

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES
P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662
January 10, 2012

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on January 10, 2012, beginning at 12:00 noon.

WELCOME: The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC President Dave Emery.

AN OPENING REFLECTION was provided by Steve Roberts, Executive Director of Congregations for the Homeless.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 22 members and guests.

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

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

December activity was extremely strong. We ended the year with almost \$390,000 in cash. Year-end financial statements should be available next week. As in prior years, we will have Monson & Bass, an outside CPA firm, review our statements.

FEBRUARY MEETING DATE CHANGE: The date of the next EISCC meeting will be changed to **Tuesday, February 7th at noon**. We are moving the date up a week in order to allow EISCC members to attend the annual InterFaith Advocacy Day in Olympia. For more information on InterFaith Advocacy Day please visit <http://fanwa.org/2011/12/20/ifad2012/>.

Joining us February 7th will be Alice Woldt, co-director of the Faith Action Network, one of the sponsors of Interfaith Advocacy Day.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR Sandy Lewis reported that addition help providing refreshment will be needed for the EISCC meetings in February, March, and May. Many thanks to Trish Rogers, Deanna Murray, JoAnne Way and Sandy Lewis for today's refreshments.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS: CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or steve@cfhomeless.org) reported the program "had a great Christmas." Gifts were provided for all 32 men in the shelter program, the 49 in housing and the 42 at the Winter shelter.

CFH will have two focuses in the coming year:

Employment – CFH will be building a more intentional job development plan for the men in the program. They are recruiting additional staff.

Drop-in Center – A men's drop-in day center will be opened in the space at Bellevue's First Congregational Church that is being vacated by Angeline's Day Center for Women (they are following the Sophia Way into the newly renovated space at St. Luke's Lutheran Church). With a scheduled opening in August, this will effectively mean that CFH will be open 24 hours a day giving staff even more time to work with the men in the program.

EASTSIDE WINTER SHELTER: Two overnight winter shelters are open to serve the Eastside. The shelters will open every night at 8:30 pm and remain open until 7:30 am. The shelters will operate 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 – 164th 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 8th St. in Bellevue) and will accommodate up to 50 men. Trained staff from Congregations for the Homeless will oversee the operation of this shelter.

Currently, the women's shelter is serving 10 to 12 women each night; the men's 40 to 45 each night.

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. 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. Please mail financial donations to Eastside Winter Shelter 700 108th Ave NE Suite 201, Bellevue WA 98004.

THE SOPHIA WAY: Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or director@sophiaway.org) reported a need for help providing Thursday night meals at the Sophia Way Women's shelter at Bellevue First Congregational Church.

Helen also thanked everyone responsible for all the blessings they were able to share with Sophia Way clients during the holidays.

Sophia's Place at St. Luke's – There is only \$21,000 left to raise of the nearly \$600,000 project to remodel the space at St. Luke's Lutheran Church to provide expanded day center and overnight shelter accommodations. The remaining funds will buy 7 cubicles at \$3,000 apiece that will provide space for a raised bed, a nightstand, and a sense of privacy and home for the women in the shelter. Please contact Helen if you or your faith community is interested in making a donation.

A Culinary Journey Dinner and Auction - Join the Sophia Way on Thursday, February 16, 2012 for their Culinary Journey Dinner and Auction to be held at the Harbor Club in Bellevue.

Twelve of the Northwest's top chefs will each prepare a unique and incomparable culinary experience. And the auction will feature something for everyone. For reservations, please visit <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e5cztz88c94916d9&llr=b6h6bzdab>. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Rule at Kathy@sophiaway.org or 425-463-6285, ext. 111).

Helen also mentioned that housing units will be short for Sophia Way clients in the coming year and they are looking to do what they did with the Holly House at East Shore Unitarian – remodel a parish house for use as transitional housing. If you know of a suitable property, please contact Helen.

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS: CFH's Nancy Jacobs (info@congregations4kids.org) reported that the program has served 1699 kids with backpacks and supplies so far this year. In addition, they were able to respond to a request for flash drives, donating 38 drives found at the bargain rate of \$7.00 each. These flash drives enable students to do their work at school and take it with them.

PROGRAM: MENTAL HEALTH CHAPLAINCY – WORKING TO REBUILD FAITH IN THE STRUGGLE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS

Craig Rennebohm of Mental Health Chaplaincy and the Faith Action Network's Mental Health Training Network shared stories from his 25 years of working with those suffering from the isolation of mental illness.

Almost 10 percent of us experience a serious mental illness, such as major depression, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia, in the course of our lives. An imbalance in brain chemistry can cause prolonged confusion, suffering, and despair, as well as severe alterations in our thinking, feeling, and capacity for relationships. Our spirit and soul are deeply affected.

In order to be truly welcoming, faith communities must find ways of supporting individuals and families who are struggling with mental health issues. Support from a faith community is often central to recovery.

Mental health ministry is not something that happens elsewhere – somewhere in the larger world – but rather something that happens with our faith communities.

