup> St., Bellevue). *Please bring a potluck dish to share.* For more information, email Laurie at [lwick13@msn.com](mailto:lwick13@msn.com).

**Peacemaking Through Dialogue:** Interfaith panel with representatives from the local Muslim community, UUSC, and East Shore UU., Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., East Shore Unitarian Church (12700 SE 32<sup>nd</sup> St., Bellevue).

**Discussion with UUSC, UU youth, and Muslim American youth.** Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-4:00 p.m. My Quest, Redmond. For more information, email Marilyn at [mayersm@comcast.net](mailto:mayersm@comcast.net).

**Working with Women & Girls: UUSC & its Partners in Afghanistan** (Potluck & Program), Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:30 p.m., Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Church (8109 224<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Edmonds). *Please bring a potluck dish to share.* For more information, email Cindy at [peaceandjustice@euuc.org](mailto:peaceandjustice@euuc.org).

**UUSC and the Roles of Women and Children in Afghanistan** (Adult Forum). Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, University Unitarian Church (6556 35<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Seattle). Led by representatives from UUSC's Cambridge office. For more information, email Pete at [averyquest@gmail.com](mailto:averyquest@gmail.com).

**BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES** will hold a Sunday Evening Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends May 16<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm, at Highland Covenant Church, 15022 Bel-Red Rd., Bellevue, WA 98007. Dinner will be served, and everyone is welcome. Call (425)885-1006 or email [enrichs@bridgemin.org](mailto:enrichs@bridgemin.org) for more information.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Closing prayer was offered by Sally Wing, Grace Lutheran Church



**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 5, 2010, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.,**

**PROGRAM: "Hopelink: Extensive Community Services."**

**LOCATION: BRISTOL HALL, ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 4228 FACTORIA BOULEVARD SE, BELLEVUE (ACROSS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL)**

Brian Anderson  
EISCC Secretary

**EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662**  
**May 11, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC Co-President Lloyd Van Vactor.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Helen Leuzzi, Director of the Sophia Way, provided the opening prayer.

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS:** Self-introductions were made by 22 members and guests.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the 4-13-10 meeting were approved as printed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** At 4/30/2010 cash balances total over \$172,000. Accounts receivable exceeds \$118,000, reflecting the billings at the end of the first quarter. Operating results are as expected. Nothing unusual was noted during the month. Our financial condition remains strong.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS:** CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or [steve@cfhomeless.org](mailto:steve@cfhomeless.org)) reported that the shelter is currently at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. Shelter numbers had been down for the last month or so but are now back to full occupancy.

A breathalyzer has been introduced to shelter operation to help clients recognize when they have an alcohol problem and to help CFH direct them into treatment.

Steve thanked supporting congregations for their continued support – without which the program would not be able to have the positive impact they do on the lives of Eastside homeless men.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Helen Leuzzi, (425-417-7575, [Director@sophiaway.org](mailto:Director@sophiaway.org)) reported that the weekend shelter is at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. The program is making great use of their new passenger van to transport clients from Aldersgate to the weeknight shelter at First Congregational Church of Bellevue.

Community Building continues to be a focus of the program. The Sophia Way recognizes that although its goal is to move women from the shelter into supportive housing of their own, once a woman moves into her own apartment she can lose the sense of community that she had while in the shelter.

As reported last month, funds remain tight and the Sophia Way is ready to help congregations get more involved. Please contact Helen for more information.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS:** CFK Chair Nancy Jacobs (425-883-6406 or [info@congregations4kids.org](mailto:info@congregations4kids.org)) reported that in the current school year CFK has helped 1,459 students from kindergarten through high school.

The Good Start Back to School drive for the 2010-11 school year will begin in mid July.

Items needed include:

- Elementary/MS/HS backpacks
- 1"1.5"/2" binders
- Simple calculators
- Composition books
- Crayons
- Dividers
- Erasers
- Folders w/pockets
- Glue sticks
- Highlighters
- Index cards
- Thin markers
- Washable wide markers
- Lined wide/college-ruled notebook paper
- Pencil boxes & pouches
- Colored pencils
- Black/blue/red ballpoint pens
- Erasable pens
- Post-it notes
- Report covers w/fasteners
- Rulers
- Pointed scissors
- Fine/ultra fine Sharpies
- Wide/college-ruled spiral notebooks



- Gift cards (especially from Target)

And Checks made out to Congregations for Kids/EISCC to buy more supplies.

See the new Congregations for Kids website for details, photos, and testimonials at [www.congregations4kids.org](http://www.congregations4kids.org) or contact Nancy Jacobs for more information.

**LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR:** EISCC Legislative Coordinator Nancy Bent ([nancybent@comcast.net](mailto:nancybent@comcast.net)) reported that one possible opportunity for increased congregational involvement in upcoming legislative issues is support for **comprehensive immigration reform**. Many local faith-based organizations recognize that our current immigration system does not reflect our nation's best values. Our faith calls us to view all people, regardless of citizenship status, as made in the image of our Creator and deserving of respect; to show compassion for the stranger and love and mercy for our neighbor; to balance the rule of law with the call to oppose unjust laws and systems when they violate human dignity.

Those interested are urged to contact their Senators and Representatives and to tell them that, as a person of faith, you support immigration reform legislation that will reunite separated families, protect workers, and provide a pathway to legal status for undocumented immigrants.

Nancy notes that although it is not expected that our leaders will be bold in this an election year, they should know how their constituents feel about this issue.

**PROGRAM: HOPELINK:** Joanne Huffnagle, Hopelink Education Coordinator (425-250-3005). Hopelink offers an integrated array of programs that enable families in crisis to make progress toward and achieve self-sufficiency. Hopelink runs programs that provide food, housing, family development, adult education, transportation and interpreter services, energy assistance, and emergency financial assistance.

#### **Food**

Hopelink's five centers each offer food banks, plus food deliveries to elderly and disabled individuals who are homebound. Related programs include education and seasonal activities. Hopelink also offers an Emergency Feeding Service, which delivers bags of food to schools, religious institutions, and community centers to provide to families in need.

One exciting new development has been the combining of Hopelink's former Kirkland and Bothell sites into a single Totem Lake Center. This new food bank operates on a "grocery store" model where that allows people to actually shop for their food, rather than simply receiving what's given to them. Clients are given shopping carts and color coded cards telling them how many of each category of food they are entitled to, based on the size of their family. Then, the clients simply go shopping in the aisles that are laid out like a normal grocery store.

Clients are allowed to come twice a month at a time of their choosing.

It was initially feared that fewer clients from Bothell would make the transition to the new center, but the Totem Lake facility is seeing more clients from Bothell than were served at the previous center.

But despite the increase in clients, available food is down some 73,000 lbs from last year. Support remains vital.

#### **Housing**

Eviction prevention support can help families avoid homelessness. The Hopelink Emergency Family Shelter provides a temporary home base for homeless families. Hopelink Transitional Housing offers up to two years of housing and ongoing case-management support. The First Month's Rent program helps families get started in more permanent homes.

#### **Family Development**

The Family Development Program works with families at risk of homelessness, to help the family stay in their home and move from crisis to self-sufficiency. Family Development Specialists work one-on-one with the family, helping them assess their strengths, connect with community resources, and set and meet goals.

#### **Adult Education**

Hopelink's Adult Education Department is committed to providing a diverse selection of educational services to clients which meet their needs, build self-sufficiency and a habit of lifelong learning. The Adult Education programs address literacy and lifelong learning.

#### **Transportation and Interpreter Services**

Access to services can make the difference between being homebound and isolated, or healthy and active. Hopelink's Transportation and Interpreter Services Brokerage provides an essential link to the community for King County residents on Medicaid assistance, and to low income families and children. Hopelink drivers and dispatchers also provide all of the Metro DART service in King County.

#### **Energy Assistance**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Puget Sound Energy Home Energy Lifeline Program (PSE HELP) assist with the high cost of heating and energy bills.

#### **Emergency Financial Assistance**

On a case-by-case basis, Hopelink can often help with those costs which might make the difference between a family going hungry or homeless, and the family surviving. In addition, Hopelink can often help with rent and other emergency needs that "fall through the cracks" of other available assistance.

#### **RotaCare Free Health Clinic**

Held on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Hopelink center in Bellevue, the RotaCare Free Health Clinic offers free basic medical care and medicines to men, women and children. (RotaCare does not offer preventative care, school immunizations or physicals of any kind.) You may come to the clinic if you do not have medical insurance and do not have the money to pay the full cost of a regular doctor's visit. You do not need an appointment for RotaCare Clinic.

#### **Express Credit Union**

Express Credit Union has free accounts for people living or working in WA State. Call 206-529-7937 for more information.

**Legal Help**

The Eastside Legal Clinic has volunteer attorneys who can give you free advice on civil legal matters. The free clinic is at the Hopelink center in Bellevue on Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. You must have an appointment to talk to an attorney. Please call 206-267-7070 Monday through Thursday between 9:00 a.m. and noon to make an appointment.

Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) also helps people who live on the Eastside with legal problems. ELAP has different clinics for different legal problems. Please call 425-747-7274 to make an appointment. If you speak only Spanish or Russian, please call 425-747-1663.

Clients must qualify for Hopelink Services. Please call the Hopelink center closest to where you live. All Hopelink centers are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Hopelink Centers:**

Bellevue	14812 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98007	425-943-7555
Kirkland/Northshore	11011 120 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98033	425-889-7880
Redmond	16225 NE 87 <sup>th</sup> St., Redmond, WA 98052	425-882-0241
Shoreline	15809 Westminister Way N, Shoreline, WA 98133	206-440-7300
Sno-Valley	31957 E Commercial St., Carnation, WA 98014	425-333-4163

**Volunteering at Hopelink:** Hopelink relies on nearly 2,000 volunteers donating tens of thousands of hours every year to help people in need. Please join us!

Age requirements: Volunteers 12+ are welcome to help sort donations of food and volunteer for special events through out the year, but only volunteers 16+ may work directly with clients, including during client appointment hours at our food banks.

Orientations are required for all volunteer positions except one-time group volunteering. An RSVP for orientation is also required as space is limited and you will receive a confirmation email. If you would like more information about group opportunities, please email:

[volunteewithus@hope-link.org](mailto:volunteewithus@hope-link.org).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**EISCC EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTORY** – EISCC is looking for volunteers to help update the EISCC Emergency Services Directory. This brief directory (available on the EISCC website at [www.eiscc.net](http://www.eiscc.net)) helps EISCC congregations and agencies direct needy individuals and families to the local resources they need when they are in crisis. The work will primarily consist of calling the agencies currently listed to verify that the directory information is correct and reviewing the directory to see if information about additional resources should be added. If you are interested in helping please contact EISCC secretary Brian Anderson at [info@eiscc.net](mailto:info@eiscc.net) or 206-329-0300.

**BRIDGE DISABILITIES MINISTRIES** will hold a Sunday Evening Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends June 13<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 4400 86<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040. Dinner will be served, and everyone is welcome. Call (425) 885-1006 or email [enrichs@bridgemin.org](mailto:enrichs@bridgemin.org) for more information.

**CROP WALK** - The 2010 Bellevue CROP Walk (held May 2<sup>nd</sup>) was a success and has raised \$12,859 so far for hunger relief here and abroad. Lutherans, Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and UCC members "walked with the world" and enjoyed good conversation and the fresh air of downtown Bellevue on a Sunday afternoon.

Of the funds raised, 75% go to the work of Church World Services and 25% stay here in King County, divided equally between Hopelink and the Emergency Feeding Program.

Many thanks to all who participated.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Closing prayer was offered by Sonneva Wood of the Eastside Friends Meeting.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 8, 2010, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.,**

**PROGRAM: Bellevue Needs Survey** - Alex O'Reilly, City of Bellevue Human Services Planner and editor of the bi-yearly Bellevue Needs Study will be hand to present the findings of the latest study.

**LOCATION: BRISTOL HALL, ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 4228 FACTORIA BOULEVARD SE, BELLEVUE (ACROSS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL)**

Brian Anderson  
EISCC Secretary



# **EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**

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

**June 8, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC Co-President Lloyd Van Vactor.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Sally Wing of Grace Lutheran Church provided the opening prayer.

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS:** Self-introductions were made by 27 members and guests.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the 5-11-10 meeting were approved as printed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Will be distributed when ready.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS:** CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or [steve@cfhomeless.org](mailto:steve@cfhomeless.org)) reported that the big new this month is that Shelter Director David Johns Bowling is a new father.

The shelter is currently full at is at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

CFH is planning its first ever fundraiser and recognition lunch for September. Additional details of this event will be forthcoming.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Helen Leuzzi, (425-417-7575, [Director@sophiaway.org](mailto:Director@sophiaway.org)) reported that the program has helped four more ladies from the shelter move into new housing and three additional clients have been accepted into a new program of Worksource called Rapid Re-Housing. So, with the help of all of those who support the Sophia Way, seven formerly homeless Eastside women have been recently been helped to transition from the street into a fully-decorated home of their own.

**Needs:** Helen would like a contact for each EISCC congregation. This would enable her to keep congregations better informed on an ongoing basis. If you are interested in being your congregation's Sophia Way contact person, please contact Helen. This is particularly crucial for the next six months or so as the Sophia Way is working very hard to keep the program on its successful course as they wait for the scheduled release of funds they have been granted by the City of Bellevue.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Lloyd Van Vactor, Nancy Bent & Betty Spohn have agreed to serve as the nominating committee to identify candidates for EISCC Board of Directors elections that will take place in October.

**EISCC BY-LAWS REVISION:** The Executive Committee of the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council has been working for some months on revision its governing document. A copy of a proposed by-laws revision was distributed to membership at the meeting as well as after the meeting by email.

These revisions include several new items:

- The present EISCC Executive Committee will change to a Board of Directors comprised of a President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary and Treasurer serving as the Executive Committee and 2 to 4 at-large directors
- The proper use of the EISCC membership list has been clarified and the privacy of the list protected
- Specific provisions have been added to govern the management of EISCC agencies (CFH, Sophia Way, CFK, and any future agencies).

**A vote on these revisions will be held at the July 13, 2010 meeting. All congregations in good standing (due up to date) are encouraged to send delegates to this meeting to vote on these changes.**

**Should your delegates wish to cast a vote but are unable to attend the July meeting, you may email your yes or no vote to EISCC secretary Brian Anderson at [brian@emergencyfeeding.org](mailto:brian@emergencyfeeding.org) or write to:**

Brian Anderson  
9531 168<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Redmond, WA 98052

Please send your correspondence to Brian no later than July 5, 2010.

**PROGRAM:** Alex O'Reilly, City of Bellevue Human Services Planner presented findings from the **2009-2010 "Human Services Needs Update."**

Public funding for human services in Bellevue comes from:



- **City Human Services Fund:** These awards are made based on amounts received in the previous funding cycle, a funding formula based on inflation, and population growth.
- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG):** This is a Federal entitlement that had decreasing since 2003 until this year when it was learned that Bellevue would be receiving an 8.6% increase in 2010.
- **Funds from other sources:** King County, State, Foundations (just as need is increasing in this troubled economy, these sources of funding are decreasing).

#### The Needs Update:

- Guides the recommendations for allocation of the 2011-2012 Human Services Fund/CDG by the Human Services Commission to the City Council.
- Directs the work of Bellevue Human Service Division staff.
- Provides information for other City departments, community groups, agencies, and regional planning efforts.

#### Sources of Data - The Needs Update is based on:

- Surveys of residents, consumers, providers, faith communities, city employees, and businesses.
- Focus Groups (older adults, multi-cultural, low-income, homeless, parents, unemployed)
- Key Informant Interviews
- Other Data: review of numerous reports, American Community Survey data, studies, and web sites.

#### Findings: Key Indicators of Need:

- **Unemployment:** Unemployment in Bellevue is at 7.2%, up 3.3% in 2007 (New data 2/10: 6.9%)
- **Affordable Housing:**
  - Bellevue School District reports that students in the Homeless Program almost doubled between 2009-2009.
  - Phone survey respondents rate lack of affordable housing as the number one community problem in Bellevue.
  - Home Foreclosures: The number of "Notice of Trustee Sales" in Bellevue for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2008 stood at 30. By the second quarter of 2009 that number had increased to 131, an increase of 337%.
- **Emergency Financial Assistance:** 49% increase at Hopelink between January 2008 and January 2009.

#### Funding Timeline:

- The Human Services Commission discussed funding strategies in January and February of 2010.
- A call for proposals from the community went out in March of 2010. This is the first time that 17 cities in North, East, and South King County released a common application through eCityGovAlliance.
- Proposals were due April 29, 2010; received 103 requests from 60 agencies.
- \$3.3 million in requests, with between \$2.3-\$2.8 million available
- Timeframe for review: May-August 2010
- Recommendations to Council for 2011-2012 funding will come in Fall 2010.

#### Funding Strategy Considerations:

- Funding for human services is needed now more than ever – one of the primary services addressing impact of the economic recession on residents.
- By policy, Bellevue currently funds broad spectrum of human service programs to meet the needs of all Bellevue residents.
- Funds help leverage dollars from other sources.
- Concern that safety net has been weakened by reductions in funding by other sources

#### Areas of Focus: The Human Services Commission identified the following areas of focus for 2011-2012:

- Primary focus: intervention programs helping those most affected by the recession, such as emergency financial assistance, employment, including child care and training; services threatened by significant funding reductions from other sources



- Secondary focus: programs where funds are used to leverage dollars from other sources/most cost-effective; programs that have significant formal partnerships outside the agency.

