

**EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**

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

January 11, 2011

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on January 11, 2011, beginning at 12:00 noon.

**OPENING PRAYER** was provided by EISCC President JoAnne Way.

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

**MINUTES** of the November 9, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS:** CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or [steve@cfhomeless.org](mailto:steve@cfhomeless.org)) reported that the program had a great December at First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue with lots of Christmas merrymaking. The shelter is now at Redmond United Methodist Church. There they are opening early (at 6:00 p.m.) and are staying open for the Sunday Seahawks games.

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.

CFH can also use clothing, particularly XXL men's jackets and other XXL clothing.

**THE EASTSIDE SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER:** The Eastside Severe Weather Shelter, run jointly by Congregations for the Homeless and the Sophia Way, is now open continuously until February 15<sup>th</sup>. The shelter is moving from the Crossroads Community Center to its new location in Redmond's Old Schoolhouse Community Center (16600 NE 80<sup>th</sup> St) on January 15, 2011.

Steve says that "it is an amazing community that is occurring there." He points out that you don't have to be homeless to take advantage of the severe weather shelter; it's for anyone who, for whatever reason – be it heating problems, etc. – needs a warm safe place on these cold nights. The highest single night occupancy to date has been 52 people. And this actually might increase as the word gets out that it is open continuously.

How can you help?

- Prepared food donations are accepted at 8:00 p.m. nightly.
- The severe weather shelter is in need of an additional 12 sleeping mats. These cost \$150 apiece.

For more information contact either CFH or the Sophia Way.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or [director@sophiaway.org](mailto:director@sophiaway.org)) reported that Christmas was also an inspiring time at their program. But she urges supporters to remember that giving can be a year-round thing. They have an ongoing need for gift cards, theater tickets, and other items that bring joy to Sophia Way residents.

The Sophia Way is also putting together a support network. A group is forming that will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Bradford Center at First Congregational Church of Bellevue (752 108<sup>th</sup> Ave NE). Joining the support network will help both you and your congregation become more involved in helping these women transition from the street into homes of their own.

Helen also reported that Bellevue's St. Luke's Lutheran Church is set to vote on whether to house a newly expanded shelter for the Sophia Way and that additional transitional housing at the Holly House located at East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church is scheduled to open April 1, 2011.

**EISCC LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR:** Nancy Bent encourages those interested to stay informed of developments as the WA state legislature is now beginning its work. If you feel moved to write to your legislator it is best to focus on one or two areas and whenever possible should include suggestions for raising revenue to fund those programs you support.

EISCC members and guests will have an opportunity to learn much more about what is going on in Olympia and to get advocacy tips at the February 8<sup>th</sup> EISCC meeting when the special guest will be Alice Woldt, Director of the Washington Association of Churches.

**CITY OF BELLEVUE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:** Shelly Shellabarger, Volunteer Program Coordinator for the City of Bellevue wants us to know that the City of Bellevue is very interested in connecting with local places of worship in an effort to engage congregations in their community. Most specifically, we want to welcome folks to become involved in City of Bellevue programs!

She is looking to connect with community outreach staff or volunteers at faith based organizations and houses of worship and can offer these services:

- Send you alerts about volunteer opportunities, emerging needs, resources & trainings
- Help you find volunteers for your special projects
- Help develop projects for your volunteer groups
- Help you connect and partner with other faith based organizations
- Help you connect and partner with nonprofit & social service agencies

For more information please contact: Shelly Shellabarger, Volunteer Program Coordinator at [Volunteer@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Volunteer@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-5375

**PROGRAM: FRIENDS OF YOUTH** – Friends of Youth Executive Director, Joan Campbell (425-869-6490 ext. 313)

Since 1951, Friends of Youth has been helping young people in challenging circumstances get their lives back on track. Their vision is to see



all youth having every opportunity to succeed. They deliver a broad range of service to youth and their families to improve their emotional stability and self-sufficiency.

Friends of Youth provided services to at-risk youth and homeless young people at 20 sites in 17 cities throughout the Puget Sound. In 2009, Friends of Youth served over 6,000 youth and their families through four core program areas:

#### RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

- Therapeutic residential services including foster care and emergency shelter care, to youth under age 18.

#### HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES

- Street outreach, overnight shelter, individual case management, employment and transitional housing programs for homeless youth and young adults throughout East and North King County and South Snohomish County. (*Friends of Youth operates Youth Haven and the Landing, the Eastside's only overnight youth shelters.*)

#### YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

- Mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, school-based prevention education and parenting programs in Issaquah and the upper and lower Snoqualmie Valley.

#### HEALTHY START CONSORTIUM

- Home visiting services to support young parents and their babies from birth to age three.

#### HISTORY

The story of Friends of Youth is clear proof that ordinary people can come together to create something extraordinary—transforming dreams into reality.

In 1950, a Washington resident named Iva Matsen saw the challenges faced by her community: not enough quality foster homes for at-risk (at that time, the term was “pre-delinquent”) youth; struggles with alcoholism; and a lack of encouragement for those who were most in need of support. So she and her husband joined with other members of the University Congregational Church to take the critical step from concern to action.

They started an organization called the Character School, renamed Friends of Youth in 1957. It was a place where young people could find a sympathetic ear, grow personally and contribute positively to their communities. Since then, Friends of Youth has grown into a leader in developing, providing and advocating for services for children, youth and their families. To this day, members of the Matsen family continue to be active and involved in the organization.

Throughout the decades, the list of donors, volunteers, friends and staff of Friends of Youth has built steadily. But while the organization has expanded impressively since its humble beginnings, its founding principles have endured: an unwavering dedication to providing quality services; the flexibility to meet new and emerging needs; and most important, a commitment to securing the futures of the most vulnerable members of the community.

Mrs. Matsen and her co-founders were just individuals, but they had a vision and a shared commitment to follow through on it. More than 50 years later, each person who becomes involved with Friends of Youth has an opportunity to build something just as extraordinary.

#### KEY STRATEGIES IN 2011

Diversify Funding by:

- Better matching donors' philanthropic motivation with our core service areas through targeted campaigns
- Full-time associate resource joins team
- Increase resources for grant writing

Design, locate and plan for a new facility to support program needs

- Merging our two (under 18) shelter programs into a combined facility
- Securing a new location for overnight shelter (18-24) to provide showers, food, a safe place, and connections to Friends of Youth staff and services – no such center currently exists on the Eastside.
- Providing low barrier transitional living/supportive permanent housing for youth who do not meet the entrance requirements for other programs but, who, with the support of Friends of Youth, have the ability to move out of homelessness.

Organize Internal Structure to Align With Priorities

- New COO position created to head program support team (Development, IT, HR, Accounting, and Administration)
- New Director of Business Development to head our facility budget
- All Program Directors now report directly to CEO

#### CURRENT ECONOMIC IMPACT

Increased Need for Services:

- Consistently operating at capacity at The Landing; many night they are forced to turn youth away.
- Full capacity in their Transitional Living Program, with waiting lists.
- Healthy Start program reports that stress of unemployment and economic hardship has increased the number and length of home visits..

Funding at Risk

- King County eliminated \$280K in funding for Healthy Start and \$160K in funding for mental health services is at risk. They were recently notified of a 6% reduction in state payments for residential services.

Friends of Youth Plan to Respond

- Expanding street outreach services to homeless youth; providing support to more communities
- Planning new facility to be more responsive to the needs of the homeless population on the Eastside.
- Creating plan for close monitoring of income and expense over the year to ensure they are meeting targets of 2011; includes plan to adjust services as necessary to maintain programs.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT

- Financial Support
- In-Kind Support

- o Giving Tree or other special drives
  - o Providing dinners at The Landing (the overnight shelter at the Bellevue YMCA)
  - o Creating snack packs and hygiene kits for Homeless Youth
- Volunteer Support
  - o Board members
  - o Executive/Partner level support from Human Resources, IT, Operations, Marketing
  - o Skilled Volunteer Opportunities – technical support, human resources, generalists
  - o Unskilled Volunteer Opportunities
    - Provide meals at the Landing
    - Adopt a Transitional Living Program apartment for refurbishing/refurnishing

Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to check out the list of opportunities posted online at <http://www.friendsof youth.org/volunteerOpp.aspx>.

In 2011 Friends of Youth will be celebrating 60 of service to youth and their families in our community. They would like to thank all of their supporters as they celebrate this milestone event.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Bridge Disability Ministries** will hold a Sunday Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends Sunday, January 23rd, 4-6pm, at Crossroads Bible Church, 15815 SE 37th St, 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.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Closing Prayer was offered by Steve Roberts of Congregations for the Homeless.

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

**PROGRAM: ADVOCACY – MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD IN OLYMPIA AND BEYOND.** Featuring Alice Woldt from the Washington Association of Churches.

**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**  
**March 8, 2011**

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on March 8, 2011, beginning at 12:00 noon.

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

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS** were made by 20 members and guests.

**MINUTES** of the February 8, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** EISCC Treasurer Pat McDermott ([pmcdermott@amnis.com](mailto:pmcdermott@amnis.com)) provided a written summary;

*At 2/28/2011 cash balances total over \$150,000. Nothing unusual was noted during the month. Monthly patterns of income and expense are consistent with prior periods.*

**SALLY WING:** Long-time EISCC Board member Sally Wing is now living in a local assisted living facility. She is not as mobile as she'd like and would love to have phone calls and visitors. You can reach Sally at 425-747-5924. Because her plans include an eventual move to the East Coast, if you are planning to call, please don't wait too long.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS:** CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or [steve@cfhomeless.org](mailto:steve@cfhomeless.org)) reported that all is going well at the shelter. They are at Grace Lutheran and are heading next to Westminster Chapel.

Outstanding legal issues surrounding the leasing of a new house have been worked out. It will open at the beginning of April and will house 8 men.

**THE EASTSIDE SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER:** The severe weather shelter has completed operations for the season. Operated by Congregations for the Homeless and the Sophia Way, the shelter operated for 68 nights in the 2010-11 season.

**Locations:**

- Crossroads Community Center
  - Opened Nov. 20 to January 15 by Criteria – total of 32 nights
- Old Redmond School House Community Center
  - January 15 to February 20 – 36 consecutive nights.