A lot has been learned about the brain over the 25 years that Craig has been working in the field. Appropriate care has been developed to help individuals and families challenged by serious mental health, drug, and aging issues.

Mental health teams can be put together within congregations helping faith communities become more comfortable sharing these journeys.

Companionship: The five aspects of this kind of companionship are:

- Hospitality
- Neighboring – discovering what we have in common.
- Taking a Side by Side Stance – sharing the journey looking out at the world together rather than pushing or confronting

- Taking a Side by Side Stance – sharing the journey looking out at the world together rather than pushing or confronting
- Listening – letting another person share their story without taking over.
- Accompaniment

You need not train yourself to be a mental health professional. All of us can be companions.

The Faith Action Mental Health Training Network helps equip faith groups to support recovery and wellness with individuals and families facing mental health issues in their lives. Clergy and congregations are often a first resource people turn to for help with emotional concerns and mental health questions. The network offers a variety of resources, trainings and consultation.

Faith Action Network's (FAN) Mental Health Training Network

Mission

FAN's Mental Health Training Network (MHTN) equips faith groups in the state of Washington to support recovery and wellness with individuals and families facing serious and persistent mental health issues. Our focus includes the mental health needs of children; persons who have experienced trauma; individuals facing mental illness; struggles with substance use (alcohol and drugs); and the mental health issues of older adults.

Program Description

The Mental Health Training Network provides consultation; training and resources to help faith groups in local communities develop mental health ministries. Our basic goal is to build active mental health ministry teams in local congregations throughout the state.

A congregational mental health team consists of a children and family contact person; an individual with experience and understanding of trauma; an individual or family member familiar with mental illness; a person knowledgeable about drugs and alcohol; and a person familiar with the mental health issues of aging. Team members do not diagnose or provide treatment. The mental health team helps provide educational opportunities and resources; helps welcome individuals and families facing mental health concerns into the life of the community; assists people in connecting with appropriate care; and helps develop spiritual support for recovery and wellness.

We help recruit and equip local mental health ministers, to provide training, ongoing consultation and resources to congregations and mental health ministry teams in their area.

We encourage local congregations to learn and work together in neighborhood clusters, served by a local mental health minister.

We work with local religious leaders and community mental health groups to create mental health ministry planning committees at a city wide, county or multi-county level.

A network advisory committee meets quarterly to help guide and develop the program.

A network coordinator staffs the project.

Training, Resources and Consultation

The Mental Health Training Network offers training for local mental health ministers.

We offer three basic trainings for clergy and congregations, a mental health ministry toolkit, and a wide range of printed and web resources. The network coordinator is available to assist with organizing a planning committee in your community, assist with training local mental health ministers, developing neighborhood clusters and helping with trainings of clergy and congregations.

Building Mental Health Ministry

FAN will be presenting a hands-on training for clergy, congregational leaders, pastoral counselors, parish nurses, peers, providers and family advocates **Saturday, February 4, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Prospect Congregational Church (1919 E. Prospect, Seattle 98112).**

(Note: A second Seattle training, and again on Saturday, March 17, 2012 Sat., Mar. 17, a second Seattle training, identical to the first, has been added due to scheduling conflicts with the Seattle University Spirituality Book Festival on Feb. 4.)

Congregations are on the front line in responding to individuals and families facing serious mental health issues. Learn how to organize a mental health team in a local congregation to support healing, recovery and wellness. Take home a notebook of key resources on children's mental health, trauma, mental illness, substance use, and mental health issues of aging. Connect with colleagues and local care providers.

Craig Rennebohm will lead the training and will be available to consult with participants in developing mental health ministry education, service and action in your community.

For information or to register, please contact Craig at wcrenne@comcast.net or call Kelle Rose at 206-625-9790.

Lunch will be provided.

Both EISCC President Dave Emery from Bridge Disability Ministries (Chaplain@bridgemin.org) or Craig (wcrenne@comcast.net) are available to come to your congregation to share information deepening ministry to those with intellectual or mental health issues. In fact, they will be at Newport Presbyterian Church (4020 120th Ave SE in Bellevue) leading adult education classes on January 29th and February 5th. For more information contact Newport at 425-746-6111.

One final note: Dave reminds us that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will be holding their national convention in Seattle June 27-31, 2012 providing one more way for interested congregations to learn more and to become involved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

HOPELINK: Dave Bowlan thanked everyone who helped out with Hopelink's holiday events. They were able to provide 1,600 gifts to kids and distributed over 60,000 pounds of food.

ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY DAY: January 25, 2012 sponsored by Earth Ministry. For more information please visit <http://earthministry.org/events/environmental-lobby-day-3>.

INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY: February 14, 2012 sponsored by the Faith Action Network. For more information visit <http://fanwa.org/2011/12/20/ifad2012/>

IMMIGRATION: A JOURNEY OF FAITH: Join Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (308 4th Avenue South) for a series that challenges participants to explore more creative and effective immigration policies. Starting on Wednesday, January 25 and continuing the next three Wednesday evenings classes will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on the topic of immigration. The four sessions will focus on:

- January 25 – The History of Immigration – shaping us and the US
- February 1 – Current Immigration Policy – human lives and legislation
- February 8 – Comprehensive Reform – myths, facts and faith in action
- February 15 – Immigration – a journey of faith

Instructors will be Roberta Ray, Stacy Kitahata and Diakonda Gurning, all members of the Washington New Sanctuary Movement. For more information please call 425- 822-0171.

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 Saturday, May 19, 2012. If your congregation is interested in participating, please contact Sandy Lewis at 425-562-1228.

CLOSING REFLECTION: The meeting ended with a closing reflection from Lloyd Van Vactor of Northshore United Church of Christ.

NEXT MEETING: (Please Note Date Change)
Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

PROGRAM: PROGRAM: ADVOCACY – MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD IN OLYMPIA AND BEYOND. Featuring Alice Woldt from the Faith Action Network.

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

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 7, 2012

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on February 7, 2012, beginning at 12:00 noon.

WELCOME: The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC President Dave Emery.

AN OPENING REFLECTION was provided by Jan Starr of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Bellevue.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 17 members and guests.

MINUTES of the January 10, 2012 meeting were approved as distributed.

REPORTS: Because the meeting was held a week earlier than normally scheduled, reports from the EISCC Treasurer, Congregations for the Homeless, The Sophia Way and Congregations for Kids were not available.

PROGRAM: FAITH ACTION NETWORK – FAITH COMMUNITIES MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD IN OLYMPIA AND BEYOND

Alice Woldt of the Faith Action Network reported on social justice issues before the current WA State Legislature.

Alice quoted from their mission statement, saying that the "Faith Action Network is a faith-inspired statewide partnership striving for a just, compassionate, and sustainable world through community building, education, and courageous public action."

She noted that the part about "courageous public action" can get you into trouble because FAN is a coalition of faith communities that do not agree on everything all the time. But it is FAN's hope that we can work together on those things that we agree upon and not let our differences get in the way.

FAN was created in 2011 when the Washington Association of Churches and the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State merged to create an interfaith partnership for the common good.

FAN now coordinates the yearly Interfaith Advocacy Day, scheduled this year for Tuesday, February 14, 2012. Interfaith Advocacy Day is an opportunity for all faith communities to participate in an interfaith gathering, to attend workshops, and to advocate in Olympia.

This year, they are calling on faith communities to unite hearts and minds and to call on our legislators to raise revenue for the common good.

FAN's 2012 Legislative Agenda:

- I. Reduce Hunger, Homelessness, & Poverty
 - Preserve School Meals state funding
 - Preserve funding for State Food Assistance Program
 - Support passage of HB 2048 (Document Recording Fee)
 - Preserve Housing Essential Needs Program
 - Oppose the 48-month lifetime limit for TANF recipients
 - Support the Jobs Package Initiative
- II. Increase Affordable and Accessible Housing & Health Care
 - Preserve the Basic Health Plan
 - Support Fair Tenants Screening bill
 - Preserve current funding level for Apple Health for Kids
 - Preserve current Medicaid eligibility level
 - Preserve funding in the capital budget for the Housing Trust Fund
- III. Reform the Criminal Justice System
 - Preserve funding in the capital budget for the Housing Trust Fund
 - Support Second Chance Sentencing Reform bill
 - Support Three Strikes law reform
 - Support Abolishing the Death Penalty bill
- IV. Care for the Environment & Promote Sustainable Agriculture
 - Preserve WIC & Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program
 - Support Toxic-Free Kids bill
 - Sustain the success of I-937, the Clean Energy Initiative
 - Prevent attempts to weaken, delay, or roll back state environmental laws and programs
- V. Advocate for Civil & Human Rights
 - Support Human Trafficking reforms
 - Support Farmworker & Pesticide Drift bill
 - Support a prevention-focused Gang bill
 - Support Marriage Equality Effort
 - Support E-verify Ban bill
- VI. Advocate for Accessible and Quality Public Education
 - Preserve Levy Equalization funding level
 - VII. Support Revenue
 - 2012 Referendum Package
 - Repeal Tax Preferences
 - Support establishment of a State Bank

FAN helps people of faith stay on top of what is going on in Olympia through **Advocacy Alerts** and **E-Newsletters**.

Individuals are encouraged to sign up for these alerts at through the link at the FAN website at www.fanwa.org. By signing up, you're doing more than just receiving e-mail alerts. FAN wants you to be part of their statewide network for justice. They ask for your address so we can notify you of local events and the need for action in your legislative or congressional district. Of course, all information is private and confidential.

Another way that faith communities can become involved in the work of FAN is to consider becoming an **Advocating Congregation**.