Summary:

- The Human Services Needs Update guides the Human Services Commission's 2011-2012 funding review process.
- It is important to preserve human infrastructure
- Other strategies for consideration:
- Gaps in services
- Effects of the recession
- Impact of funding reductions on services
- Accountability and outcomes

The 2009-2010 Human Needs Update is available online at [http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/humanservices\\_needs\\_update.htm](http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/humanservices_needs_update.htm).

Food for Thought: During the question and answer period that followed her presentation, Alex pointed out that a single adult with two children in day care living in Bellevue would have to make \$25.00 an hour in order to pay all of the family's expenses without subsidies. The unavailability of such jobs is only one reason why Human Services Funding is so vital to our community.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**EISCC EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTORY** – EISCC is looking for volunteers to help update the EISCC Emergency Services Directory. This brief directory (available on the EISCC website at [www.eiscc.net](http://www.eiscc.net)) helps EISCC congregations and agencies direct needy individuals and families to the local resources they need when they are in crisis. The work will primarily consist of calling the agencies currently listed to verify that the directory information is correct and reviewing the directory to see if information about additional resources should be added. If you are interested in helping please contact EISCC secretary Brian Anderson at [info@eiscc.net](mailto:info@eiscc.net) or 206-329-0300.

**BRIDGE DISABILITIES MINISTRIES** will hold an SEC Picnic for people living with disabilities and friends July 18<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm, at Game Farm Park, 3030 R St, Auburn 98002, WA 98040. Dinner will be served, and everyone is welcome. Call (425)885-1006 or email [enrichs@bridgemin.org](mailto:enrichs@bridgemin.org) for more information.

**SALVATION ARMY CRAFT FAIR:** The Salvation Army will be holding a huge craft fair on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This is not only a great opportunity to buy crafts, but also to sell your own crafts. If interested in displaying our crafts for sale, register now by contacting Micki at 425-452-7300, ext. 203 or [Micki.bizek@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Micki.bizek@usw.salvationarmy.org). Table space is available for a minimum contribution of \$45.00. A large community turnout is expected.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Closing prayer was offered by Marilyn Rands of the Bellevue South Stake of the LDS Church.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, July 13, 2010, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.,

**PROGRAM:** Child Care Resources (Promoting equity for children, community stability and school readiness) and Vote on Proposed EISCC By-Laws Revision,

**LOCATION:** BRISTOL HALL, ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 4228 FACTORIA BOULEVARD SE, BELLEVUE (ACROSS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL)

Brian Anderson, EISCC Secretary

# **EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**

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

July 13, 2010

The meeting was held in the chapel of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on July 13, 2010, beginning at 12:00 noon.

**OPENING PRAYER** was provided by Dave Emery of Bridge Ministries.

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS** were made by those present.

**MINUTES** of the June 8, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

**BYLAWS** were approved by unanimous show of hands.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS.** Steve Roberts reported that the shelter is currently at St Thomas Episcopal Church, Medina. The first annual fundraiser will be held as a no-cost lunch on Wednesday, September 22, from 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. at the Pickering Barn, Issaquah. Guest speaker will be Richard LeMieux, author of *Breakfast at Sally's*. Information and reservations: [staceyw@cfhomeless.org](mailto:staceyw@cfhomeless.org) or 425-765-1782.

**THE SOPHIA WAY.** There are 37 women in housing, and 12 more are expected this year. Funds have been raised for housing, though a major shortfall is expected. This year Ice Cream on Sundays are a fund-raiser. November 4 will be an opportunity for fund-raising.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS.** There are 22% more requests this year for annual collection of school supplies and backpacks. Website is [www.congregations4kids.org](http://www.congregations4kids.org).

**LEGISLATIVE ISSUES.** Nancy Bent ([nancybent@comcast.net](mailto:nancybent@comcast.net)) will share information on immigration.

**REFRESHMENTS** were provided by Nancy Bent, ~~Michael Johnson~~, Sandy Lewis, Marilyn Rands, and ~~Karen Mac Smith~~. *Sondra Woods*

**PROGRAM.** Eastside Baby Corner. (425-865-0234 ). Speakers: Helen Banks Routon ([Helenr@babycorner.org](mailto:Helenr@babycorner.org)) and MaSandaLaRaGadd ([masandag@babycorner.org](mailto:masandag@babycorner.org))

Eastside Baby Corner was founded 20 years ago as a distribution center to provide everything kids need to age 12, what parents need to enable children to thrive. Supplies are distributed to 45 agencies, among a total of 125 providers,, including Hopelink, Salvation Army, and Eastside Domestic Program.,

With the help of 65 volunteers each week plus 100 for other occasions, EBS prepares 150-200 clothing bags weekly, 6800 per year, containing toys, books, stuffed animals, and a week's worth of clothing. There is also a maternity bag. Among goods included are blankets made by community crafters, quilts, knitted cap, bottles, beds, potty chairs, etc. Faith-based organizations, including St. Margaret's Thrift Shop, provide 5% of cash flow, and EBS purchases goods at low prices. Most of their support comes from the community, for example, from collection corners in congregations. On-line ordering is available for agencies, with each provider receiving 25 items per week. In 2009, \$84 thousand was spent on diapers, of which 2000 cases were provided for food banks. Clothing bags distributed increased by 23% and formula by 20%. There has been explosive growth in need in the last year or two. As of two years ago, there is a full governing board and one full-time and two part-time employees. There are 28 agencies on a waiting list, and 50 providers would like more supplies, including 80% who need more diapers.

Because their current space will be replaced by development, some donations are used for facilities, as well as for staff.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**CONGREGATION FOR THE HOMELESS FUNDRAISING LUNCH** – CFH invites you to a no cost fundraising lunch to be held Wednesday, September 22, 2010 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Pickering Barn in Issaquah. Learn how you can help end homelessness on the Eastside and be inspired by Richard LeMieux author of *Breakfast at Sally's*. To RSVP or for more information contact Stacey Witte (425-765-1782 or [staceyw@cfhomeless.org](mailto:staceyw@cfhomeless.org)) or Steve Roberts (425-295-7803 or [steve@cfhomeless.org](mailto:steve@cfhomeless.org)).

**BRIDGE DISABILITIES MINISTRIES** will hold a Wacky Wheelays SEC for people living with disabilities and friends August 8<sup>th</sup>, 4-6:30pm, at Bothell High School Track & Field, 9130 NE 180<sup>th</sup> St, Bothell, 98011. There will be a barbecue picnic and fun games & relays with wheeled contraptions. Everyone is welcome and volunteers are very much appreciated. Call (425)885-1006 ext#118 or email [lindam@bridgemin.org](mailto:lindam@bridgemin.org) for more information.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Closing Prayer was offered by Nancy Bent, EISCC Legislative Coordinator.



**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, September 14, 2010, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., (Note: There is no meeting in August)

**PROGRAM: CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS**

**LOCATION: BRISTOL HALL, ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 4228 FACTORIA BOULEVARD SE, BELLEVUE (ACROSS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL)**

Sally Wing  
Secretary Pro Tem

# EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL

## JULY 2010 FINANCIAL PACKAGE

To: EISCC members  
From: Pat McDermott - treasurer  
Subject: July 2010 report  
Date: 8/23/10

At 7/31/2010 cash balances total over \$125,000. Accounts receivable exceeds \$133,000 as 2nd quarter invoices were generated and several will not be paid until August. Operating results are as expected. Nothing unusual was noted during the month. Our financial condition remains strong.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Pat

### EISCC Profit & Loss - Monthly for the Year January - July, 2010

	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	Jun 2010	Jul 2010	Total
Income								
4800 - Dues Income			1,845					1,845
4900 - Interest Income	0	0	3	0				4
Total Income	0	0	1,848	0	0	0	0	1,849
Expenses								
8000 - Administrative & Related	385			315		105		805
Total Expenses	385	0	0	315	0	105	0	805
Net Income	-385	0	1,848	-315	0	-105	0	1,044



# EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS

## Balance Sheet

As of July 31, 2010

	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1000 - WAMU Checking	33,757
1050 - Checking - Charter Bank	58,959
1075 - Money Market - Charter Bank	20,444
1100 - WAMU Money Market	12,374
Total Bank Accounts	125,533
Accounts Receivable	
1200 - Accounts Receivable	133,106
Total Accounts Receivable	133,106
Other Current Assets	
1260 - Deposits	15,398
1300 - Bedding Supplies	500
Total Other Current Assets	15,898
Total Current Assets	274,537
Fixed Assets	
1400 - Gross Fixed Assets	21,227
1500 - Accumulated Depreciation	-6,808
Total Fixed Assets	14,419
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>288,956</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 - Accounts Payable	3,835
Total Accounts Payable	3,835
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 - Other Accrued Liab.	5,671
2200 - Accrued P/R and related	12,924
2500 - Fed. P/R Tax Liab.	3,961
2550 - State P/R Tax Liab.	723
2600 - Health Insurance Payable	8,544
2700 - SIMPLE IRA Accrual	2,382
Total Other Current Liabilities	34,205
Total Current Liabilities	38,040
Total Liabilities	38,040
Equity	
3000 - Opening Fund Bal CFH	135,569
3010 - Opening Fund Bal EISCC	-369
3020 - Fund Balance - Cong/Kids	9,688
3030 - Fund Balance Sophia Way	155,535
3100 - Net Fund Activity	0
Net Income	-49,507
Total Equity	250,916
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>288,956</b>