**Clients Served:**

- Approximately 226 Unduplicated persons
- Nightly count hit high of 64 and averaged approximately 39
- 19% Female – 81% Male
  - Women attend less frequently due to trauma related fears, other opportunities afforded to women with children, as well as other factors.
- Participating Cities – Percentage of Clients Reporting Last Known Address:
  - Bellevue – 34%; Redmond – 12%; Issaquah – 6%; Kirkland – 6%
  - 17% Seattle
  - Remaining clients from several other locations with lower percentages; 10% unknown

**Lessons Learned:**

- In order to maintain the lowest barriers to entry, clients are served best in a devoted space. Dual use locations bring additional barriers.
  - Program was successful in dual use space but not ideal for a variety of reasons.
  - Community Centers experienced large loss of revenue due to lack of space rentals.
- Being open consecutive nights made a big difference. More people used the shelter because it was open consistently and predictably and they didn't have to wonder if they would arrive and not find it open.
- Opening on consecutive nights rather than by criteria brought many benefits:
  - In addition to being a temperature life line, participants were spared severe weather rain and wind conditions.
  - Clients were exposed to shelter life and the beginnings of relationship building with shelter staff that were able to share resources and ignite trust building leading some to seek to end their personal cycle of homelessness.
  - Ability for participants to navigate transportation and daytime care, work schedules, etc.
  - Allowed both Congregations for the Homeless and the Sophia Way to either place participants in shelter or on a waiting list for future placement. These relationships would not have been forged without the relationship building afforded by consecutive nights; making a clear case that emergency shelters can play a role in ending homelessness.

**Goals for 2011-12 include:**

- Inclusion of other partnerships such as support from other social service agencies providing resources to shelter users.
- 4 months of consecutive nights with criteria days before and after.
- Obtaining a suitable location and adequate funding.
- Staffing to incorporate a manager who will oversee staff and volunteer opportunities.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or [director@sophiaway.org](mailto:director@sophiaway.org)) reported that the Holly House project is now three-quarters complete.

Reservations are being accepted for "A Culinary Journey" the Sophia Way's unique fundraiser that will be toasting the success of formally homeless



women. The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Woodmark Hotel in Kirkland. Details are available in the announcement section of these minutes and online at [www.sophiaway.org](http://www.sophiaway.org).

**HEARTS AND HAMMERS:** Hearts and Hammers, the annual one-day blitz to repair and rehabilitate the homes of those physically or financially unable to do so alone, will take place on **May 21, 2011**. It began in 1994, as a pilot project under the sponsorship of the Langley United Methodist Church. Now it is an independent, non-profit program that is supported by the larger community.

**What repairs are done?**

We do whatever repairs and renovations are possible within the scope of a one-day work party, including carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, painting, plastering, weatherization, heavy cleaning, roofing, and trash removal.

**Who pays for the Hearts and Hammers repairs?**

There is no charge to the homeowners for labor or materials. Local fundraising and donations of labor and materials cover costs.

**How are Hearts and Hammers homes selected?**

We get suggestions from pastors, Hope Link, relatives, neighbors, and community organizations. Homeowners can also apply directly. Work assessment teams visit proposed sites to determine needs and to see if the work is within our financial and time constraints. Final selections are approved by the board of Hearts and Hammers.

**Who can volunteer?**

Skills are welcomed, but everyone can be put to work. Volunteer forms are available at Church of the Resurrection.

**Who is eligible for Hearts and Hammers services?**

Limited-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners are all eligible. There are no complicated eligibility forms to be filled out. If you would like to have your home considered for repair in May, call Church of the Resurrection at 425-746-0322 or write for an application to: Hearts and Hammers, Church of the Resurrection, 15220 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98007.

Applications should be in by March although emergency cases can be considered through mid-April.

**Why is Hearts and Hammers needed?**

Maintaining a home can be physically or financially difficult for the elderly, disabled, or anyone with limited resources. Hearts and Hammers volunteer crews hope to build community spirit and compassion while giving their neighbors a helping hand.

If your congregation is interested in participating, please contact Sandy Lewis at 425-562-1228.

**CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS:** CFK is gearing up for their annual Good Start Back to School project which provides school supplies and backpacks to students in the Bellevue School District. If your congregation is interested in helping out, please contact them at [info@congregations4kids.org](mailto:info@congregations4kids.org).

**PROGRAM: BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES – HONORING EVERYONE'S GIFTS, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, ENRICHING OUR CHURCHES, OUR COMMUNITY, AND CHANGING OUR LIVES FOREVER!**

Rev. Dr. Dave Emery, Spiritual Care Director of Bridge Disability Ministries was on hand to share their mission and ministry. Because Bridge Disability Ministries honors the God-given dignity and giftedness of people with disabilities, they work to build relationships that can alleviate isolation as well as enrich our churches and community.

Bridge works in three broad areas:

**Spiritual Care:**

So often people living with a physical and/or developmental disability are left wondering about their own worth and value. They find themselves facing losses and isolation that most say cause far more suffering than does their actual disability. Many feel that not only are they not welcome in their communities, but they feel like strangers even in their own churches. Responding to the need to alleviate isolation and rejection is the mission of Bridge's Spiritual Care Ministry.

Bridge builds programs and relationships to serve:

- Adults and families living with physical and/or developmental disabilities
- Church communities intentional about being inclusive
- Businesses and other agencies interested in disability concerns

Services Include:

- Visits with people in their homes, or hospital rooms
- Supporting people through their life experiences and goal setting
- Relationship building opportunities through small groups and events

Through inclusion, people can begin to feel hopeful, affirmed and valued, able to appreciate their own God-given gifts and share them with others.

For more information about Spiritual Care, contact: Rev. Dr. David Emery at (425) 885-1006 ext 112, or [chaplain@bridgemin.org](mailto:chaplain@bridgemin.org).

**Mobility Services:**

Bridge provides mobility items such as wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, bath benches etc. at no cost to those who can't afford it.

Mobility helps to alleviate isolation and allows people to participate and move more freely within their community. Gaining better access to basic needs, resources, jobs, education and other opportunities promotes awareness and greater independence.

If you are in need of mobility items or if you have items that you'd like to donate, Bridge wants to hear from you. Items include:

- Bathtub/Shower Grab Bar
- Bed Rails
- Canes
- Commode Chair
- Crutches



- Cushions
- Hospital Beds
- Hoyer
- Lift Chairs
- Raised Toilet Seat
- Scooter, Powered
- Shower chair
- Table over the bed
- Toilet Rails
- Transfer Bench
- Walker
- Wheelchairs

For more information about Bridge's mobility services call 425-885-1008 or [equipment@bridgemin.org](mailto:equipment@bridgemin.org).

#### Guardianship Ministry:

Many people with severe disabilities enjoy a lifetime of support from their family and friends. But often, a time comes when family is unable to meet their needs. It is then that they require a trusted advocate who can help them manage their finances and health and promote social interaction and community access. That's where Bridge comes in.

Bridge is the court-appointed legal guardian of 40 people with incapacitating developmental disabilities. Bridge has been appointed by the court to take responsibility for the decisions affecting each individual like legal and medical issues. While taking this responsibility, Bridge seeks to maximize the independence, and power of choice of each client.

Guardianship in Action - For 20 years Bridge has served their clients by:

- Personally visiting and involving each individual we serve in the community in order to affirm his/her life and dignity
- Advocating for the most appropriate housing, medical care and activities of daily living
- Mentoring and educating volunteers who are visiting in one-to-one friendships
- Sponsoring events to enhance community inclusion
- Nurturing potential family relationships
- Documenting all guardianship involvement in order to support advocacy efforts and legal court requirements
- Managing their limited assets
- Celebrating birthdays and Christmas

For more information about Bridge's guardianship ministry, contact Patty Croteau, Lead Guardian Specialist at 425-885-1006, ext. 102 or [patty@c@bridgemin.org](mailto:patty@c@bridgemin.org).

Bridge Disability Ministries works to help us and our congregations look at the ways that we live together. We are here to welcome and include everyone – especially those who are excluded elsewhere. This extends to inclusion in our worship services. As people with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual disabilities, join us in worship experiences, we see things differently. Bridge invites our faith communities to see things differently.

More information about Bridge, including their video, is available on their website at [www.bridgemin.org](http://www.bridgemin.org).

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**CULINARY JOURNEY 2011: TOAST THE SUCCESS OF FORMERLY HOMELESS WOMEN** - Join The Sophia Way at a very special dining event to be held **April 28, 2011**. Twelve of the area's finest chefs will prepare a five-course menu for twelve tables. Participating chefs are from bin on the Lake, El Gaucho, the Icon Grill, the Library Bistro, Monsoon Bellevue, Sazerac, the Waterfront Seafood Grill, Tallant House, Thoa's Restaurant & Lounge, Sullivan Steak House, Woodland Park Zoo-Lancer Catering and the Woodmark Hotel.

Be one of the 132 guests to partake in this unique event to be held on the shores of Lake Washington UNDER THE TENT at the Woodmark Hotel in Kirkland. The event will feature paired wines from Washington vineyards and will be preceded by a wine, beer social hour along with hors d'oeuvres prepared by our participating chefs.

A wine silent auction will be conducted during the cocktail hour and a mini live auction with a culinary and travel theme will take place during dinner.

This fund-raising event brings us together to celebrate the success of The Sophia Way and raise operating funds to continue to assist eastside homeless women connect to permanent housing.

Culinary Journey is truly an inspired collaboration in support of unforgettable, real-life success stories which people like you make possible. If you can come to one dinner this spring, share our Journey.

If you'd like to help us make this event a success, please consider joining our volunteer committee. Tickets are \$125 per person and reservations can be made by calling Helen Payton or Olivia Davis at 425-463-6285 for more information.

**BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES** will hold a Celebration Dance for people living with disabilities and friends Saturday, April 9th, 1-4pm, at Newport Covenant Church, 12800 SE Coal Creek Pkwy, Bellevue, 98006. Dinner will be provided and there will be a live band. Everyone is welcome and volunteers are very much appreciated. There is no charge as usual, but this is a Fundraiser so pledges of dancers and/or donations are encouraged. Please call (425)885-1006 ext#118 or email [линдam@bridgemin.org](mailto:линдam@bridgemin.org) for more information.

**NAMI EASTSIDE** is looking to establish relationships with area congregations. They are a chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness



and works to improve the quality of life of those persons affected by acute and chronic mental illness through support, education and advocacy. For more information please contact NAMI at 425-885-6264 or [info@nami-eastside.org](mailto:info@nami-eastside.org).

**CROP WALK:** The annual Bellevue CROP Walk sponsored by Church World Service which raises money to combat hunger both locally and globally, will be held Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in downtown Bellevue. For more information, visit [www.bellevuecropwalk.org](http://www.bellevuecropwalk.org).

**A CLOSING REFLECTION** was offered by Dave Emery of Bridge Disability Ministries.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

**PROGRAM: THE SOPHIA WAY – ASSISTING WOMEN ON THEIR JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENCE.**

**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**  
**February 8, 2011**

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on February 8, 2011, beginning at 12:00 noon.