The Ministry of Advocacy

As people of faith, we are called to serve all people, striving for justice and peace in all the earth. In this covenant we are called not only to care for the immediate needs of those who are suffering; we are also called to attend to the root causes of that suffering. To this end we use our voices in places where important political and economic decisions are being made, to *advocate* on behalf of those who are marginalized, impoverished, or oppressed.

God gives us different gifts – gifts that equip us for different callings. The ministry of advocacy is not limited to one set of policy positions and certainly not to one political party. We may be called to advocate for different issues, with some called to advocate on behalf of the hungry and others called to advocate for civil and human rights. Nevertheless we all remain called to a partnership for the common good as we carry out our different callings.

The Advocating Congregations Network

As people of faith we are empowered by God to do much. Thousands of individuals have signed up to receive and respond to e-advocacy alerts from the Faith Action Network. During the state legislative session, these individuals are on hand to contact their elected officials at a moment's notice when important decisions are being made. This network of individuals is an effective voice for our neighbors in need.

An even stronger voice, however, comes from communities of faith in ministry together. The need for these distinctively congregational voices led to the formation of the Advocating Congregations Network. Congregations within this network carry out a variety of advocacy ministries in partnership with each other and with the Faith Action Network. These congregations do not necessarily take stands on particular issues, but they affirm their identity as a people called to advocate on behalf of those who are marginalized, impoverished, and oppressed. It is FAN's hope that by becoming further "joined and knit together" with each other and with the Faith Action Network, advocating congregations might be better equipped to carry out the particular advocacy ministries to which they are called.

What the Ministry of an Advocating Congregation Looks Like

Advocating congregations are called to carry out advocacy ministries in a variety of ways. No congregation does every kind of ministry, but each congregation carries out the advocacy ministries that best fit its particular gifts and its local situation.

For example, advocating congregations can spread awareness of advocacy issues through education, preaching, and community forums. They can engage in witness before public officials to plead the cause of those suffering injustice. Congregations also offer their financial support to the ministry of the Faith Action Network through personal and/or congregational contributions.

Your congregation may already be active in social ministry, and there may be several members of your congregation already active in the ministry of advocacy. Or your congregation may be starting to discern its next steps on the road to advocacy ministry. Either way, the Advocating Congregations Network offers your congregation mutual support and an opportunity for greater effectiveness in your advocacy.

A Covenant with the Lutheran Public Policy Office

In covenant with your congregation, the Faith Action Network pledges to be a resource for you and a partner with you as you do the ministry of advocacy in your community and throughout the state of Washington.

FAN will:

- Provide your congregation with advocacy resources.
- Make staff members available for preaching and teaching.
- Offer consultation on congregational advocacy plans.
- Distribute legislative updates through our website and through our e-advocacy network.
- Represent the voice of the church in the halls of the state legislature.
- Communicate to legislators the concerns of the church regarding public policy issues.
- Help coordinate an annual Faith Advocacy Day in Olympia for individuals and congregations.
- Set up appointments between you and your legislators, when requested, and offer our assistance in coordinating public forums hosted by your congregation.
- Communicate clearly our policy positions and legislative progress.
- Listen to your perspective on policy issues that affect you locally and at the county and state levels.

To learn how your faith community can become a part of the Advocating Congregations network, visit www.fanwa.org or contact them at 206-625-9790.

Advocacy is easy!

Individuals wishing to let their legislators know where they stand on specific issues can call the **Legislative Hotline at 1-800-522-6000**. Callers to the Hotline can leave a brief message for their district legislators or for the Governor or Lt. Governor on issues of concern or on questions they may have about bills or laws. These messages are forwarded electronically to the appropriate individuals.

You can send them a letter or email. If you are unsure who your legislators are or how to contact them you can find out by visiting <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>. Just type in your address and they'll let you know who represents you and how you can contact them.

The important thing is to become involved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NAMI EASTSIDE: The Eastside chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness holds monthly educational forums on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland on meaningful topics for people impacted by mental illness. Each presentation is followed by a question and answer session with the speakers.

All presentations are FREE and open to the public.

Contact NAMI Eastside at 425-885-NAMI (6264) or info@nami-eastside.org for more information.

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 Saturday, May 19, 2012. If your congregation is interested in participating, please contact Sandy Lewis at 425-562-1228.

BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES will hold a Sunday Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends on Sunday, February 26th, 10:30am – 1pm, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 3604 NE 10th Ct, Renton, 98056. An inclusive worship service will be followed by dinner. There is no charge, everyone is welcome and volunteers are very much appreciated. Call (425)885-1006 ext#118 or email indam@bridgemin.org for more information.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE: It started with a crazy idea. Over the last 10 years, Peace Day has been proved as an opportunity for life-saving activities and action by individuals worldwide. For Peace Day September 21, 2012, Peace One Day is calling for and working towards a day of ceasefire and non-violence - the Global Truce 2012 campaign. It is hoped that this will be the largest reduction in global violence in recorded history, both domestically and internationally – and the largest ever gathering of individuals in the name of peace.