**EISCC AND RELATED PROGRAMS**  
**Profit & Loss - MTD and YTD**  
**July 2010**

	Total	
	Jul 2010	Jan - Jul, 2010 (YTD)
<b>Income</b>		
4000 - Genl Contrib - Congreg.	400	14,304
4100 - City Grants		56,916
4110 - County Grants - HAF		7,500
4111 - County Grants - 2163-07		41,900
4112 - County Grants - 2163-08		42,089
4113 - County Grant 2163-2009		70,294
4118 - RAHP Grant		20,500
4120 - ESAP		4,174
4130 - FEMA		3,142
4200 - United Way Grants	3,991	27,936
4250 - United Way (individuals)		851
4400 - Other Contributions	373	6,810
4550 - Cold Weather Shelter		5,390
4700 - Congregations for Kids		1,505
4750 - Sophia Way Income	3,516	179,035
4800 - Dues Income		1,845
4900 - Interest Income	39	470
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,319</b>	<b>484,660</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
5000 - HR - P/R, Taxes, Benefits	51,161	349,836
6000 - Operations & Facilities	600	4,941
7000 - Housing and Related	10,629	87,600
7700 - Congregation for Kids	2,872	2,872
7800 - Sophia's Way	6,287	32,092
8000 - Administrative & Related	10,744	56,826
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>82,292</b>	<b>534,167</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-73,973</b>	<b>-49,507</b>



**EISCC - ALL PROGRAMS**  
**Profit & Loss - Monthly for the Year**  
 January - July, 2010

	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	Jun 2010	Jul 2010	Total
<b>Income</b>								
4000 - Genl Contrib - Congreg.	1,500	2,422	6,680	487	3,167	-351	400	14,304
4100 - City Grants			28,458			28,458		56,916
4110 - County Grants - HAF			3,750			3,750		7,500
4111 - County Grants - 2163-07			19,950			21,950		41,900
4112 - County Grants - 2163-08			20,666			21,423		42,089
4113 - County Grant 2163-2009			26,612			43,682		70,294
4118 - RAHP Grant			10,250			10,250		20,500
4120 - ESAP	696	696	696	696	696	696		4,174
4130 - FEMA			3,142					3,142
4200 - United Way Grants	3,991	3,991	3,991	3,991	3,991	3,991	3,991	27,936
4250 - United Way (individuals)			132		520	199		851
4400 - Other Contributions	1,432	99	35	368	1,759	2,743	373	6,810
4550 - Cold Weather Shelter			4,000			1,390		5,390
4700 - Congregations for Kids	25					1,480		1,505
4750 - Sophia Way Income	10,921	37,565	24,083	37,598	17,428	47,924	3,516	179,035
4800 - Dues Income			1,845					1,845
4900 - Interest Income	99	76	83	80	41	52	39	470
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>18,663</b>	<b>44,848</b>	<b>154,373</b>	<b>43,220</b>	<b>27,601</b>	<b>187,635</b>	<b>8,319</b>	<b>484,660</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
5000 - HR - P/R, Taxes, Benefits	47,025	43,987	49,420	49,465	47,785	60,992	51,161	349,836
6000 - Operations & Facilities	380	687	941	822	304	1,208	600	4,941
7000 - Housing and Related	11,735	13,906	13,065	11,928	13,361	12,976	10,629	87,600
7700 - Congregation for Kids							2,872	2,872
7800 - Sophia's Way	4,171	4,571	4,053	4,812	4,622	3,575	6,287	32,092
8000 - Administrative & Related	5,565	9,616	7,175	6,585	9,603	7,538	10,744	56,826
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>68,877</b>	<b>72,767</b>	<b>74,655</b>	<b>73,612</b>	<b>75,675</b>	<b>86,289</b>	<b>82,292</b>	<b>534,167</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-50,214</b>	<b>-27,919</b>	<b>79,718</b>	<b>-30,392</b>	<b>-48,074</b>	<b>101,347</b>	<b>-73,973</b>	<b>-49,507</b>

**CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS**  
**Profit & Loss - Monthly for the Year**  
 January - July, 2010

	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	Jun 2010	Jul 2010	Total
<b>Income</b>								
4700 - Congregations for Kids	25					1,480		1,505
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,505</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
7700 - Congregation for Kids							2,872	2,872
8000 - Administrative & Related				250				250
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,872</b>	<b>3,122</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>-2,872</b>	<b>-1,617</b>

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS**  
**Profit & Loss - Monthly for the Year**  
 January - July, 2010

	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	Jun 2010	Jul 2010	Total
<b>Income</b>								
4000 - Genl Contrib - Congreg.	1,500	2,422	6,680	487	3,167	-351	400	14,304
4100 - City Grants			28,458			28,458		56,916
4110 - County Grants - HAF			3,750			3,750		7,500
4111 - County Grants - 2163-07			19,950			21,950		41,900
4112 - County Grants - 2163-08			20,666			21,423		42,089
4113 - County Grant 2163-2009			26,612			43,682		70,294
4118 - RAHP Grant			10,250			10,250		20,500
4120 - ESAP	696	696	696	696	696	696		4,174
4130 - FEMA			3,142					3,142
4200 - United Way Grants	3,991	3,991	3,991	3,991	3,991	3,991	3,991	27,936
4250 - United Way (individuals)			132		520	199		851
4400 - Other Contributions	1,432	99	35	368	1,759	2,743	373	6,810
4550 - Cold Weather Shelter			4,000			1,390		5,390
4900 - Interest Income	24	38	40	40	21	26	20	208
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,642</b>	<b>7,246</b>	<b>128,402</b>	<b>5,582</b>	<b>10,153</b>	<b>138,205</b>	<b>4,783</b>	<b>302,013</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
5000 - HR - P/R, Taxes, Benefits	32,768	29,798	32,532	30,606	29,746	31,512	29,328	216,290
6000 - Operations & Facilities	380	687	941	822	304	1,208	600	4,941
7000 - Housing and Related	11,735	13,906	13,065	11,928	13,361	12,976	10,629	87,600
7800 - Sophia's Way						179		179
8000 - Administrative & Related	3,413	5,270	3,873	2,797	5,050	2,678	2,462	25,543
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>48,296</b>	<b>49,661</b>	<b>50,411</b>	<b>46,153</b>	<b>48,461</b>	<b>48,553</b>	<b>43,019</b>	<b>334,554</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-40,654</b>	<b>-42,415</b>	<b>77,991</b>	<b>-40,571</b>	<b>-38,308</b>	<b>89,652</b>	<b>-38,235</b>	<b>-32,541</b>

**SOPHIA WAY**  
**Profit & Loss - Monthly for the Year**  
 January - July, 2010

	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	Jun 2010	Jul 2010	Total
<b>Income</b>								
4750 - Sophia Way Income	10,921	37,565	24,083	37,598	17,428	47,924	3,516	179,035
4900 - Interest Income	75	38	40	40	20	26	19	258
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>10,996</b>	<b>37,603</b>	<b>24,123</b>	<b>37,638</b>	<b>17,449</b>	<b>47,950</b>	<b>3,536</b>	<b>179,293</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
5000 - HR - P/R, Taxes, Benefits	14,257	14,189	16,888	18,859	18,040	29,480	21,833	133,546
7800 - Sophia's Way	4,171	4,571	4,053	4,812	4,622	3,396	6,287	31,912
8000 - Administrative & Related	1,767	4,347	3,302	3,222	4,553	4,755	8,282	30,228
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>20,196</b>	<b>23,106</b>	<b>24,244</b>	<b>26,893</b>	<b>27,214</b>	<b>37,631</b>	<b>36,402</b>	<b>195,686</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-9,200</b>	<b>14,496</b>	<b>-121</b>	<b>10,745</b>	<b>-9,766</b>	<b>10,319</b>	<b>-32,866</b>	<b>-16,393</b>



**EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662**  
**September 14, 2010**

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on September 14, 2010, beginning at 12:00 noon.

**OPENING PRAYER** was provided by Steve Roberts of Congregations for the Homeless.

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS** were made by 26 members and guests.