**OPENING PRAYER** was provided by EISCC President JoAnne Way.

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS** were made by 29 members and guests.

**MINUTES** of the January 11, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** EISCC Treasurer Pat McDermott ([pmcdermott@amnis.com](mailto:pmcdermott@amnis.com)) submitted a report (see attached) that President Way read in his absence:

*At 12/31/2010 cash balances total over \$161,000. Because of 4th quarter billing, accounts receivable total over \$163,000. 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 [stever@cfhomeless.org](mailto:stever@cfhomeless.org)) reported that in 2010 the program provided 10,500 bed nights, 31,000 meals (prepared by their 12 host and 31 support congregations), and 3,700 case management hours. Sixty-eight men left the shelter for permanent housing. That is a remarkable 73 % of clients that successfully transitioned from the streets into homes of their own. Since 2006, a total of 252 CFH clients have left lives on the street to permanent housing.

CFH is keeping supporters updated through e-newsletters that are sent every six weeks. To sign up for the e-newsletter, please visit [www.cfhomeless.org](http://www.cfhomeless.org).

Steve also reported that CFH is just about to sign a lease on a 6-bedroom house in Bellevue that will provide even more transitional housing for the program's clients.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or [director@sophiaway.org](mailto:director@sophiaway.org)) reported that Sophia Way winter 2011 e-newsletter is also available. Find it at [http://www.sophiaway.org/Sophiaway.org/2011\\_Winter\\_Newsletter.html](http://www.sophiaway.org/Sophiaway.org/2011_Winter_Newsletter.html).

The major focus of the Sophia Way in 2011 will be three growth projects:

Holly House: Opening soon, the remodeled Holly House will provide additional transitional housing for six women.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church: The congregation of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bellevue has voted to approve the use of the space under their sanctuary for use as a shelter. This will provide shelter space for 22 women, more than doubling the currently available space. It will feature raised beds and cubical space to offer additional privacy. This vote also signals the beginning of an ambitious capital campaign. Once completed, this will significantly impact homelessness on the Eastside.

Additional Section 8 Housing: Grants received through King County and the United Way will provide 17 additional subsidized housing vouchers for Sophia Way clients.

Helen thanked supporting congregations for all their help and, with so much work before us, urges congregational representatives to discuss new ways to partner with the Sophia Way to fight homelessness in our community.

**THE EASTSIDE SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER:** Funding to operate the Eastside Severe Weather Shelter nightly runs out February 15<sup>th</sup>. After that, the shelter will only be open based on specific cold weather criteria. The shelter has been serving some 50 individuals each night.

**CROP WALK:** The annual Bellevue CROP Walk sponsored by Church World Service which raises money to combat hunger both locally and globally, will be held Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in downtown Bellevue. An informational meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at First Congregational Church in Bellevue (752 108<sup>th</sup> Ave NE). For more information, visit [www.bellevuecropwalk.org](http://www.bellevuecropwalk.org).

**PROGRAM: FAITH AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

Alice Woldt of the Washington Association of Churches (206-625-9790 or [woldt@thewac.org](mailto:woldt@thewac.org)) reported on their efforts to speak up for the most vulnerable among us in Olympia as the Washington State Legislature moves through the budget process.

The first few weeks of the session have dealt with the supplemental budget which will take the state through June of this year. The loss of revenue collected through the additional tax on soda and candy which was voted out by initiative in the last election has added to the now \$257 million dollar hole in this budget.

After dealing with the supplemental budget, work will begin on the budget for the next biennium to which \$4.7 billion in additional cuts will need to be made.

According to the "Rebuilding Our Economic Future Coalition" ([www.oureconomicfuture.org](http://www.oureconomicfuture.org); [info@oureconomicfuture.org](mailto:info@oureconomicfuture.org)), although it is widely thought that all the legislature need do is to "cut the fat out of government" in order to balance these budgets, this is simply not true. **Our basic public services are on life support.** The \$5 billion in funding that has been cut in the past two years from our education and health care systems, programs that protect clean air and water, and services that protect the most vulnerable has put these programs on life support. We are not talking about minor trims – this is about the complete elimination of core programs. Our communities can not afford to take deeper cuts to services at a time when the need for those services continues to grow.

They say that **the legislature must consider a more responsible, balanced approach:** We have been scrutinizing every dollar we spend on education, healthcare and other critical services, but tax loopholes and subsidies have escaped the same scrutiny. It's time to level the



playing field.

They suggest that the legislature:

- Prevent deeper cuts to education, healthcare and other programs by keeping all funding options on the table, including ending tax subsidies to special interests such as out-of-town banks, private jet owners, and elective cosmetic surgery.
- Continue to reform the tax exemption system by making it more accountable and transparent, subjecting it to at least the same level of scrutiny as all other spending.
- Work to recover the hundreds of millions lost each year due to tax evasion.

**Making the case for revenue:** Raising revenue is consistent with past practices. States often reduce taxes during economic expansions and increase them during downturns. In the recession of the early 1990s, 44 states raised taxes; in the early 2000s, 30 states did so. A recent study found that states that raised taxes during the last recession recovered at the same speeds as states that did not raise taxes despite starting in a deeper economic hole. (<http://www.cbpp.org/files/5-13-09sfp.pdf>)

The WAC is working to present a balanced approach advocating that the state budget be balanced not only by cutting services, but also by increasing revenue.

It is vitally important that people of faith actively work to get out our message to all of our legislators that this time of economic uncertainty, we must not ignore our charge to feed the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, welcome the stranger, and comfort those who are ill or in prison. It is especially important in the wake of the recently passed initiative that requires a two-thirds majority to approve any tax increase – including the elimination of tax loopholes. And while special interests such as banks have financial resources and lobbyists, we have only our strong voices and our relationships with our elected representatives.

**How to make your voice heard:**

**Sign up for action alerts:** It can be both confusing and discouraging trying to keep up with the various bills making their way through the legislative process, but we must not allow this to keep us from being strong advocates on behalf of those who most need our help. One way to reduce the confusion is to sign up for emails and action alerts from faith-based organizations like the Washington Association of Churches and their advocacy partner the Lutheran Public Policy Office. These informative emails keep you informed and aware of the process and provide you with easy ways to help you contact your legislators to let them know what you think about specific measures they are considering. Visit them at [www.lppowa.org](http://www.lppowa.org) or [www.thewac.org](http://www.thewac.org).

**Go to Olympia!** The Washington Council of Churches is holding their annual **Interfaith Advocacy Day on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**. The theme is "Take Action for the Common Good." There you will be able to participate in interfaith prayers, hear briefings and attend workshops on legislative issues and the state budget crisis, and meet your legislators to voice your concerns. Detailed information is available below in the announcement section or by visiting [www.thewac.org](http://www.thewac.org) or calling 206-625-9790

Any other questions? Call 206-625-9790 or email [wac@thewac.org](mailto:wac@thewac.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY:** Thursday, March 17, take "Faithful Action for the Common Good!" to Olympia for InterFaith Advocacy Day.

Participate in interfaith prayers, hear briefings and attend workshops on legislative issues and the state budget crisis, and meet your legislators to voice your concerns! Because of the diminishing tax revenues and continuing budget cuts, it will be very important for the moral voice of the faith community to be heard during this session of the legislature.

Participant will gather at United Churches, 110 11th Ave SE at 8:30 a.m. and move to the Columbia Room in the State Capitol at noon. Appointments and meetings should be finished by 3:00 p.m. All faith communities are welcome!

Registration is \$20 before March 10, then \$25 up until the event. Registration includes an Information Packet, Continental Breakfast, Lunch, and Legislative Appointments. To register online visit <http://ifad2011.eventbrite.com/>.

If you'd like to pay by check, mail in your credit card information, or pay at the door, download the printable registration form visit <http://thewac.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Registration-Form-1-per-page2.pdf> and send it to: The WAC, P.O. Box 95949, Seattle, WA 98145.

Note: A bus will be available to take people from the Mountlake Terrace and Seattle areas to and from Olympia (note on your registration if you would like to take advantage of this option).\*

Some scholarships may be available for those who need them due to income and/or distance traveled. If you'd like to be considered for a scholarship, or if you'd like to contribute funds toward scholarships, email Allyson Fredericksen at [allyson@thewac.org](mailto:allyson@thewac.org). Any other questions? Call 206-625-9790 or email [wac@thewac.org](mailto:wac@thewac.org).

**BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES** will hold a Sunday Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am-1pm, at St Andrew Presbyterian Church, 3604 NE 10<sup>th</sup> Ct, Renton, 98056. This will be an inclusive worship service and luncheon. Everyone is welcome and volunteers are very much appreciated.

Bridge will also hold a Sunday Evening Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm, at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 2650 148<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Bellevue, 98007. 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.

**TENDING ADAM'S GARDEN** is a monthly interfaith dialogue that focuses on sacred teachings about what it means to be a complete and fulfilled human being, and a responsible member of the human family. "Adam" is a metaphor symbolic of every human being, having free will and the capacity for both beneficial and harmful actions. Humanity is the garden in which we each have a place and a chance to bloom fully.

This program fosters *ways of being* in the world that are considered desirable across cultures and by the great faith traditions. It encourages participants to affirm and pursue their ideals and the virtuous qualities they would like to develop more fully. "Adam's Garden" seeks to help participants attain greater confidence, purpose, and peace of mind by applying universal principles for living to their everyday lives and relationships.

Each session begins with a "Three Cups of Tea" time, followed by short panel presentations based on sacred writings from different traditions. After the presentations, there is a time for Q & A and small group dialogue.

Please help us cultivate greater understanding and cooperation in our little slice of the universe. Help tend "Adam's Garden" on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> (from 3:30 to 6:00 pm) in the fellowship hall at St Peter's United Methodist Church, 17222 NE 8th Street, Bellevue, 98008.

For more information and to Register contact either Sanaa Joy Carey at [joycarey@msn.com](mailto:joycarey@msn.com) or Phil Gerson at [pgerson\\_8@msn.com](mailto:pgerson_8@msn.com). No charge - Offerings from the heart accepted - Light refreshments served. Please join us!

**PANCAKE BATTER:** Planning a fundraiser or feeding the community? EISCC President JoAnne Way has 4 10-lb bags of pancake mix available to someone willing to pick them up. Contact her at [waytandi@comcast.net](mailto:waytandi@comcast.net).