Peace Day is more than symbolic. The impact of a day of global ceasefire and non-violence cannot be underestimated. Peace Day is an annual opportunity for UN agencies and humanitarian organizations to focus their ongoing life-saving activities within a global context.

Whether it's through music, sports, dance, or art, Peace Day is about spreading peace your way. Whatever action you want to take to mark this day is up to you. Peace Day is building a movement for peace to make sure that as many people as possible bring peace into their communities on Peace Day 2012, as part of the Global Truce 2012 campaign.

For more information about this global effort, visit www.peaceoneday.org.

SHARE YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS WITH FAN: FAN is committed to sharing events throughout Washington that help promote faith-filled communities and the common good. If you know of upcoming events or advocacy needs, particularly outside the Puget Sound area, please send them to fan@fanwa.org for inclusion in their e-newsletters.

XFINITY Connect

spohnbw@comcast.net

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March EISCC Minutes

From : Brian Anderson <brian@emergencyfeeding.org>

Tue, Mar 27, 2012 12:07 PM

Subject : March EISCC Minutes

 1 attachment

To : brian@emergencyfeeding.org

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES
P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662
March 13, 2012

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on March 13, 2012, beginning at 12:00 noon.

WELCOME: The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC President Dave Emery.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 31 members and guests.

MINUTES of the February 7, 2012 meeting were approved as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: EISCC Treasurer Pat McDermott (pmcdermott@amnis.com) was unable to attend. A written report will be distributed when available.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR Sandy Lewis thanked Sierra Wagner, Nadine Bentsen, Warren Marquardson, & Jan Starr for today's refreshments.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS: CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or steve@cfhomeless.org) reported that shelter operations are going smoothly. The shelter was at Grace Lutheran in March and is moving to Westminster Chapel in April.

CFH continues to move 2 to 3 men per month from the shelter program into transitional housing.

CFH is in the final interview process to fill the new position of Job Developer. They are also looking for an additional case manager.

March 15th will mark the closure of the Winter Shelter for this year. It was a very successful program. Both the women's and men's shelters were full with the men's shelter taking in between 50 and 55 men every night.

THE SOPHIA WAY: Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or director@sophiaway.org) was unable to attend. EISCC Secretary Brian Anderson reported that Bellevue's Symetra Financial was offering a \$5,000 grant to one of a specified number of local nonprofits. The Sophia Way is running neck and neck with the Humane Society. EISCC members were encouraged to participate.

EISCC Board Member Warren Marquardson reported that the Sophia Way anticipates signing a lease with Bellevue's St. Luke's Lutheran Church this month to house Sophia's Place at St. Luke's with construction to begin in the spring.

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS: CFH's Nancy Jacobs (info@congregations4kids.org) reported that CFK will be sending out letters to congregations shortly encouraging them to participate in this year's Good Start Back to School project. The latest projection is that they will have to supply backpacks and school supplies to 1705 students in order to meet the need.

LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR Nancy Bent reported on issues of social justice being debated in Olympia during the current special legislative session. She suggests that EISCC members consider calling, emailing or writing letters to their Senators and Representative encouraging them to

- Restore funding to Housing and Essential Needs and CHSD Homelessness Assistance and to
- Pass bipartisan HB 2794, proposed by House Republican Leader Rep. Richard DeBolt, which eliminates a tax loophole for financial institutions operating in more than 10 states.

EISCC members interested in taking a more active role in influencing decisions in Olympia are also encouraged to subscribe to an email "Action Alert" service like those of the Faith Action Network (www.fanwa.org).

EISCC EASTSIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND: A formal report of activity in this fund will be presented at the April 10th EISCC meeting.

BELLEVUE TRANSIT SURVEY

The City of Bellevue has designed an online survey and is encouraging faith communities to bring their perspective to bear on how best to

This is your opportunity to weigh in on the transit issues that affect members of our congregations and those we serve. Inadequate public transportation was a top problem indicated in Bellevue's [Human Services Needs Update](#).

Don't let this opportunity slip by. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6TJV5L3>.

For more information on the project consult the [project webpage](#) or contact Franz Loewenherz, Senior Transportation Planner at the City of Bellevue, at 425-452-4077 or FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov.

PROGRAM: THE CHANGING FACE OF THE EASTSIDE

Gwen Rousseau, City of Bellevue, Associate Planner / Demographer (grousseau@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2743) reported on data collected for the both the 2010 Census and the 2006-10 American Community Survey that details how the Eastside has changed over the last several years. *(Please note: a copy of Gwen's presentation is attached.)*

Demographic Characteristics:

- Population growth: From 2000 to 2010 population on the Eastside grew by over 17 %, faster than King County as a whole, which grew by 11% & Washington State, which grew by 14%.
- Age Distribution: Although young adults comprise the largest proportion of Eastside residents, their proportion has been declining over the decades.
- Median Age: The average median age on the Eastside rose slightly going from 36.5 in 2000 to 38.0 in 2010.
- Percent Children: Snoqualmie Valley and the Issaquah Plateau had the highest percentages of children at 28% in 2010.
- Percent Older Adults: Tracts in north and east King County tended to have higher concentrations of older adults as well as tracts adjacent to water in 2010.
- Race and Ethnicity: In 1990 14.7 % of Bellevue's population were of a minority race or ethnicity, in 2000 28.3% and in 2010 40.8%.
- Percent Minority: The Eastside has an increasingly multi-cultural/cosmopolitan population. In 2010, minorities comprised 32% of the Eastside population.
- Percent Asian: In 2010, Asians comprised 17% of the Eastside's population.
- Growth in Bellevue's Asian Population: Bellevue's Asian Indian population has been the fastest growing subgroup, increasing nearly threefold since 2000.
- Percent Black /African American: Blacks/African Americans comprised a relatively small percentage of the Eastside population in 2010 of less than 3%.
- Percent Hispanic or Latino: Hispanics/Latinos comprised 7% of the Eastside population in 2010.
- Race & Ethnic Diversity of Bellevue's Youth & Older Adults: In 2010, Bellevue's older adult population was much less racially and ethnically diverse than Bellevue's population under the age of 18.

Social Characteristics:

- Percent Foreign Born: In 2006-2010, the foreign born population comprised 22% of the Eastside population.
- Percent of 5 yr + that speak a language other than English at home: About one quarter of the Eastside population spoke a language other than English at home in 2006-2010.
- Disability Status by Age and Sex: About 31 percent of Bellevue's older adults had one or more disabilities in 2010.
- Disability Types of Older Adults by Sex: In 2010, females had a higher percentage of every type of disability.
- Percent of 25 yr + with Bachelor's degree or higher: In 2006-2010, over half of Eastside residents had a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Economic Characteristics:

- Percent of civilian employed population in Mgmt, Prof., or related occupations: The percentage of Bellevue residents who work in management, professional and related occupations continues to increase going from 40% in 1990 to 53% in 2000 to 58% in 2005-2009.
- Percent of civilian employed population in Service occupations: The Eastside has one of the lowest percentages of workers employed in service occupations at 11%.
- Median Household Income: Median household incomes were highest on the Eastside compared the rest of King County.

- Per Capita Income: Per Capita income on the Eastside was also high.
- Percent of individuals in poverty: The Eastside had some of the lowest poverty rates in the King County in 2006-2010.

Commuting to Work:

- Percent of 16 yr + workers that drove alone to work: Workers farther away from major job centers tended to drive alone to work in 2006-2010.
- Percent of 16 yr + workers that used public transit: About 7% of Eastside residents commuted by public transit in 2006-2010.

Housing and Household Characteristics:

- Average Household Size: The average household size of Eastside households in 2010 was 2.53.
- Household Types: Married couples without children comprised the largest percentage of Eastside households in 2010.
- Home Ownership: Nearly 68 percent of Eastside householders owned their own home in 2010.
- Housing Affordability: Over a third of all Eastside households were paying 30% or more of their incomes on housing in 2006-2010.

Bellevue Trends:

Demographic Characteristic	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	Percent Change 2000 to 2010
Population	86,874	109,827	122,363	11.40%
Percent Minority	14.70%	38.3%	40.80%	61.90
Percent Asian	9.90%	17.40%	27.50%	
Median Age	35.4	38.2	38.5	-0.78%
Percent Population 65 & Over	10.4%	13.4%	13.9%	
Housing Units	37,428	48,396	55,551	14.80%
Vacancy Rate	4.50%	5.30%	9.40%	

Demographic Characteristic	1990 Census	2000 Census	2008-2010 ACS
Percent population foreign born	13%	25%	33%
Percent population (age 5+) that spoke a language other than English at home	14%	27%	37%
Percent of adults (age 25+) with at least a bachelor's degree	46%	54%	61%
Percent employed in management, business, science and arts	40%	53%	60%
Household median income (in 2010 inflation adjusted dollars)	\$74,355	\$81,563	\$81.113
Percent of individuals with incomes below poverty	5.6%	5.7%	5.8%
Percent of workers commuting to work by means other than driving alone	5.7%	26%	34%

Gwen is happy to answer questions about specific concerns and to provide information to your congregation as you seek to serve your specific communities. Her phone number is (425) 452-2743 and her email address is grousseau@bellevuewa.gov.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 Saturday, May 19, 2012. If your congregation is interested in participating, please contact Sandy Lewis at 425-562-1228.

BELLEVUE NORISHING NETWORKS – PANTRY PACKS PROGRAM: EISCC's own Jan Starr from Holy Cross Lutheran Church and Farida Hakim from the Islamic Center of the Eastside along with Lori Tatum from the Jubilee REACH Center are spearheading an effort to provide weekend nutrition to needy students in the Bellevue school district. They have set up a "backpack program" that is feeding 30 students at Highland Middle School and Sammamish High School. Their efforts were recently featured on the Bellevue KOMO News blog (<http://bellevue.komonews.com/news/community-spirit/730855-bellevue-volunteer-describes-inaugural-pantry-pack-drop#.T2jzrRTN-Zq.email>)

To find out how your congregation can become involved, contact Jan Starr at jdstarrs@gmail.com.