**MINUTES** of the July 13, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

**PROGRAM: CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS**

**CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts gave a brief history of the program:**

Created as an agency of the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council, the Congregations for the Homeless men's shelter first opened its doors in 1994. Founded by Nadine Shannon, Betty Spohn, and Nadine Bentsen, the shelter program was created with the mission to provide a warm, safe, hospitable place for up to 30 single men to sleep and be nourished with three healthy meals each day. Over the years, the shelter program has added access to showers, laundry, and free haircuts. Recently, the shelter program has added medical assistance and dental services.

In 2005 CFH added a comprehensive case management-life coaching program, expanding their mission to that of helping men successfully move from homelessness to permanent housing. Men are partnered one-on-one with a professional or trained life coach to help them develop a goal plan that leads to increased financial, physical, emotional, and spiritual stability. The program addresses a wide range of personal issues and helps men connect with other agencies that can help in their quest for ongoing stability. CFH has helped many men deal with social services, social security disability, mental health agencies, legal issues, marital problems, financial burdens, medical issues, drug and alcohol treatment, and more.

Their job placement services, assisted by Hopelink's job's program, helps men find jobs or move to a better job. CFH has also helped men reconnect to a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives. They have 3 case managers, and 12 active life coaches.

In 2006 CFH added subsidized housing to the program. They have placed 54 men in their subsidized housing to date, with 10 having graduated to their own housing, gotten married or moved back with family. CFH managers have been able to place many more men into other subsidized and private housing over the years as well.

The heart of the shelter program is the more than 3,000 congregational volunteers who coordinate space for the men to sleep, who bring meals for the men to have every day of the year, and who donate their time and money in order to make the men feel welcome, cared for, and provided for with food and other essentials. The shelter location moves to a new congregation at the beginning of each month. There are 12 host congregations each year, and each host congregation has 1-3 support congregations that help provide food for the men during that month. The shelter is open from 7 pm to 7 am and is staffed by a CFH employee during this time.

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It is the combination of the shelter program, case management-life coaching program, and housing program that gives these men a real chance to successfully make the transition from homelessness to permanent housing and a stable, productive life.

**EISCC Treasurer and CFH Chief Financial Officer Pat McDermott** commented on the importance of keeping EISCC members informed of CFH's current finances and providing a glimpse into the future. EISCC members are emailed monthly financial packages. Pat cited Alison Olson and Annette Lawson for their help providing EISCC members with accurate, up-to-date financial information.

It is important to note that currently the program spends money on operations and is then reimbursed from its funders. To date, there have always been sufficient reserves to keep the program from running a deficit. In order to ensure that this always remains the case, CFH is establishing a \$50,000 line of credit with Charter Private Bank. Pat doesn't actually anticipate using this line of credit in the foreseeable future, but it will be available in the event that bills need to be paid and a reimbursement check has not yet been issued.

**CFH Shelter Director David Johns-Bowling** reported that shelter will serve 140 unduplicated clients this year for a total of 10,000 bed nights.

According to David, it all starts in the shelter which provides a warm, safe place where homeless men can be fed and helped to establish stability. This year the shelter has added extra site managers which enable clients to receive more one-on-one attention. Site managers are an essential part of the mix enabling the men to create the stability that has been missing from their lives.

Providing the men with support and a real hope of moving from the shelter to transitional housing is another important aspect of the program.

**Bruce Borremans, CFH Senior Case Manager**, reported that the program's case management program is key to a successful transition from homelessness to permanent housing. Our professional case managers provide:

- One-to-one assistance for entire program stay
- Encouragement in setting goals
- Support for drug and alcohol treatment (inpatient and outpatient)
- Job search assistance
- Life skills training
- Budgeting and financial literacy education
- Connection to mental health and medical resources
- Advocacy in obtaining necessary resources
- Preparation for stable housing

Twelve volunteer life coaches also work one on one with a man under the supervision of the case management team. These life coaches come from a variety of professional backgrounds and life experiences. CFH provides initial extensive training as well as ongoing training for each life coach.

The program currently has 24 to 25 men in the shelter program each night and 40 men in transitional housing. The retention rate for the transitional housing program has been over 90 percent.



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Bruce reported that community partnerships have been forged with a variety of other agencies including Sea-Mar, Sound Mental Health, Valley Cities Counseling, Therapeutic Health Services, Express Credit Union, a volunteer CPA, DSHS, and the Department of Corrections.

He described the case management philosophy as one of building relationships with the men, fostering a non-judgmental attitude when working with clients and using a solutions-based approach to solving problems which focuses on the talents and abilities they possess while setting goals and holding clients accountable for the actions.

Criminal background checks are conducted on all clients and CFH doesn't accept as clients any level of sex offender and it screens out violent offenders. (Such clients would not be compatible with a program that works in churches and other places that serve children.)

**Sterling Bentsen – CFH Director of Housing** reiterated that case management follows the men from the shelter into transitional housing and continues as long as the men are in CFH housing. He also said that the program's relationship with property management is key to the success of the transitional housing program. Those managers know that if they have a problem involving a CFH client that they can call CFH and the problem will be resolved.

Sterling pointed out a looming concern: The first grant that CFH obtained to pay for subsidized housing expires in June 2011. The program is working hard to replace this funding lest these men – who simply are not able to afford market-rate housing – be forced from their homes.

**Stacey Witte – CFH Volunteer Coordinator** reported that some 3,000 volunteers touch the program each year. Part of CFH's mission is to enable the Eastside community to be part of ending homelessness. They do this in a variety of ways. CFH partners with schools to provide education, teaching kids (and their parents) about who is homeless in our community and how they can help. This kind of education creates bonds and helps squelch the "fear factor" that too often separates us. The community is also involved through nurse visits to the shelter, the visiting computer lab, dental van visits, distribution of reading glasses, referrals to eye care professionals, making free clothing available from both the Overlake Service League and St. Margaret's Thrift Shops.

Other volunteer opportunities include:

- **Mentoring Men**
- Life Coaching
- Providing Dinners
- Making Lunches
- Collecting Donations
- Offering Professional Services (dental, medical, legal, financial, massage therapy, chiropractic, hair styling, etc.)
- Helping in the Computer Lab

If you'd like to help, please contact Stacey at 425-765-1782 or [staceyw@cfhomeless.org](mailto:staceyw@cfhomeless.org).

Congregations for the Homeless held their first annual fundraising luncheon on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at Issaquah's Pickering Barn. Lunch was prepared by the Mesa Café (part of Pioneer Human Services) and the guest speaker was Richard LeMieux author of *Breakfast at Sally's*.

Congregations for the Homeless provides a "coordinated act of love," helping homeless men stabilize their lives and move from homelessness to more successful lives. These men are God's children. They are just like us. And they deserve our respect, our care, and our love.

For more information about Congregations for the Homeless please contact Steve Roberts at 206-295-7803 or [steve@cfhomeless.org](mailto:steve@cfhomeless.org).

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi reported that since they opened in December 2008, 340 unduplicated women have requested services. Of that total, 77 women were served, 40 women were housed, and 10 women moved on to independent living.



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**Save the Date for the Sophia Way "Our Journey" Luncheon**

Join the Sophia Way Thursday, November 4, 11:30-1:30, at the Bellevue Red Lion Hotel to learn more about homelessness in East King County and how the program is working to assist homeless women in our community. Our guest speaker is Craig Rennebohm, author of *Souls in the Hands of a Tender God...Stories of the Search for Home and Healing on the Streets*. The Reverend Rennebohm is a UCC minister and the recipient of the Tipper Gore Award from the National Health Care for the Homelessness Council.

A successful fundraiser should provide financial solvency for the program for the rest of the year.

To reserve your spot, contact [info@sophiaway.org](mailto:info@sophiaway.org).

Helen also reported that the Sophia Way is looking to establish a supportive network. Congregations are urged to make room in their bulletins for news of the Sophia Way and to list opportunities to get involved.

For more information please call 425-463-6285 or [info@sophiaway.org](mailto:info@sophiaway.org)

**CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS:** CFK's recently completed "Good Start Back to School" project distributed backpacks and supplies to 1,600 students in the Bellevue school district. For more information visit [www.congregations4kids.org](http://www.congregations4kids.org).

**EISCC LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR** Nancy Bent encourages everyone working on social justice issues to help make her aware of important issues so she can share them with the EISCC. Contact Nancy at [nancybent@comcast.net](mailto:nancybent@comcast.net).