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Closing Prayer was offered by Lloyd Van Vactor of Northshore United Church of Christ.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

**PROGRAM:** BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES – HONORING EVERYONE'S GIFTS, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, ENRICHING OUR CHURCHES, OUR COMMUNITY, ***AND CHANGING OUR LIVES FOREVER!***

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

Brian Anderson, EISCC Secretary



**Special Note: If you represent a Bellevue congregation, please be sure to scroll down to the "Announcements" section to learn about the City of Bellevue Human Services Needs Survey. They need to hear from you by May 31<sup>st</sup>!**

**EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662**  
**May 10, 2011**

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on May 10, 2011, beginning at 12:00 noon.

**AN OPENING REFLECTION** was provided by Lloyd Van Vactor of Northshore United Church of Christ.

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

**MINUTES** of the April 12, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** EISCC Treasurer Pat McDermott ([pmcdermott@amnis.com](mailto:pmcdermott@amnis.com)) provided a written summary:

*At 4/30/2011 cash balances total approximately \$50,000. First quarter billings brought our accounts receivable balance to more than \$193,000. Collections will begin in early May.. Nothing unusual was noted during the month. Monthly patterns of income and expense are consistent with prior periods.*

**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 full with a small waiting list.

**Save the Date!** CFH has scheduled their yearly fundraising luncheon for **Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will be sure to provide more details as planning for the event unfolds.

Although the warmth of spring is barely upon us, CFH and the Sophia Way are already making plans for this winter's Eastside Severe Weather Shelter.

To better keep up with news about Congregations for the Homeless, EISCC members are encouraged to sign up for their monthly e-newsletter by dropping an email to [staceyw@cfhomeless.org](mailto:staceyw@cfhomeless.org).

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** EISCC President JoAnne Way reported that the Sophia Way's recent "Culinary Journey" event raised some \$65,000 before expenses.

Residents will be moving into the newly renovated Holly House within the next two weeks.

**LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR:** EISCC Legislative Coordinator Nancy Bent that in these waning days of the special session of the Washington State Legislature, support is needed for two important issues: HB2048 which supports several critical housing and homelessness programs and SB 5944 which would give voters an opportunity to improve decision-making in the state budget process.

**EISCC EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND UPDATE:** Hopelink's Dave Bowlan (425-943-7558) reported that between April 1, 2010 and April 30, 2011 donations to the EISCC Emergency Services Fund totaled \$19,373.05. Contributions were received from:

- Aldersgate United Methodist Church
- All Saints Episcopal Church
- Bellevue Christian Church
- Church of the Redeemer
- Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
- Eastgate Congregational Church
- Eastside Friends Meeting
- Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Newport Presbyterian Church
- Overlake Park Presbyterian Church
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
- St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
- St. Louise Catholic Church
- St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

## Services Provided with EISCC Emergency Services Funds

Service	Households	Amount
Water/Electric/Gas	66	\$6,517.06
Prescriptions	31	\$2,049.60
Eviction Prevention	30	\$7,074.50
Bus Tickets	85	\$3,065.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>\$18,706.16</b>

Dave thanked everyone for their contributions to this vital fund.

**PROGRAM:**

**CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS:** Congregations for Kids, a coalition of local congregations, helps students from low income families within the Bellevue School District have a Good Start Back to School. Partnering with the school district, Eastside businesses and community organizations, CFK equips these students with the backpacks and supplies they need for the school year.

Congregations for Kids is sponsored by the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council.

- So far in the 2010-11 school year, CFK has helped 1,699 students from kindergarten through high school, a 17% increase over last year. District staff chooses the students they feel would most benefit from the 22.3% of the student population who qualify for the free and reduced price lunch program, up from 20.8% last year and 17.7% two years ago. The district provides the numbers, genders, grade levels, and schools of those who need help, never the student's names. CFK is the only organization in Bellevue that provides backpacks and school supplies tailored for these students throughout the district – 28 schools this year. In the first 15 years, CFK has filled over 13,600 requests.
- Donation drives usually begin around July 17th. Donations will be turned in Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup> from 10: a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the project site: the Stevenson Elementary School gym – 14220 NE 8<sup>th</sup> St., Bellevue.
- Items needed: elementary/MS/HS backpacks, 1.5" and 2" binders, simple calculators, composition books, sets of 24 crayons, dividers, erasers, folders with pockets, glue sticks, highlighters, 3"x5" white lined index cards, sets of 10 thin classic colored markers, sets of 8 washable wide classic colored markers, lined wide & college-ruled notebook paper, pencil boxes & pouches, sets of pencils, sets of 12 colored pencils, black/blue/red ballpoint pens, erasable pens, post-it notes, report covers with fasteners, 12" rulers, pointed scissors, fine/ultra fine black sharpies, wide and college-ruled spiral notebooks, gift cards (especially from Target), and checks made out to Congregations for Kids/EISCC to buy more supplies.
- The project's value in 2010 was over \$56,000, based on our inventory estimated prices of backpacks and what goes into them: \$22 for k-2<sup>nd</sup>, \$35 for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, \$44 for middle school, and \$42 for high school.
- Helping so far in this coming summer's 16<sup>th</sup> annual project are: Aldersgate United Methodist; Bellevue First Congregational Church; Bellevue First United Methodist; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – Bellevue Third and Cougar Mountain Wards; Episcopal Church of the Resurrection; Cross of Christ Lutheran; East Shore Unitarian; Eastgate Congregational UCC; First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue; Grace Lutheran; Holy Cross Lutheran; Newport Covenant; Pilgrim Lutheran; Sacred Heart Catholic; St. Andrew's Lutheran; St. Louise de Marillac Catholic; St. Luke's Lutheran; St. Madeline Sophie Catholic; St. Margaret's Episcopal; St. Peter's United Methodist; St. Thomas Episcopal; Temple B'Nai Torah; Temple De Hirsch Sinai; Westminster Chapel; AYFEEEO, student organization; Alpha Delta Kappa, Sigma Chapter; Bellevue Rotary Club; Costco Wholesale; and the Pease Family Fund.

If you are not listed, CFK would love to hear from you! Volunteers are needed to help with sorting and packing at Stevenson. CFK expects to help us to 2000 students this year.

See the CFK website for details, photos and testimonials at [www.congregations4kids.org](http://www.congregations4kids.org). Contact Congregations for Kids chair Nancy Jacobs at 425-883-6406 or [bnjacobs@frontier.com](mailto:bnjacobs@frontier.com) for more information.

**BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT:** Betty Takahashi, Coordinator of the Bellevue School District's Family Connections Centers and McKinney-Vento Liaison, reported on how the district works to help homeless and low-income students become more successful learners.

Under the provisions of a federal law known as the McKinney-Vento act, local school districts must provide homeless children transportation to and from school free of charge, allowing children to attend their school of origin (the last school enrolled or the school they attended when they first become homeless) regardless of what district the family resides in. It further requires schools to register homeless children even if they lack normally required documents, such as immunization records or proof of residence.

As the Bellevue School District's McKinney-Vento Liaison, Betty works to:

- Determine homeless status
- Arrange transportation
- Request Free Reduced priced lunch
- Coordinate with other school districts to facilitate enrollment
- Inform parents, guardians, and school personnel
- Provide information regarding social services.
- Advocate for unaccompanied youth
- Arbitrate disputes between parents and school district.

The act defines homeless children as homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The Act



then goes on to give examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Children sharing housing due to economic hardship or loss of housing;
- Children living in "motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations"
- Children living in "emergency or transitional shelters"
- Children "awaiting foster care placement"
- Children whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)
- Children living in "cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations..."

**Bellevue McKinney-Vento Students by School:**

Ardmore	2
Bellevue HS	8
Cherry Crest	2
Chinnok MS	5
Eastgate	3
Enatai	8
Highland MS	9
Interlake HS	10
International	1
Lake Hills	12
Medina	1
Newport Heights	3
Newport HS	6
Odle MS	8
Phantom Lake	8
Sammamish HS	17
Sherwood Forest	5
Somerset	4
Spiritridge	3
Stevenson	31
Tillicum MS	8
Woodridge	5

**Bellevue McKinney-Vento Students by Grade**

Grade	No. of Students
Preschool	10
Kindergarten	10
1 <sup>st</sup>	16
2 <sup>nd</sup>	16
3 <sup>rd</sup>	14
4 <sup>th</sup>	10
5 <sup>th</sup>	11
6 <sup>th</sup>	11
7 <sup>th</sup>	11
8 <sup>th</sup>	7
9 <sup>th</sup>	16
10 <sup>th</sup>	9
11 <sup>th</sup>	7
12 <sup>th</sup>	10

**Bellevue Students on Free or Reduced Price Lunch:**

- 22% District-wide
- 49% Ardmore
- 67% Lake Hills
- 33% Phantom Lake
- 49% Sherwood Forest
- 43% Stevenson

**Bellevue School District Interesting Facts:**

- 84 Different Languages spoken
- 75% of students at Stevenson Elementary speak a language other than English.
- 55 Different languages spoken at Interlake
- White students represent less than ½ the student population for the first time this year.

The City of Bellevue funds 5 Family Connections Centers, located at the following elementary schools: Ardmore, Lake Hills, Phantom Lake, Sherwood Forest, Stevenson. The staff at these centers provides support for the educational, health and economic needs of families of all backgrounds. They provide information and referral services in the areas of:

- School (lunch forms, culture, programs. etc.)
- Support school events
- Scholarships for school activities and summer camp
- Medical/dental/health services

- Counseling
- Community Programs
- Parenting Classes

The Family Connections Centers also partner with community groups when district resources alone cannot meet families' needs. For example, they partner with Congregations for Kids.

Other community partners include:

- Operation School Bell ( Sept.-Nov)
- Holiday Support
- Breaktime/Mealtime
- Clothes for Kids ( April-June)
- Baby Corner

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**CITY OF BELLEVUE FAITH COMMUNITY SURVEY:** The City of Bellevue is in the process of collecting data to be included in the City of Bellevue's biennial Human Services Needs Update report that will be available early in 2012. Again this year, and especially now with all the budget cuts and increased needs in the community, they would like to hear from Bellevue congregations about the key needs, trends, and gaps that they are seeing related to human services available in the City of Bellevue.

There are several reasons that Bellevue regularly publishes the Needs Update. First, it gives the Human Services Commission, providers, and the community an understanding of the overall human service needs and trends in the City, the Eastside and King County. Many other groups are very interested in using the information from this survey to help show the impact budget cuts are making on the most vulnerable populations.

The Update also provides a framework for the Commission as they make recommendations for funding. During every allocation cycle, there are more than a few examples of how data from the Update contributes to recommendations from the Commission to fund certain gaps in the community. Finally, the report is often useful to various community groups and non-profit agencies in writing grant applications and for program development and planning.