FRIENDS OF YOUTH: As the economic recession drags on, the number of homeless youth and young adults continues to grow. As part of their commitment to supporting homeless youth, Friends of Youth is embarking on an exciting new project to build a permanent emergency shelter and daytime drop-in center for homeless youth and young adults.

The Landing, their current emergency shelter, operates 5 nights a week at one location and 2 nights a week at another. Their current drop-in office is open a few days a week and has very limited services for youth. More must be done to help reach homeless youth and move them from the streets to safe and stable housing.

Friends of Youth's goal is a remodeled facility that will become a full-service drop-in center during the day and a stable emergency shelter at night.

For more information and to find out how you and your congregation can help, please visit www.friendsofyouth.org or email them at info@friendsofyouth.org.

DINNER DONORS NEEDED: The Landing, the Eastside's overnight shelter for homeless young adults, ages 18-24, is looking for congregations willing to help provide dinners once a month. For more information contact Paola at paola@friendsofyouth.org.

ONE GOD, THREE FAITHS: BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER: In response to overwhelming interest in their Fall interfaith visits, the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center is providing a second prayer series.

Join them for an opportunity to participate in prayer and learn about the Jewish, Muslim and Christian traditions, explore sacred space, and share community.

- **Friday, April 13, 2012; 7:30-9:30 p.m. Temple B'nai Torah;** 15727 NE 4th St. Bellevue 98008
- **Thursday, April 26, 2012; 7:00-9:00 p.m. Masjid Ar-Rahmah (MAPS: Muslim Association of Puget Sound);** 17550 NE 67th Ct., Redmond, 9805
- **Wednesday, May 9, 2012; 6:00 -8:00 p.m. Holy Spirit Lutheran Church;** 10021 NE 124th St., Kirkland, 98034

For more information visit <http://www.ipjc.org/events/1god3faiths.html>, call the IPJC at (206) 223-1138 or email them at ipjc@ipjc.org.

SALVATION ARMY EASTSIDE INAUGURAL BREAKFAST: The Eastside Salvation Army feeds 14,000 people a year, five nights a week and through their after school programs over 65 students receive tutoring and daycare in a safe and fun environment. During Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, last year, 2,400 people received food and gifts.

But last year the Eastside Corps had to turn away an additional 1,800 families seeking energy and other emergency assistance due to lack of funds.

The Salvation Army Eastside Corps will be holding their first fundraising breakfast, Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at the Bellevue Hyatt Regency (900 Bellevue Way NE). Registration will begin at 7:15 a.m. with breakfast and a program beginning at 7:30 a.m. (Validated parking will be available in the hotel lot).

The cost is \$75.00 per person and tickets are available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/232243 (contributions are tax deductible)

For more information contact: Lt. Dwelle at (425) 802-9429 or darryck.dwelle@usw.salvationarmy.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 6, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in downtown Bellevue.

CROP Walk is a great way for your congregation to make a visible commitment to combating hunger as marchers take to the streets of downtown Bellevue raising money for Church World Service's global missions and for both Hopelink and Emergency Feeding Program here at home. For more information, visit www.bellevuecropwalk.org.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE: It started with a crazy idea. Over the last 10 years, Peace Day has been proved as an opportunity for life-saving activities and action by individuals worldwide. For Peace Day September 21, 2012, Peace One Day is calling for and working towards a day of ceasefire and non-violence - the Global Truce 2012 campaign. It is hoped that this will be the largest reduction in global violence in recorded history, both domestically and internationally - and the largest ever gathering of individuals in the name of peace.

Peace Day is more than symbolic. The impact of a day of global ceasefire and non-violence cannot be underestimated. Peace Day is an annual opportunity for UN agencies and humanitarian organizations to focus their ongoing life-saving activities within a global context.

Whether it's through music, sports, dance, or art, Peace Day is about spreading peace your way. Whatever action you want to take to mark this day is up to you. Peace Day is building a movement for peace to make sure that as many people as possible bring peace into their communities on Peace Day 2012, as part of the Global Truce 2012 campaign.

For more information about this global effort, visit www.peaceday.org.

*Closing Reflection: Sandy Lewis
Brian Anderson: EISC Secretary*

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES
P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662
April 10, 2012

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on April 10, 2012, beginning at 12:00 noon.

WELCOME: The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC President Dave Emery.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 33 members and guests.

MINUTES of the March 13, 2012 meeting were approved as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: EISCC Treasurer Pat McDermott (pmcdermott@amnis.com) was unable to attend. A written report will be distributed when available.