**EISCC NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** The nominating committee presented the following slate of candidates for the EISCC Board of Directors for the election to be held at the October meeting:

President-Elect: Dave Emery, Bridge Ministries  
President (continuing): JoAnne Way, East Shore Unitarian Church  
Past President: Lloyd Van Vactor, Northshore United Church of Christ  
Secretary: Brian Anderson, Emergency Feeding Program  
Treasurer: Pat McDermott, Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Members at Large: Sandy Lewis, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection  
Warren Marquardson, LDS, Bellevue South Stake  
Diane Richard, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church  
Sally Wing, Grace Lutheran Church

**EISCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING CHANGE:** Beginning in October, the EISCC Board of Directors meeting will take place on the third Tuesday of each month.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TAXATION AND FAIRNESS: A Conversation on Taxation in Washington State** will take place on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church (3030 Bellevue Way NE in Bellevue). Sponsored by St. Luke's and the Lutheran Public Policy Office, panelists will include Bill Gates, Sr., spokesperson for "Yes on 1098;" Marilyn Watkins, Senior Analyst for the Economic Opportunity Institute; Rabbi Jonathan Singer; and Slade Gorton, former Attorney General and US Senator from Washington State. For more information visit [www.lppowa.org](http://www.lppowa.org) or [www.slukes.org](http://www.slukes.org).

**BRIDGE MINISTRIES - A SPACE FOR EVERYONE:** The 2010 annual Bridge Ministries benefit dinner and auction will be held at the Space Needle on **Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**. Banquet Doors open at 6 pm. This Bridge Ministries major fundraising event and the goal is to raise \$75,000. They are looking for table sponsors to purchase one, two or three tables of eight guests for the dinner. As a table sponsor, you may attend and invite guests yourself or we will fill those seats and list you as the sponsor. Each and every guest is very important to our efforts to *raise awareness and support for disability concerns and to build inclusive communities* in our region.



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Please help support us and make a commitment to be a table sponsor:

One table of eight: \$575

Two tables of eight: \$1,000

Three tables of eight: \$1,450

To become a table sponsor, register on-line at [www.bridgemin.org](http://www.bridgemin.org) or contact Colleen Dodson. For more information or to volunteer your time, please contact Colleen by email [colleend@bridgemin.org](mailto:colleend@bridgemin.org) at or by phone at 425-885-1006 x 113.

**HOPELINK'S 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL "REACHING OUT" BENEFIT LUNCHEON** will be held **Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>** at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. The guest speaker will be award-winning musician and philanthropist **John Legend**.

For more information, please visit <http://www.hope-link.org/events/luncheon/>.

**THE SOPHIA WAY "OUR JOURNEY" FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON** will take place **Thursday, November 4, 11:30-1:30**, at the **Bellevue Red Lion Hotel**. Learn more about homelessness in East King County and how the program is working to assist homeless women in our community. Our guest speaker is **Craig Rennebohm**, author of *Souls in the Hands of a Tender God...Stories of the Search for Home and Healing on the Streets*. The Reverend Rennebohm is a UCC minister and the recipient of the ~~Tipper Gore Award from~~ the National Health Care for the Homelessness Council.

To reserve your spot, contact [info@sophiaway.org](mailto:info@sophiaway.org).

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Closing Prayer was offered by Sandy Lewis of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

**PROGRAM: HOLIDAY NEEDS: PRESENTATIONS FROM HOPELINK, KINDERING CENTER, AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

**LOCATION: BRISTOL HALL, ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 4228 FACTORIA BOULEVARD SE, BELLEVUE (ACROSS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL)**

Brian Anderson, EISCC Secretary

CFH  
Blankets - twin/full  
washable  
Nov. - Eat <sup>more</sup> Vegetarian  
Dec. - First Cong. - downtown  
Bellevue  
BLU

125

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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Brian Anderson" <brian@emergencyfeeding.org>

To: "Brian Anderson" <briansueanderson@hotmail.com>

**EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**

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

October 12, 2010

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on October 12, 2010, beginning at 12:00 noon.

**OPENING PRAYER** was provided by Marilyn Rands of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Bellevue South Stake.

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS** were made by 25 members and guests.

**MINUTES** of the September 14, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

**ELECTION OF 2010-11 EISCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** The following slate of candidates was elected to the EISCC Board of Directors:

President-Elect: Dave Emery, Bridge Ministries

President (continuing): JoAnne Way, East Shore Unitarian Church

Past President: Lloyd Van Vactor, Northshore United Church of Christ

Secretary: Brian Anderson, Emergency Feeding Program

Treasurer: Pat McDermott, Christ the King Lutheran Church

Members at Large: Sandy Lewis, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

Warren Marquardson, LDS, Bellevue South Stake

Diane Richard, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

Sally Wing, Grace Lutheran Church

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** EISCC Secretary Pat McDermott, ([pcmcdermott@amnis.com](mailto:pcmcdermott@amnis.com)) reported that at 9/30/2010 cash balances total over \$169,000. Because of third quarter billings accounts receivable totaled more than \$140,000. Nothing unusual was noted during the month. EISCC's financial condition remains strong. (See September members financial package attached.)

Pat also reported that EISCC was now covered under a new insurance policy that gives the program broader coverage for about 20% less than the program was previously paying.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS:** CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or [steve@cfhomeless.org](mailto:steve@cfhomeless.org)) reported that the program's first annual fundraising luncheon held September 22<sup>nd</sup> was a great success. Of course, those who missed it can still donate by visiting [www.cfhomeless.org](http://www.cfhomeless.org).

The shelter is full with 44 men in housing.

CFH is still in need of blankets. Each man entering the shelter receives a blanket, taking it with him as he transitions into housing. CFH is particularly looking for twin-sized, washable blankets.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or [director@sophiaway.org](mailto:director@sophiaway.org)) reported that the program is still working with East Shore Unitarian Church to open Holly House as transitional housing, and that they are also working to build a permanent shelter facility at Bellevue's St. Luke's Lutheran Church. Currently, the shelter is full and the program is subsidizing 23 women in housing.

**The Sophia Way will be holding a fundraising luncheon on Thursday, November 4, 11:30-1:30, at the Bellevue Red Lion Hotel.** The guest speaker will be **Craig Rennebohm**, author of *Souls in the Hands of a Tender God...Stories of the Search for Home and Healing on the Streets*. The Reverend Rennebohm is a UCC minister and the recipient of the Tipper Gore Award from the National Health Care for the Homelessness Council.

Space is reserving fast, but even if you cannot snag a ticket, you can still support the program financially by visiting [www.sophiaway.org](http://www.sophiaway.org).

**The Bellevue Severe Weather Shelter** will be operated jointly by the Sophia Way and Congregations for the Homeless at Crossroads Community Center at 16000 NE 8<sup>th</sup> St. in Bellevue (first left east of Crossroads Mall; Bus routes 230, 253, 261). The shelter will be open from November 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011, weather dependent. There are two ways to learn whether the weather is severe enough for the shelter to be open. You can choose to sign up for an email list in order to receive information regularly or you can call the severe weather line at 425-614-8544.

To sign up for regular emails, please send an email to [sws@SophiaWay.org](mailto:sws@SophiaWay.org).

Additionally, EISCC members will be emailed an informational flyer as well as an Opening & Closing Flyer.



**CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS:** CFK's recently completed "Good Start Back to School" project distributed backpacks and supplies to 1,600 students in the Bellevue school district – over \$56,000 in supplies! For more information visit [www.congregations4kids.org](http://www.congregations4kids.org).

**EISCC LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR** Nancy Bent reminds everyone that ballots will be arriving soon. Use them. Vote!

## **PROGRAM: HOLIDAY NEEDS – KINDERING CENTER, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, HOPELINK**

**KINDERING CENTER:** The Kindering Center, located at 16120 NE 8<sup>th</sup> St in Bellevue, 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 thousands of infants and children receive crucial therapies, special education, and counseling. Their programs, built on current research and the needs of the community, are evaluated regularly for effectiveness and client satisfaction.

To maximize each child's potential, early treatment is profoundly important. Long-term studies show that early intervention is responsible for greater achievements late in life, including higher academic skills, reduced need for further specialized services, and greater employment opportunities.

Their commitment is "to create and provide superior individualized, family-centered services for children who are disabled, medically fragile or vulnerable because of abuse or neglect; to develop maximum potential, hope and community understanding."

The Kindering Center serves more than 100 children every month.

The Kindering Center is now working with Hopelink and other agencies to reach out to homeless families and a new early intervention worker has been hired to work primarily with Spanish-speaking families.

But with public dollars becoming increasingly unavailable, your help is needed to keep providing service to these children and their families.

In addition to your financial assistance, ongoing volunteer opportunities are available in the following areas:

### **Annual Auction, November 13, 2010**

- **Auction Planning Committee:** Be part of the planning process for the biggest fundraiser of the year.
- **Auction Tracker data entry:** September-November project; can work from home with Internet access.
- **Event Support:** Various roles during the day and night of the event.
- **Event Prep:** Packaging night, making baskets, files, and behind the scenes work.

**Committee:** Volunteers who have a particular skill or area of expertise are encouraged to provide support in the following committees: Development, Finance, Excellence Task Force (Programs).