</f



**EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662**  
**June 14, 2011**

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on May 10, 2011, beginning at 12:00 noon.

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

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS** were made by 17 members and guests.

**MINUTES** of the May 10, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** EISCC Treasurer Pat McDermott ([pmcdermott@amnis.com](mailto:pmcdermott@amnis.com)) provided a written summary: (See May financial reports attached.)

*At 5/31/2011 cash balances total approximately \$92,000. Nothing unusual was noted during the month. Monthly patterns of income and expense are consistent with prior periods.*

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS:** CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or [steve@cfhomeless.org](mailto:steve@cfhomeless.org)) noted that the program had just completed an audit and everything is looking good.

Two men graduated recently from CFH's housing program. They are staying in their apartments, but are now able to pay market rate instead of relying on CFH's subsidy. These are the kinds of success stories the program works for.

The shelter is full with 47 men currently in housing.

CFH is looking to lease another shared house. This has been a successful model for the program.

**Save the Date!** CFH has scheduled their yearly fundraising luncheon for **Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will be sure to provide more details as planning for the event unfolds.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or [director@sophiaway.org](mailto:director@sophiaway.org)) provided a written report:

*First I want to thank all of you for your kind wishes as I r covered from my surgery. I appreciate it deeply and am happy to report that I am 100% up to speed!*

*Today, I am not with you as we kick off our new shelter at St. Luke's and celebrate the opening of the Holly House. At our next meeting I will look forward to reporting further on these capital projects.*

*Mark July 12 on your calendars. The Sophia will be the organization highlighted at the Bellevue Parks movie showing of Despicable Me. Families will love the show and we will be handing out education materials. We hope to see you there . The show begins at 7:30.*

*Also, we would like you to note to your congregations that The Seattle Foundation is giving a prorated matching program to any financial donations brought in on June 23rd. If your congregation was planning to give, perhaps you might like to grow that gift by taking advantage of this opportunity.*

*The Sophia Way continues to try to grow and stretch to meet the needs of women without stretching beyond our ability. We thank you for all you do to aid us in this endeavor to help homeless women.*

*I look forward to speaking with all of you at our next meeting.*

Helen

**CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS:** CFH's Nancy Jacobs ([info@congregations4kids.org](mailto:info@congregations4kids.org)) reported that the program is seriously gearing up for this year's Good Start Back to School program. The Bellevue School District is currently compiling the list of students who will need backpacks and school supplies. The number is expected to be about the same as last year (c. 1,800).

Participating congregations will be turning in their donations starting August 8<sup>th</sup>. There are 29 congregations participating.

**REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR** Betty Spohn gave us the names of the good folks responsible for bringing in today's shared food items: Sandy Lewis, JoAnne Way, Warren Marquardson, and Betty herself. Many thanks.

**WEEKEND SHELTER FOR EASTSIDE HOMELESS YOUTH:** Julie McFarland, Director of Homeless Youth Services for Friends of Youth reported some great news!

You will remember that Friends of Youth operates the Landing, the Eastside's Homeless Youth Shelter at the Bellevue Family YMCA, but this is a weeknight shelter only. Now there will be someplace safe for these young people to stay on the weekend as well.

From now through August 2011, the Landing, will be hosted by Lake Washington United Methodist Church on Friday and Saturday nights. The Landing serves up to 15 youth ages 18-24 per night and provides a warm meal and safe place to sleep.

Friends of Youth is seeking congregations interested in hosting the Landing for weekends beginning in September 2011. If you would like to find out more information, please contact Julie McFarland at 425-869-6490 x314 or email her at [juliem@friendsof youth.org](mailto:juliem@friendsof youth.org).

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Lloyd Van Vactor, Diane Richards and Betty Spohn have agreed to serve as EISCC's 2011 Nominating Committee to identify candidates for EISCC Board of Directors elections that will take place in October.

**PROGRAM: THE TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS IN KING COUNTY – MID-PLAN REVIEW**



- Implementation of a Landlord Liaison Project that has substantially increased access to private market rentals
- Diversion programs that interrupt the institutional circuit of jails and psychiatric hospitals
- A highly functional Funder's Group that issues a consolidated Notice of Funding Availability which, in 2010, included 22 different resources totaling \$56 million.

These wins should be celebrated. A tremendous amount of personal, political and financial capital went into creating this level of success. Few communities with Ten-Year Plans have achieved as much at this point in the process.

That said, we must ask ourselves, why are there still so many homeless people? And, more important, what do we need to do differently to achieve our goal of ending homelessness by 2015?

One new circumstance coloring our efforts and results is the current recession, which is far beyond anything anticipated in 2005. Its effects are substantial, from reduced employment opportunities and family stability to deep cuts in housing and human services funding at the federal and state levels. Ending homelessness will be extremely difficult without restoration of the federal and state cuts, and a return of federal investment in housing supports to the levels, proportionate to the need, that existed in the 1960s and 1970s. Strong federal and state advocacy is therefore needed. Until that level of re-investment occurs, certain local programs can help defray some of these cuts and create some opportunities in the private market, but the ability to overcome those cuts is well beyond the level of power that the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) currently wields.

We must not, however, let the recession serve as an excuse or derail our efforts. In late 2010, just over half way through the Ten Year Plan, the governing bodies of the Committee to End Homelessness embarked on a Mid-Plan Review. This review included a revisiting of the original goals and a broad evaluation of successes and shortfalls in meeting those goals, focused on six key areas: Governance; Prevention; Housing and Services; System Change; Integration with Other Systems; and Political Will.

The review resulted in recommendations for action going forward that fall into three broad categories:

First, there are the overarching, and closely linked priorities of **Performance Measures and Accountability** (including responding to the HEARTH Act); continued **Production of Housing and Services**; and maintenance and enhancement of **Political Will**.

Second, there are opportunities that arise because of changes or initiatives at the federal level: the **Affordable Care Act (Health Care Reform)**, which could dramatically change how we address homelessness; the **National Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness**; and the **Five Year Plan to End Veterans Homelessness**.

Finally, there are the system changes, either building on existing work or by way of new initiatives, that we must make if we are to achieve our goal: completing the **Homeless Families Initiative**; revising **Emergency Housing for Single Adults** so that it becomes a path to housing; better addressing **Homeless Youth and Young Adults**; creating better systems to address **Immigrant and Refugee Communities**; and engaging other systems in **System Level Prevention**.

Even as we commit to implementing these essential new initiatives, several questions remain under discussion, principally whether to reset our timelines to align with the National Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, and how to structure our efforts to best engage the knowledge, wisdom and influence of the Governing Board. These discussions will continue concurrently with implementation of Mid-Plan Review recommendations.

The way will not be easy, but we know what to do and how to do it. We have seen our point-in-time homeless count drop in each of the last two years – even in the face of a massive recession. It will take new investments, but we have shown that those investments save money and create healthier communities. It will take re-aligning existing funding in accordance with the teachings that our data system provides, and holding accountable all parts of the system, funders and providers alike. It will take cooperation across systems, something that we are increasingly seeing in our region in unprecedented ways.

For the complete Mid-Plan Review Report visit <http://www.cehkc.org/Mid-PlanReviewReport.pdf>.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES:** Bridge Disability Ministries will hold a Sunday Evening Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends Sunday, June 26th, 4-6pm, at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 109 SW Normandy Rd, Seattle, 98166. Dinner will be provided. There is no charge, 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 REFLECTION:** EISCC President JoAnne Way offered the following reflection from Dorothy Day:

People say, what is the sense of our small effort?  
They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time,  
Take one step at a time.  
A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions.  
Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that.  
No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless.  
There is too much work to do.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, July 12, 2011, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

**PROGRAM: EASTSIDE TIMEBANK** – Learn more about this innovative program that works like "like an old-time community where neighbors help neighbors, connecting through high-tech tools." The time bank is based on the idea "that each of us has unique gifts, talents, and resources to share, and we all have needs that others can fill."

**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 12, 2011**

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on July 12, 2011, beginning at 12:00 noon.

Opening prayer was provided by EISCC president JoAnne Way.

Thanks to those who brought treats.

Next meeting will be on advocacy.

Self introductions were made.

**Faith Communities Survey:** Alex O'Reilly from the City of Bellevue requested that we fill out a Faith Communities Survey she brought, either now or on line later. To reach the survey click here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011FaithSurvey>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call City of Bellevue Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly at (425) 452-2824 or email her at [aoreilly@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:aoreilly@bellevuewa.gov).

Minutes of the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as distributed.

**Treasurer Pat McDermott** was not able to be present at the meeting, but reporting in writing that at 6/30/2011 cash balances total approximately 102,000. 2nd quarter billings bring accounts receivable to a strong \$187,374. Nothing unusual was noted during the month. Monthly patterns of income and expense are consistent with prior periods. *(Please see attached June financial statement for more detail.)*

**Congregation Reports** - a new feature of the EISCC meeting will be Congregation Reports of interesting human service efforts. Marilyn Meyers reported about several interesting things the East Shore Unitarian Church is doing. The Women's Perspective helped get Holly House ready to house women from Sophia Way. The Peace Team sponsored a Building Bridges Workshop that was an interfaith effort aimed at reaching out to the Muslim community. James Lee was one of the speakers. 150 people attended including Claudia Balducci from Bellevue City Council.

**Sophia Way:** Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285) or [director@sophiaway.org](mailto:director@sophiaway.org) reported that they are trying to keep funding more even. The Intelius Movie at the Park in Bellevue will be in support of Sophia Way. The movie is Despicable Me. 7 new apartments will be at the Coal Creek Apartments. There is a new project at Discovery Heights, and a few new apartments in the Kenmore area. Employment and financial coaching classes continue. In an effort to accomplish more stable and even funding, Sophia way is considering the idea of opening a thrift shop. Helen asked if any congregations have space for this.

Sophia Way will have a volunteer picnic 8/28 at 12:30.

A fundraising luncheon will be at Red Lion on 9/22. Mailings will be sent with more information.

**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 now at St. Thomas in Medina and will move to Overlake Presbyterian in August. 49 are in housing and approximately 35 in the shelter. They are just finishing the half year reports and have a 70% success for achieving long term stable housing.

On August 5-7<sup>th</sup> eat at California Pizza Kitchen to support CFH. CPK will donate an amount equal to 20% of your total bill to CFH!

Also, the second annual fundraiser for CFH will be Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church from 11:30 -1. More information will be provided in the coming months.

**Congregations For Kids:** Nancy Jacobs could not be present but donations are starting to be collected for back packs for kids. Work starts August 5<sup>th</sup> sorting donations and buying supplies.