### **Technical Support**

**Train our Staff!** We have an on-going need for technological trainings. Staff have requested classes in Excel, Access, Outlook, Photoshop, etc. Average commitment varies – quarterly trainings are ideal.

**Building Maintenance:** Volunteers are needed for help around the center with landscaping, painting, cleaning, and general handy work.

### **Group Opportunities include:**

- Safeway holiday "Dough for Dough" fundraiser
- Procuring auction items
- Hosting a picnic for our children
- Landscaping and painting
- Decorating and designing holiday cards
- Helping prepare toys and equipment for the kids to use
- Mail campaigns
- And always, general office help

For more information, please contact Jennifer Schumacher at 425-653-4294 or [jennifer.schumacher@kinding.org](mailto:jennifer.schumacher@kinding.org).

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF EAST KING COUNTY:** Since 1988, Habitat for Humanity of East King County has built over 101 homes in the cities of Bellevue, Carnation, Issaquah, Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond, Sammamish, and Snoqualmie. Their service area is from Renton to Bothell and Woodinville, and east of Seattle including Mercer Island to North Bend. Their goal is to make it possible for low-income Eastside residents to be able to purchase simple, decent, affordable homes.

Our goal is to lay a foundation for a stronger community by working with people who are dedicated to building a better life for



themselves. To achieve this goal, we depend on donated land, labor, money, and materials from individuals, faith communities, and local businesses.

Volunteers of all skill levels work together with the homeowners and Habitat staff in a cooperative partnership to construct our homes. This is a fun and rewarding way to spend the day.

Habitat for Humanity was founded as an ecumenical organization and continues to depend on the faith community for its success. Congregations can sign up for a work day or to provide lunches to volunteers. There are both construction and non-construction volunteer opportunities and both individual and group opportunities.

Congregations might also consider collecting special offerings to help fund Habitat projects or participating in special events such as including Habitat in "alternate gift fairs."

If you are interested in helping Habitat for Humanity of East King County build a stronger Eastside, please contact Mary Martin at 425-869-6007 or [mary@habitatekc.org](mailto:mary@habitatekc.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; we help people make lasting change.

Hopelink emergency service centers are located in Bellevue, Kirkland/Northshore, Redmond, Shoreline and Sno-Valley.

Hopelink offers an integrated array of programs that enable families in crisis to make progress toward and achieve self-sufficiency. These programs include:

- Food
- Housing
- Family Development
- Adult Education
- Transportation and Interpreter Services
- Energy Assistance
- Emergency Financial Assistance

Demand for Hopelink services has been steadily climbing in recent months. For example, the Bellevue Center food bank is now serving some 800 unduplicated families each month. Such demand makes it difficult to maintain services.

There are many ways for you to help at Hopelink.

Donations of food are always needed. *(Did you know that 80% of the food given out at Hopelink food banks is obtained through food drives or purchased with donations?)* There is an ongoing need for volunteers to help with grocery rescue. The majority of the fresh produce available at Hopelink food banks comes from grocery store donations. Volunteers are needed to pick up food donations from grocery stores weekday mornings, 2-3 hours/week and deliver to Hopelink food banks.

Hopelink is currently accepting donations of unwrapped toys, dolls, clothing, arts and craft supplies/kits, sports equipment, board games, books, and more for their holiday gift rooms. At Hopelink gift rooms, clients are able to choose gifts for their children who might otherwise be left out during the holidays. Gifts will be accepted through December 18<sup>th</sup>.

For a list of ongoing volunteer opportunities visit [http://www.hope-link.org/take\\_action/volunteer/ongoing\\_volunteer\\_opportunities](http://www.hope-link.org/take_action/volunteer/ongoing_volunteer_opportunities). Or you can call 425-869-6066 for more information on how you or your congregation can help.

**EISCC EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND REPORT:** Rochelle Clayton Strunk, Senior Manager of Emergency Services at Hopelink gave the quarterly report of activity in the Bellevue Emergency Services Fund.

From April 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010 EISCC congregations donated \$5,979.05 to the fund.

#### Contributing Congregations:

Bellevue Christian Church  
Church of the Redeemer  
Eastside Friends Meeting  
Newport Presbyterian Church  
Overlake Park Presbyterian Church  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church  
St. Louise Catholic Church  
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church.

*Note: These figures include only those donations specified for the Eastside Emergency Services Fund. Donations made to Hopelink's Food Banks and other programs are not reflected here. Please contact Gerald Wright at 425-943-7558 if your congregation intended*



to make donations to this fund.

#### Services Provided with Eastside Emergency Services Funds:

Service	Households	Amount
Water/Electric/Gas	29	\$2,900.00
Prescriptions	14	\$933.18
Eviction Prevention	7	\$1,439.00
Bus Tickets	97	\$1,211.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>\$6,483.18</b>

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**SOCIAL IMPACT AND FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT: Microfinance and the Double Bottom Line.** Microcredit, a banking system for poor and marginalized people, offer hope for many millions of the world's poor by empowering them with the financial tools needed to build a stairway out of poverty.

Ylse van der Schoot, Director of Investments for Oikocredit, Netherlands will speak about the "double bottom line" of Social Impact and Financial Empowerment offered by Microcredit. Oikocredit is an international ecumenical development society, and is one of the world's largest sources of loans for microfinance.

Learn more on **Friday, October 29, 2101 at noon at Bellevue First Congregational Church (752 108th Avenue NE).** A lunch will be provided by Fare Start.

**FESTIVAL OF THE NATIVITIES: A CELEBRATION OF CHRIST:** You and your congregation are invited to attend a family celebration and crèche display at the **Bellevue South Stake Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints** (15205 SE 28<sup>th</sup> St in Bellevue) on **December 2 & 3 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and December 4 & 5 from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m.** You are welcome to come and enjoy and if you'd like to also share your crèches, provide religious Christmas musical numbers, participate in a live nativity, enjoy children's activities, and have family pictures taken in period clothing in a stable. For more information please contact Cressida Stapley at 425-747-2962.

**THE 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL KINDERING CENTER AUCTION GALA** will be held Saturday, November 13, 2010 at the Grand Hyatt in Seattle.

##### Schedule of Events

5 to 6pm - VIP Party & Silent Wine Auction Held in Ruth's Chris Steakhouse Wine Cellar

6 to 10pm - Silent Auction, Cocktail Reception, Gourmet Dinner & Live Auction

##### 2010 Ticket & Table Information

- Individual Ticket- \$150
- VIP Individual Ticket- \$300
- Donor Table- 10 guests, Table Signage Recognition- \$1,500
- VIP Table- 10 Guests, VIP Party, Champagne, Table Signage Recognition and Full Page Catalog Advertisement- \$3,000
- 

To purchase tickets please call or email [Jennifer Schumacher](mailto:Jennifer.Schumacher@kinder.org) at 425.653.4294.

**BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES** will hold a Sunday Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends **November 21st, 4-6pm, at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 4228 Factoria Blvd SE, Bellevue, 98006.** Dinner will be provided. Everyone is welcome and volunteers are very much appreciated. Call (425)885-1006 ext#118 or email [lindam@bridgemin.org](mailto:lindam@bridgemin.org) for more information.

**THE SOPHIA WAY "OUR JOURNEY" FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON** will take place Thursday, **November 4, 11:30-1:30**, at the **Bellevue Red Lion Hotel.** Learn more about homelessness in East King County and how the program is working to assist homeless women in our community. Our guest speaker is **Craig Rennebohm**, author of *Souls in the Hands of a Tender God...Stories of the Search for Home and Healing on the Streets.* The Reverend Rennebohm is a UCC minister and the recipient of the Tipper Gore Award from the National Health Care for the Homelessness Council.

Although all available tickets for this event have been reserved, you can make a secure, tax-deductible donation by visiting <http://www.sophiaway.org/donate.asp>.

**EASTSIDE BABY CORNER** is holding a benefit luncheon on **Monday, November 15 at the Hilton Bellevue.** Share the experience as the community comes together in this salute to EBC, founder Karen Ridlon, and 20 years of giving kids a warm coat, a full tummy and a safe ride home. Reserve your seat today by registering online at by using the link available at [www.babycorner.org](http://www.babycorner.org). For more information, to be a table captain, or to sponsor the event, please email



[events@babycorner.org](mailto:events@babycorner.org) or call 425.865.0234, ext.701.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Closing Prayer was offered by Sally Wing of Grace Lutheran Church.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, November 9, 2010, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

**PROGRAM: PRESENTATIONS FROM EMERGENCY FEEDING PROGRA & CHILD CARE RESOURCES.**

**LOCATION: BRISTOL HALL, ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 4228 FACTORIA BOULEVARD SE, BELLEVUE (ACROSS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL)**

Brian Anderson, EISCC Secretary

**EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662**  
**November 9, 2010**

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on November 9, 2010, beginning at 12:00 noon.

**OPENING PRAYER** was provided by Dave Emery of Bridge Disability Ministries.

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS** were made by 24 members and guests.