**PROGRAM: Eastside Time Bank - Dave Asher**

The program started 2 years ago in Kirkland with a United Way grant, and now covers several Eastside communities. Donations are accepted to support the program. Hopelink is the current fiscal agent.

Timebanking is similar to bartering where you provide a service in exchange for a different service that you would like to receive. One of the goals is to build community. The currency in time banking is time, not money. A core value is that everyone can be a valued contributor. Examples of types of services that can be provided are minor home repair, massage, pet care, transportation, and tax help. Services are not necessarily exchanged between two people, but an hour of work can be exchanged for an hour of work from any other member.

Joan Eads has just been hired as a new executive director.

Potlucks and information meetings are always the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30.

Visit [www.eastsidetimebank.org](http://www.eastsidetimebank.org) for an event calendar and more information.

**Announcements:**

**Interfaith Service:** An interfaith Service sponsored by Northlake Unitarian Church will be held at the Kirkland Performing Arts Center at 1:00 PM on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**St Vincent de Paul** representative Sheila Terry attended the meeting and said they would like to reach out more to faith communities. She brought information about St Vincent de Paul. They offer thrift stores, food banks, and case management.

**Community Cookbook to benefit Tent City 4**

Tent City 4 is collecting recipes for a book to raise money for Tent City 4. Recipes are needed by 8/15/2011. Books will cost \$12 and it will be available for the 2011 holidays

The purpose of this project is to raise needed funds for TC4, so our goal is to appeal to a wide variety of cooks.

**SUBMIT RECIPES:** Your favorite recipes in all sizes are welcome, from single servings to recipes for 100 TC4 residents.

Submit recipes at <http://www.typonsave.com/>

In the login window

- Enter the name of the person submitting the recipe
- The group login is tc4
- The password is kpty3

The recipe submission deadline is August 15, 2011.

You may submit recipes from other printed sources, except for a few trademarked or copyrighted recipes, such as Killer Brownies®, Runza®, Derby Pie®, Neiman Marcus® Cookies, and Kentucky Silk Pie. Copyright laws also prohibit using complete works from any book.

**PRE-ORDER COPIES:** Please email [tc4cookbook@gmail.com](mailto:tc4cookbook@gmail.com) to pre-order copies for your congregation (\$12 each, paying later) so we have a reasonable idea of how many books to print.

Questions? Email [tc4cookbook@gmail.com](mailto:tc4cookbook@gmail.com) or call Nyla at 425-298-3250.

**Day of Peace, September 21, 2011:** Flyers were distributed about the September 21<sup>st</sup> Day of Peace at the East Shore Unitarian Church. Paul Chappel will be the keynote speaker and will speak about why peace is possible and how we can achieve it. The program starts at 6PM.

**Bridge Disability Ministries** will hold a Sunday Evening Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends Sunday, August 14th, 4-6pm, at Game Farm Park, 3030 R St, Auburn, 98002. Dinner will be provided. There is no charge, 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.

**Please Note: There will be no EISCC meeting in August**

The next meeting will be September 13<sup>th</sup> and will feature a presentation from Michael Ramos from Church Council of Greater Seattle who will be giving tips on how to encourage advocacy in our congregations. As the social safety net becomes increasingly tattered, we will be exploring ways to stay informed and to share with our legislators our commitment to the most vulnerable in our community.

Diane Richards in lieu of Brian Anderson, Secretary



**EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662**  
**September 13, 2011**

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on September 13, 2011, beginning at 12:00 noon.

**AN OPENING REFLECTION** was provided by EISCC President JoAnne Way.

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

**MINUTES** of the July 12, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** EISCC Treasurer Pat McDermott ([pmcdermott@amnis.com](mailto:pmcdermott@amnis.com)) provided a written summary: (also see complete financial package attached)

*At 8/31/2011 cash balances total approximately 158,000 as 2nd quarter billings have been collected. We are working toward monthly invoicing to King County instead of on a quarterly basis. This will help our cash flow as we will be paid earlier. We started monthly invoicing this month for Congregations for the Homeless and will start Sophia Way in October. Nothing unusual was noted during the month. Monthly patterns of income and expense are consistent with prior periods.*

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS:** CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or [steve@cfhomeless.org](mailto:steve@cfhomeless.org)) reported that the shelter was currently at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church and will be moving to East Shore Unitarian.

**Fundraising Luncheon:** CFH will be holding their second annual fundraising luncheon on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue (1717 Bellevue Way NE). Bill Grace, noted social activist, traveling teacher, storyteller, and architect of ideas will be the guest speaker and a delicious catered lunch will be provided by award-winning Lisa Dupar Catering. The lunch is no cost but reservations are encouraged. Register now by visiting [www.cfhomeless.org](http://www.cfhomeless.org).

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or [director@sophiaway.org](mailto:director@sophiaway.org)) reported on that there are soon to be a total of 70 women who have been moved from homelessness to homes of their own with the help of the Sophia Way.

**Journey Luncheon:** The Sophia Way is hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Journey Luncheon on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel in Bellevue. The program will relate the stories of several women who are on the journey from homelessness to independence and how the Sophia Way assists them on their journey. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required. To register, please call Kathy Rule at 425-463-6285, Ext. 111 or email [events@sophiaway.org](mailto:events@sophiaway.org).

**CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS:** CFH's Nancy Jacobs ([info@congregations4kids.org](mailto:info@congregations4kids.org)) reported on the successful completion of the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Good Start Back to School project. This year, 1,647 students in the Bellevue School District received backpacks and supplies. In addition, CFK packed 115 extra backpacks for students who will enter the district later in the year.

The program provided backpacks and supplies to students in 26 schools with the help of 30 congregations, 3 service organizations, 3 grants, and one corporation.

Many thanks to all who participated.

**REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR** Betty Spohn thanked those responsible for bringing in today's shared food items: Warren Marquardson, Steve Roberts, Lloyd Van Vactor, and Anne St. Germain.

**TOTES TO GO:** A report on a vital new service program called "Totes to Go" that operates in the Northshore School District to provide homeless school children with nutrition for the weekend is now scheduled for the October EISCC meeting. In the meantime, you can get more information about "Totes to Go" by visiting <http://woodinville.patch.com/articles/woodinville-church-helps-feed-homeless-students>.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** The nominating committee placed the following names before the general membership for election to serve on the EISCC board of directors in the coming year:

- President - Dave Emery
- President Elect - Warren Marquardson
- Past President - JoAnne Way
- Secretary - Brian Anderson
- Treasurer - Pat McDermott
- Assistant Secretary - Jan Starr
- Members at Large - Diane Richards
  - Trish Rogers
  - Sandy Lewis
- CFH - Steve Roberts
- Sophia Way - Helen Leuzzi
- CFK - Nancy Jacobs

The election will be held at the next EISCC meeting.

**PROGRAM: THE ROLE OF FAITH COMMUNITIES IN ADVOCATING FOR HUMAN SERVICES**

Michael Ramos, Executive Director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, reported on sobering news that shows that 46 million people in the United States (one out of every six persons) lives in poverty. The news is even worse for African American and Latinos households with 27 percent living below the poverty line.

This is a scandal the existence of which calls upon faith communities to speak to this deplorable situation and to help wave a more just society.



The goal should be to create a "sufficient, sustainable, livelihood for all."

Ramos suggested that housing is the pivotal factor that will lead to a better life for those in our community who struggle and advocacy efforts should focus on creating safe, affordable, supportive homes for all.

The circle of housing includes many things: child care, nutrition, employment, basic transportation, etc.

The Church Council is preparing its legislative priorities for the coming year. Among them are these priorities also shared by the Committee to End Homelessness in King County:

**Continue to Support Services to Help People Stabilize their Lives:**

***Ensure adequate funding of the Home Security Fund***

The Home Security Fund, generated by fees on the recording of real estate documents, creates a key resource for ending homelessness. It funds a broad array of very effective programs from housing for mentally ill single adults to family housing to independent youth housing. Recently, however, the legislature has been calling on the Home Security Fund to fund more and more programs, without adding revenue. As a result, the Home Security Fund faces a shortfall of more than \$10 million in the current biennium, jumping to more than \$32 million if the recording fees passed in HB 2331 are allowed to sunset. The legislature must resist adding any more programs to the Home Security Fund, and should pass HB 2048, which would extend the \$20 per document fee imposed by HB to 2017, and should close the existing shortfall by adding a \$10 per document recording fee through 2015.

**Create Urgently Needed Housing:**

***Continue to Fund the Washington State Housing Trust Fund***

Affordable housing is the essential, stable base from which families and individuals grow and thrive. Education, jobs, and health care depend on stable housing. The Housing Trust Fund supports all types of affordable housing and leverages four times its funding from other public, private and philanthropic sources. The last two sessions have, however, seen both cuts and targeting that have drastically reduced the production of housing to the end homelessness. We need to recognize the number of projects in the pipeline that need this last piece to succeed and fund it to the maximum extent feasible.

**Don't Further Cut Safety Net Programs**

***Preserve and Strengthen the Housing and Essential Needs Program***

In 2011 the Disability Lifeline (DL) Program was dissolved. To replace a small portion of the available services this program offered, three new programs were developed through HB 2082. The Housing and Essential Needs Program, one of the three, was created to provide housing and essential needs assistance to people previously receiving cash assistance through DL. The total investment in this population will drop from \$168 million per biennium to \$64 million per biennium.

The program has a number of problematic aspects that we may need to ask the legislature to fix, but it also represents an extremely important investment in stability for these households. As this program is currently funded through general fund dollars it is at risk of cancellation due to drops in revenues. Even as we work to address issues with the program, we need to ensure that it does not become yet another cut in the safety net.

**Prevent Youth Homelessness**

***Further fund Foster Youth to 21***

As of October 1, 2010 parents or relative guardians who have been receiving adoption assistance payments or kinship guardianship assistance payments can be eligible to continue to receive those payments for special needs children through the Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 through the age of 21.

Approximately half of all American youth between the ages of 18-24 live still live with their parents. However, support systems for young people in foster care transitioning to adulthood are extremely limited, as they are no longer under the purview of the state child welfare system. Every year in Washington State, 400 to 500 eighteen-year-olds "age-out" of the foster care system when no permanent placement is found. Although both Washington State and federal legislation have addressed some issues these youth face, many of these young people continue to face numerous challenges in: the years following their exit from care, including challenges with education and housing. This bill will extend services to these youth to help ensure a successful path into adulthood.