**MINUTES** of the October 12, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** EISCC Secretary Pat McDermott, ([pcmcdermott@amnis.com](mailto:pcmcdermott@amnis.com)) was unable to attend, but submitted the following report: At 10/31/2010 cash balances total over \$93,000. Because of third quarter billings our accounts receivable total more than \$140,000. Nothing unusual was noted during the month. Our financial condition remains strong.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS:** CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or [steve@cforhomeless.org](mailto:steve@cforhomeless.org)) that now that the weather is turning, not only is the shelter full, but they have a long waiting list.

And with the weather growing colder, CFH is in even greater need of donations of washable, twin-sized blankets. Call Steve for more information on how you or your congregation can help.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or [director@sophiaway.org](mailto:director@sophiaway.org)) reported that \$52,000 was raised at their recent fundraiser which will go a long way to ensuring that they will be able to serve the Eastside throughout the coming winter. But times are dire. The need for the shelter is increasing tremendously as the weather worsens.

Holiday Needs: In order to make this a memorable holiday for the women they serve, the Sophia Way is looking for:

- Help wrapping Christmas presents
- Collecting Christmas Meal food items
- Help with Holiday shopping
- Delivering Holiday trees and decorations
- Giving tree gifts
- Donations of gift certificates

If your congregation can help, please contact the Sophia Way's Christmas coordinator at [Margaret@sophiaway.org](mailto:Margaret@sophiaway.org) or 206-226-5358.

**The Bellevue Severe Weather Shelter** will be operated jointly by the Sophia Way and Congregations for the Homeless at Crossroads Community Center at 16000 NE 8<sup>th</sup> St. in Bellevue (first left east of Crossroads Mall; Bus routes 230, 253, 261) The shelter will be open from November 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011, weather dependent. There are two ways to learn whether the weather is severe enough for the shelter to be open. You can choose to sign up for an email list in order to receive information regularly or you can call the severe weather line at 425-614-8544.

To sign up for regular emails, please send an email to [sws@SophiaWay.org](mailto:sws@SophiaWay.org).

Additionally, EISCC members will be emailed an informational flyer as well as an Opening & Closing Flyer.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS:** CFK Chair Nancy Jacobs reported that in its 15 years, Congregations for Kids has provided backpacks and supplies to 13,638 kids in the Bellevue School District. To see "thank you" notes from a few of these grateful recipients, log on to <http://www.congregations4kids.org/testimonials.html>.

**EISCC EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTORY:** EISCC Board member Diane Richards has agreed to work on an update of the Emergency Services Directory that is posted on the website at [www.eisc.net](http://www.eisc.net). EISCC members will be informed once the update is available for viewing.

**REFRESHMENTS:** EISCC Board member and refreshment chair Sandy Lewis thanked all of those who provided food for today's meeting.

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

EFP Operations Director Brian Anderson reported that nearly one in five households in Washington state did not have the money they needed to buy adequate, nutritious food in 2009. And families with children are hurting even more with 23 percent reporting that they struggle to provide their families with the nutrition they need and deserve.

As the economy has worsened, food programs like the Emergency Feeding Program have seen dramatic increases in the number of requests for food assistance. Between 2007 and 2009, EFP saw a 64.9 percent increase in the number of households reaching out to them.

The program has been in existence since 1977 and was established as a response to the findings of study of Seattle area food banks done at the time. The study found that the quality of the food found in the food banks studied tended to vary based on the affluence of the neighborhood in which the food bank was located. It also found that because of the uncertain streams of food arriving at food banks it was often difficult, if not impossible, for those visiting food banks to find everything they needed to prepare nutritionally balanced meals.

EFP's unique method of service was developed to address these problems.

Because no two households are the same, EFP packs and distributes 14 different varieties of emergency food bags. The majority of these bags contain enough groceries to provide a household with a two-day supply (breakfast, lunch and dinner) of high-quality, nutritionally-balanced food. Because households vary in size, three sizes of basic packs—small, medium and large—are prepared. And because each recipient is unique, with individual nutritional needs and food preferences, EFP also makes available bags designed for those requiring low-sodium, low-



sugar and vegan foods, in addition to Latino and Asian bags, "no-cook" packs for homeless individuals and families, and the popular "Snack Pack" developed for and with the help of homeless teens. EFP's two varieties of infant bags—one packed with iron-enriched infant formula and the other with jars of strained fruit, vegetables and meat, and rice cereal—are designed to provide a full week's nutrition for a growing baby. **All of EFP's bags were developed in consultation with qualified nutritionists.**

These bags are then made available through a network of more 130 social service agencies, schools, food banks, public health clinics, and faith communities located throughout King County. These are places where hungry families can go not just to receive emergency food, but also places where a knowledgeable staff can help a family address the underlying causes of their crisis—be it unemployment or underemployment, the need for additional services such as energy or rent assistance, or something even more tragic such as a domestic violence situation—so they can be directed to other community resources that will help them get the help they so desperately need. Access to an EFP food bag can really be the first step on the road to a more successful, secure, and self-sufficient future.

#### **Vision for the Future:**

In addition to its regular distribution, since 2009 EFP has partnered with the City of Seattle's Department of Aging & Disability to pack a bag specially designed to provide three days of balanced nutrition to our region's homebound seniors. These bags are distributed in the late fall in order that they are available to this vulnerable population when bad weather, flooding, lack of transportation, or the unavailability of a care giver might otherwise cause a hunger crisis.

EFP is currently looking into new outreach efforts on behalf of folks with chronic medical conditions and one in which they would partner with local school districts to provide backpacks of food to students who receive free or reduced cost school lunches during the week, but who would otherwise face a weekend without adequate nutrition. Instead of the usual bags, the food distributed to students would be packed in backpacks to eliminate any embarrassment or stigma involved. After all, every student carries a backpack.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

EFP presents a number of ongoing service opportunities for congregations to engage in. Many congregations help out by holding food drives, either by participating in the long-established "Food of the Month" club where a different food item is targeted each month or by holding one time food drives. EFP is there to help make this easy by providing flyers, donation barrels, and donation pickup.

Other congregations come to EFP's Seattle warehouse to help pack emergency food bags. It's a great opportunity for both young and old to get together, have some fun, and make a real impact in the community.

Still other congregations choose to purchase the necessary food and pack EFP bags in their own church space. EFP can provide any direction needed and would be delighted to pick up the bags when ready.

For more information about EFP, to tour their Seattle facility, or to set up a volunteer opportunity, please contact them at 206-329-0300 or [brian@emergencyfeeding.org](mailto:brian@emergencyfeeding.org).

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**THANKSGIVING EVE COMMUNITY INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE** – St. Louise Catholic Church, Temple B'nai Torah, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Church of the Holy Apostles, and the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection announce that the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship Service will be held **Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Louise Catholic Church** located at 141 - 156<sup>th</sup> Ave SE Bellevue. There will be an informal reception in the Parish Hall following the service. Good will offerings collected during the service this year will benefit the Hearts & Hammers projects in May. (Any canned goods offerings will be donated to Hopelink.)

Visit [www.stlouise.org](http://www.stlouise.org) or call St. Louise at 425-747-4450 for additional information.

**BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES** will hold a **Christmas Celebration** for people living with disabilities and friends **Saturday, December 4th, 12-2:30pm, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church**, 12600 84<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Kirkland, 98034. Dinner will be provided. Everyone is welcome and volunteers are very much appreciated. Call (425)885-1006 ext#118 or email [lindam@bridgemin.org](mailto:lindam@bridgemin.org) for more information.

**HOPELINK'S ANNUAL GIFT ROOM** will be held on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> for parents and Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> for grandparents. **Volunteers and donations of gift wrapping supplies** would be most appreciated. To help make this a happy holiday for these local children, please contact Gerald Wright at 425-943-7558.

**FESTIVAL OF THE NATIVITIES: A CELEBRATION OF CHRIST:** You and your congregation are invited to attend a family celebration and crèche display at the **Bellevue South Stake Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints** (15205 SE 28<sup>th</sup> St in Bellevue) on **December 2 & 3 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and December 4 & 5 from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m.** You are welcome to come and enjoy and if you'd like to also share your crèches, provide religious Christmas musical numbers, participate in a live nativity, enjoy children's activities, and have family pictures taken in period clothing in a stable. For more information please contact Cressida Stapley at 425-747-2962.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Closing Prayer was offered by Margaret Morency of Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Mercer Island.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, January 11, 2010, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

**PROGRAM: FRIENDS OF YOUTH: Services to Youth and their Families.**

**LOCATION: BRISTOL HALL, ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 4228 FACTORIA BOULEVARD SE, BELLEVUE (ACROSS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL)**

**Reminder: There is no December EISCC meeting. Have a blessed Holiday.**

Brian Anderson, EISCC Secretary