Since 2006, we have made strong efforts to reduce the number of youth aging out of foster care without a plan for safe housing. 2011 was the first year that Washington State opted in to the federal Fostering Connections Act, resulting in an entitlement for youth turning 18 without a high school diploma or OED, so that they can remain in care until 21. The 2012 proposal will be to identify another population to opt in to FCA. States receive a 50% match for any group that is covered by the Fostering Connections Act.

**County Budget:** Ramos says that with the waxing and waning of federal funding there has been a gradual devolution of responsibility for creating adequate supportive housing. This means that what was once a federal responsibility was handed to the state and then to the local level.

The human services funding gap widened by 50 million dollars between 2006 and 2011. And there has been serious discussion at the county level as to whether the county should be funding human services at all.

**Faith Community Advocacy:** The voice of the faith community is extremely important. Advocacy matters. It makes a difference.

The recent passage of the Veterans and Human Services Levy shows that elected officials can be asked to do the right thing and voters can be asked to affirm this.

What faith communities bring is the ability to create relationships with elected officials sharing with them the stories of those we serve.

Advocacy is a lifelong commitment. Everyone has a role to play. Those on the Eastside actually have a disproportionate power to influence as too often voices from Seattle and other urban area are more easily dismissed.



## How to Call, Email, or Write Your State Legislators

The first step is to find out who your legislators are. To find out what district you live in and who your legislators are visit <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/> and enter your address.

Then,

Give them a call: Use the toll-free hotline to leave a message for one or all three of you legislators and the Governor: **1-800-562-600**

Operators are standing by during session: Weekdays 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Weekends: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

You may also call your legislator's offices directly.

Write a letter:

Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O. Box 404 [leg. dist.]  
Olympia, WA 98504-04[leg. dist.]

Write an email:

Write you legislator's lastname.firstname@leg.wa.gov (For example, [doe.john@leg.wa.gov](mailto:doe.john@leg.wa.gov))

View the Church Council of Greater Seattle's legislative agenda, more information on advocating, and helpful links on the Church Council's website at [www.thechurchcouncil.org](http://www.thechurchcouncil.org). Don't forget to sign up for our Action Alert to receive updates on legislation and calls to action.

[www.thechurchcouncil.org](http://www.thechurchcouncil.org) 206-525-1213 [info@thechurchcouncil.org](mailto:info@thechurchcouncil.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**SOPHIA WAY JOURNEY LUNCHEON:** The Sophia Way is hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Journey Luncheon on **Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel in Bellevue**. The program will relate the stories of several women who are on the journey from homelessness to independence and how the Sophia Way assists them on their journey. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required. To register, please call Kathy Rule at 425-463-6285, Ext. 111 or email [events@sophiaway.org](mailto:events@sophiaway.org).

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON:** CFH will be holding their second annual fundraising luncheon on **Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue** (1717 Bellevue Way NE). Bill Grace, noted social activist, traveling teacher, storyteller, and architect of ideas will be the guest speaker and a delicious catered lunch will be provided by award-winning Lisa Dupar Catering. The lunch is no cost but reservations are encouraged. Register now by visiting [www.cfhomeless.org](http://www.cfhomeless.org).

## CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS EXPAND TO SOUTH BELLEVUE

Cultural Conversations, a program that has helped women in the Crossroads neighborhood make connections with each other and the community, is now expanding to South Bellevue.

Women of all ages and backgrounds are invited to a planning meeting at the South Bellevue Community Center, 14509 SE Newport Way, on Thursday, Sept. 22, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

In January 2010 the City of Bellevue introduced Cultural Conversations, inviting women to meet for tea and cookies at the Crossroads Community Center every six weeks. City staff started the program after some women from the Bellevue mosque receiving help at the Crossroads Mini City Hall spoke of feeling disconnected. Since then, more than 50 women have participated.

Regular attendees have included women of many faiths and cultures, all with a common desire to make new friends and to expand their own cultural understanding.

"Cultural Conversations has been a way for me to meet the wise and wonderful women of my community whom I would not have met in any other way," said Karina O'Malley.

Our meetings break down barriers and let us learn from each other in a safe environment. Every meeting is an education and an invigorating boost."

Activities at Cultural Conversations events have included:

- Exploring probing questions about faiths and cultures in a safe environment;
- Personal storytelling – addressing themes including cultural stereotypes, love and marriage in different cultures, intergenerational relationships and gender roles;
- Ethnic potlucks, sharing of foods and customs;
- Service projects;
- "Difficult Conversations" training; and
- Presentation on the power of global education for girls and women.

The city provides meeting space, facilitation and refreshments, but the group will customize its gatherings to meet the needs of those participating. There is no charge to attend, and women of all ages, faiths, races and cultures are encouraged to participate.

For more information on the new South Bellevue group or the Crossroads/East Bellevue group, or to RSVP for the Sept. 22 meeting, please contact Julie Ellenhorn at 425-452-5372 or [jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov).

**BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES:** Bridge Disability Ministries will hold a Sunday Evening Celebration for people living with disabilities and



friends Sunday, September 25th, 4-6pm, at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 18826 3rd Ave NW, Shoreline, 98177. Dinner will be provided. There is no charge, everyone is welcome and volunteers are very much appreciated.

Bridge will also hold a Sunday Evening Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends Sunday, October 23rd, 4-6pm, at Newport Presbyterian Church, 4010 120th Ave SE, Bellevue 98006. Dinner will be provided. Again, there is no charge, 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 on either Bridge event.

**EASTSIDE MONTH OF CONCERN FOR THE HUNGRY:** Saturday, September 24th kicks off the annual Eastside Month of Concern for the Hungry. Hopelink, the ARAS Foundation, the Renewal Food Bank, the Issaquah Food Bank, the Mt. Si Helping Hands Food Bank, the Mercer Island Pantry and the Emergency Feeding Program are joining with the cities of Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah, North Bend, Sammamish, Bellevue, North Bend, and Mercer Island to increase awareness of the ongoing problem of local hunger and, more importantly, to collect food donations to restock area food pantries.

Food drives will be conducted at area grocery stores beginning September 24th and continuing through October 22nd. For more information, please visit <http://www.eastsideforum.org/fooddrive/>. **Share What You Can! Help feed your hungry neighbors.**

**CHANGE THE WORLD! GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY. LEARN HOW . . . NOW:** Saturday, October 1, 2011. 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Northshore United Church of Christ (18900 168th Ave NE, Woodinville, WA)

Convert your passions into actions with the help of a powerhouse panel of national and local experts ready to share hard won lessons over decades of advocacy on behalf of the homeless, the environment, gay rights and progressive Christian values.

The panel will feature Nancy Amidei, Rev. Rich Gamble, Jessie Dye and Rev. Lois E. Van Leer.

The workshop is free and open to all. A light lunch will be provided.

**DINNER DONORS NEEDED!** Did you know that Friends of Youth operates the only overnight emergency shelter for homeless young adults on the Eastside? **THE LANDING** is open seven nights a week. Sunday through Thursday at the Bellevue YMCA in Bellevue and Friday and Saturday at St. Peters United Methodist Church in Bellevue. They provide safe shelter for the night, a shower, hygiene supplies, and health services. However, we rely on volunteers like you to help us provide a hot meal. With 15 clients each night, this is a great volunteer opportunity for a small group or family.

Dinner donors prepare a hot, ready-to-serve meal and bring it to The Landing at 8:45pm. Popular dinner ideas include: Pastas, Enchiladas, Tacos, Salads, Chicken, Hearty Soups, Pizza, Potato Bar, Casseroles, and Chili.

The Landing also asks that dinner donors purchase milk for breakfast, if possible.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Schnelle, Volunteer Coordinator, at 425-869-6490, ext. 309 or [cheryl@friendsofyouth.org](mailto:cheryl@friendsofyouth.org).

**CLOSING REFLECTION:** Betty Spohn of Newport Presbyterian Church offered a closing reflection.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

**PROGRAM: CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS** – Learn more about EISCC's own Congregations for the Homeless which helps to end homelessness by assisting men successfully make the transition from the street to permanent housing.

**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 8, 2011**

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on November 8, 2011, beginning at 12:00 noon.

AN OPENING REFLECTION was provided by EISCC President Dave Emery.

MINUTES of the October 11, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: EISCC Treasurer Pat McDermott ([pmcdermott@amnis.com](mailto:pmcdermott@amnis.com)) provided a written summary:

**CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS:** CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or [steve@cforhomeless.org](mailto:steve@cforhomeless.org)) reported that the shelter was currently at First Congregational Church of Bellevue with the food being provided by Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Bellevue and will be moving First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue in December.

A Thanksgiving dinner for the men in the shelter program is being planned by First Congregational Church with St. Thomas Episcopal preparing to provide turkeys for the men in housing.

The shelter program is moving men into housing pretty rapidly right now (5 or 6 this month alone) so the waiting list to get into the shelter is relatively short.

**THE SOPHIA WAY:** Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or [director@sophiaway.org](mailto:director@sophiaway.org)) reported the Holly House has only been open 4 months but has already served 10 clients with 6 still staying in Holly House and 4 others having been helped to move to other housing.

The capital campaign to raise funds to remodel the space at St. Luke's Lutheran Church for use as an expanded Sophia Way shelter is coming to a close. They are only \$20,000 short of their \$500.00 goal. Interested churches can still "buy a cubicle" – donating funds to help install cubicles for each of the women in the shelter that will allow for raised beds and more private space.

The St. Luke's shelter has a planned opening of June 2012. The YWCA day shelter will be moving to St. Luke's at that time as well. The Congregational Church where both programs have been housed is offering their space to Congregations for the Homeless for use as a men's day shelter.

**LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR** Nancy Bent encouraged congregations to participate in an "Offering of Letters" in anticipation of the WA State Special Legislative Session that will begin at the end of the month. That session will focus on balancing the state's budget and people of faith are encouraged to consider contacting Governor Gregoire and their state legislators, asking them to consider a balanced approach - both spending cuts and increased revenue - to balance the budget.

Stress that the budget should not be balanced on the backs of the poor.

You can provide stamped postcards and addresses at church. Members write a few sentences, address the cards to their own legislators and Gov. Gregoire, and the cards are mailed.

For your members who would like more time or information, here is a suggestion: You (EISCC member) can collect email addresses from those interested and send them something like this:

*Thank you so much for your interest in writing the governor and our state legislators, encouraging them to take a balanced approach that will result in a budget that preserves as much as possible the vital social service programs that the poor and vulnerable among us rely on to survive.*

*The Faith Action Network aids this kind of advocacy with information and sample letters which may be of use to you.*

To contact Governor Gregoire on this issue, please visit <http://capwiz.com/elca/wa/issues/alert/?alertid=55954501&queueid=7548558846>.

To contact your legislators, please visit <http://capwiz.com/elca/wa/issues/alert/?alertid=55959501&queueid=7548570841>.

Please feel free to edit their sample emails, adding your own story and your own feelings.

*Thank you for joining your voice to the chorus of voices seeking economic justice for "the least of these."*

**EISCC EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND REPORT:** Hopelink's Dave Bowlan (425-943-7558) reported that between January 1 and October 31, 2011 donations to the EISCC Emergency Services Fund totaled \$16,848.30. Contributions were received from:

- Aldersgate United Methodist Church
- Bellevue Christian Church
- Church of the Redeemer
- Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
- Eastside Friends Meeting
- Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Holy Cross Lutheran Church
- Newport Presbyterian Church
- Overlake Park Presbyterian Church
- St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
- St. Louise Catholic Church
- St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

Services Provided with EISCC Emergency Services Fund:

Service	Households	Amount
Water/Electric/Gas	36	\$4,430.56
Prescriptions	17	\$1,177.46
Eviction Prevention	30	\$8252.74
Other	1	\$115.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>\$13,976.54</b>

Dave thanked everyone for their contributions to this vital fund.

**EASTSIDE WINTER SHELTER:** Beginning late November, two overnight winter shelters will open in Bellevue. The shelters will open every night at 8:30 pm and remain open until 7:30 am. Both will open on November 22, 2011 and will remain open nightly through March 15, 2012 (*contingent on sufficient funding*).

**Shelter for women & families with children:** This shelter will be located at Salvation Army Eastside Corps (911 – 164<sup>th</sup> Ave SE in Bellevue). The shelter will be run by trained, experienced staff from The Sophia Way.



**Shelter for men:** This winter shelter will be located at St. Peter's United Methodist Church (17222 NE 8<sup>th</sup> St. in Bellevue) and will accommodate up to 50 men. Trained staff from Congregations for the Homeless will oversee the operation of this shelter.

Providing shelter is the first and possibly the most critical step toward ending homelessness. Criteria-based shelters (those that are open only when the outside temperature drops below a set minimum) are harder to staff and it is very difficult to let those you wish to serve when they are and are not open. Being open every night during the winter provides a lifeline for people who would otherwise be sleeping outdoors and increases the possibility of connections to other needed services and long term housing options. For many individuals, developing a relationship of trust with the shelter staff builds a bridge to programmatic shelters that assist clients through case management and housing.

This season the Eastside Winter Shelter is expected to provide 2,670 bed-nights, a 745% increase over last year.

In order for the Eastside Winter Shelter to provide these services to the homeless, we need donations of money, supplies and time. A financial gift of \$1,500 pays one shelter's rent for a month, \$100 helps pay for supplies. All financial donations go directly to serving clients of the shelter.

Drives for in-kind donations are also needed:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•	<!--[endif]-->100 blankets
<!--[if !supportLists]-->•	<!--[endif]-->paper products to serve dinner and breakfast to 70 people every day
<!--[if !supportLists]-->•	<!--[endif]-->disinfectant wipes
<!--[if !supportLists]-->•	<!--[endif]-->large clear trash bags
<!--[if !supportLists]-->•	<!--[endif]-->ground coffee
<!--[if !supportLists]-->•	<!--[endif]-->protein bars
<!--[if !supportLists]-->•	<!--[endif]-->cereal

Emergency supplies needed:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•	<!--[endif]-->A dozen flashlights and attendant batteries
<!--[if !supportLists]-->•	<!--[endif]-->twelve cases of bottled water
<!--[if !supportLists]-->•	<!--[endif]-->cases of canned chili
<!--[if !supportLists]-->•	<!--[endif]-->cases of canned tuna
<!--[if !supportLists]-->•	<!--[endif]-->boxes of crackers.

If your community is interested in donating a meal or meals, please contact Andrea Liggett at 425-822-0295 ext. 110 or [andrea@hfkparish.org](mailto:andrea@hfkparish.org). To volunteer, arrange a supply drive or get more information, please contact Barbara Wootner, Logistics Manager for the Eastside Winter Shelter at 425-417-4815 or [wintershelter@SophiaWay.org](mailto:wintershelter@SophiaWay.org). Please mail financial donations to Eastside Winter Shelter 700 108<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Suite 201, Bellevue WA 98004.

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

<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->  
<!--[endif]-->

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**HOPELINK HOLIDAY GIFT ROOM – VOLUNTEERS & GIFTS NEEDED:** Hopelink needs your help to make their gift room a success.

Available dates:

December 5-19<sup>th</sup>: Gift Room Setup  
December 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>: Running Gift Room  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>: Gift Room Cleanup

If you are interested, please contact Dave at 425-943-7558 or [dbowlan@hope-link.org](mailto:dbowlan@hope-link.org).

Please drop off toys before December 16<sup>th</sup> at Hopelink, 14812 Main St. in Bellevue.

**BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES:** Bridge Disability Ministries will hold a Sunday Evening Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends **Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm**, at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 4228 Factoria Blvd SE, Bellevue 98006. Dinner will be provided. There is no charge, 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.

Bridge Disability Ministries will hold their annual Christmas Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends on **Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 12-2:30pm**, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 12600 84<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Kirkland, 98034. Dinner will be provided. There is no charge, 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.

**MEANINGFUL NIGHT AT THE MOVIES – EASTSIDE:** Holy Cross Lutheran Church (4315 129<sup>th</sup> Place SE) will be showing **abUSed: The Postville Raid** on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in their Fellowship Hall. The film is by Critically acclaimed director Luis Argueta, is the story of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid on the town of Postville Iowa in 2008. The raid, the most expensive and one of the largest raids in US history, presents human face of the issue of immigration. It is a cautionary tale against abuses of constitutional human rights.

The evening will begin with a light meal and following the film there will be a brief discussion.

**VOLUNTEER CHORE SERVICES:** (a program of Catholic Community Services) Over 80 individuals are on the waiting list on the Eastside for a volunteer to come in their home and help with light house chores, laundry, cooking, grocery shopping, transportation, companionship, or yard care. Volunteers work 1:1 with the individual and also group yard work clean ups are available. Volunteers help seniors or adults living with disabilities remain living independently. Training is provided and mileage is reimbursed. Must fill out application and background check. For more information contact Andrea Briehl, Eastside Coordinator, at 425-679-0342 or [adriab@ccswv.org](mailto:adriab@ccswv.org).

**SHOEBOXES OF JOY:** Volunteer Chore Services is also looking for volunteers to participate in the annual Shoeboxes of Joy program. Help decorate shoeboxes and then fill with small gifts. Volunteer Chore Services will deliver the shoebox gift packages to elderly and disabled members of your neighborhood who may be isolated from family and friends during the holiday season. By giving a few hours of your time to create *Shoeboxes of Joy* filled with treats, you give a gift of caring and holiday cheer. Please contact our Intake Specialist, Cindy Jensen at 1-888-649-6850 / 206-328-5787 or email [vc@ccswv.org](mailto:vc@ccswv.org), if you would like to participate or need more information. Note: Call now. Shoeboxes must be dropped off at a Catholic Community Services office on or before Friday, December 2nd, 2011.

**ISSAQUAH MEAL PROGRAM:** Nightly meal served @ 5:30, no questions asked. Doors open from 5:00-6:00 p.m. 180 E Sunset Way in Issaquah connected to the Fire station. Questions call 425-679-0342.

**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 28th St in Bellevue) on December 1 & 2, 2011 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and **December 3 & 4, 2011 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.

**Nourishing Networks' Inaugural Thanksgiving Summit:** A new effort is underway to shape a bold new regional response to the growing gaps of hunger in N/E King County.

The intent of this effort is to create significant new levels of capacity and competence within local communities to identify and to help fill the changing and growing gaps that the formal system of human service support is unable to do. This dynamic vision is based on building a new type of self-organizing network model that provides a way to systematically link the latent resources of volunteer time and talent within communities to the need at hand, beginning with hunger and beginning with the many grassroots efforts already underway. It is their hope that this model will become replicable across our county and region.



**Details: Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-4:00pm**  
**Holy Spirit Lutheran Church (10021 NE 124th St in Kirkland)**

Hosted by:  
 Nourishing Networks Regional Leadership Team  
 Norman Rice, President/CEO; The Seattle Foundation  
 Linda Nageotte, President/CEO; Food Lifeline  
 Fred Jarrett, Deputy King County Executive  
 Jane Todd, Principal; Redmond High School  
 Marilyn Mason Plunkett, President/CEO; Hopelink

You and your congregations are invited to be a part of this exciting and action-focused gathering as networks across north and east King County come together in a profoundly different way to address a critical community challenge.

This unique gathering is designed for serious community change-makers who care, who understand, and who can make things happen.

Register at: <http://thanksgivingssummit.eventbrite.com>

**NEWPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ALTERNATIVE GIFTS FAIR - Taking a Step Toward Peace** will be held November 20, 2011, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Newport's Alternative Gifts Fair is the perfect place to purchase your gifts and at the same time take a step toward peace! One of the first steps in creating peace is to ensure all people have their basic needs met. By purchasing Fair Trade items and gifts of animals, clothing, school supplies, etc., you will help to provide others with their basic needs both locally and globally. This year's fair will also include a special table for items made by members at Newport with proceeds going to the charitable organization of their choice. Newport Presbyterian is located at 4010 120th Avenue SE in Bellevue.

**WHERE THE HEART IS – A Community Cookbook in Support of Tent City 4** is in production. Recipes will be accepted until December 1, 2011. Delivery of the cookbook is expected in mid-winter.

You can submit recipes online at <http://www.typonsave.com>. Two recipes per person, but recipes from Aunt Susan or even Betty Crocker, with you as an additional contributor on the recipe form, are welcome. Please indicate the number of serving in the recipe subtitle line.

You can also pre-order cookbooks or CDs for your organization. The book order will be placed once they have the 300 recipes and commitments for 100 books or CDs. Get your order in now so the cookbooks can be ordered sooner rather than later. Books and CDs will cost \$12.

Email [tc4cookbook@gmail.com](mailto:tc4cookbook@gmail.com) with your group pre-order. Let them know:

```
<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The name of your organization
<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->How to contact you
<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->How many cookbooks your organization will purchase
<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->How many CDs of these recipes your organization will purchase.
```

Questions? Email [tc4cookbook@gmail.com](mailto:tc4cookbook@gmail.com) or call Nyla at 425-298-3250.

**CLOSING REFLECTION:** Al Bagley of Overlake Park Presbyterian Church offered a closing reflection.

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, January 10, 2011, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

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

Brian Anderson, EISCC Secretary