EISCC President Dave Emery made an important announcement that will be reflected in upcoming financial statements. The EISCC Board of Directors has been serving as the Board of Directors for three organizations – Congregations for the Homeless, the Sophia Way and Congregations for Kids. As CFH and the Sophia Way have expanded services, their ministries have become more complex. Both organizations have asked to establish separate Boards of Directors for their programs in order to establish more involved, better engaged board leadership. The EISCC Board of Directors recognizes their need and all parties are working to establish both Congregations for the Homeless and the Sophia Way as independent 501(c)3 organizations separate from EISCC.

In addition to the establishment of separate Boards of Directors, all assets of the Sophia Way and Congregations for the Homeless will be disbursed to new separate bank accounts and subsequent funds designated to those programs be disbursed upon their receipt.

But while the EISCC Board's relationship with Congregations for the Homeless and the Sophia Way will change, their relationship with EISCC will otherwise remain substantially the same. Both organizations will have special agency status, will continue to report on their activities to EISCC membership, and the close relationships they have established with EISCC member congregations will certainly continue.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR Sandy Lewis thanked Nancy Jacobs, Trish Rogers, Linda Hillsheim, JoAnne Way and Laurie Wick for providing today's refreshments.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS: CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or steve@cfhomeless.org) thanked EISCC for its long association with Congregations for the Homeless noting that EISCC created the program in 1983. The shelter continues to move monthly among 12 EISCC congregations while over time the program has been able to add 60 housing units. Their mission remains the same – to help homeless men migrate from the streets into homes of their own.

The need for the program continues to be strong in our community. The Winter Shelter, operated jointly by CFH and the Sophia Way served 253 unduplicated men this year – a truly humbling number. Having that many men on the Eastside come in contact with CFH through the Winter Shelter suggests that there are many more men out there that might use a shelter than the program is currently serving.

But as important as the shelter operation is, it is housing that is the real solution to homeless.

Steve also reported that CFH is adding a job developer this month.

The shelter is currently at Westminster Chapel and will be moving to Cross of Christ Lutheran.

THE SOPHIA WAY: Sophia Way Executive Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or director@sophiaway.org) also thanked EISCC for stepping up to be their parent organization and noted that the Sophia Way is looking forward to EISCC's continued support.

Helen reported that the capital campaign to finance the expanded Sophia Way shelter at St. Luke's Lutheran Church is complete and they should be breaking ground by the end of the month. The new shelter will double their capacity, offering 21 raised bed in cubicles for increased privacy. Raised beds are key as disabled and more mature ladies will not be asked to have to get up and down off the ground in order to use the floor mats in use at the current shelter.

Helen is working to bring the Angeline's Day Shelter along with them to the new location. Their goal is to eventually establish a 24/7 operation.

There are many opportunities to become more involved from making financial donations to donating goods and services to hands-on volunteer opportunities. For more information contact Helen or visit <http://www.sophiaway.org/>.

The Sophia Way is once again participating in the Seattle Foundation's annual GiveBig event – where donations made to the Sophia Way on May 2, 2012 will be eligible to be matched from a stretch pool of community funders. Bulletin insert are available and more information is available at <http://www.sophiaway.org/>.

Sophia's Shop – Helen announced plans to open a thrift store and employment training facility called "Sophia's Shop." The goal is to teach clients work skills preparing them for employment.

Helen reported that the Winter Shelter served 366 unduplicated people (women and children) this year providing thousands of bed nights. Like Steve and Congregations for the Homeless, experience with the Winter Shelter showed that there are quite a number of people in crisis who are in need of services but who are not currently being reached.

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS: CFK's Nancy Jacobs (info@congregations4kids.org) reported that publicity has begun on the 17th annual Good Start Back to School project. Letters have gone out to 26 PTAs and to congregations. Information packets will be ready by month's end and will include stories of some of the 1705 students served last year.

The latest projection is that they will have to supply backpacks and school supplies to 1705 students in order to meet the need.

CFK has set a goal of providing 1,800 kids with backpacks and school supplies this year.

LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR Nancy Bent urged EISCC members to contact their legislators asking that they preserve funding for the Housing Trust Fund. An advocacy alert on this subject was emailed to the EISCC broadcast list.

EISCC EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND REPORT: Hopelink's Dave Bowlan (425-943-7558) reported that between December 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012 donations to the EISCC Emergency Services Fund totaled \$6,913.91. Contributions were received from:

- Bellevue Christian Church
- Church of the Redeemer
- Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
- Eastgate Congregational Church
- Eastside Friends Meeting
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Holy Cross Lutheran Church
- Newport Presbyterian Church
- Overlake Park Presbyterian Church
- Sacred Heart Church
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
- St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
- St. Louise Catholic Church

Services Provided with EISCC Emergency Services Fund:

Service	Households	Amount
Eviction Prevention	20	\$13,073.00
Other	7	\$957.00
Total	27	\$14,030.00

Dave reported that in order to offer even more help to those reached by this fund, the decision was made to change from a yearly limit of \$300 per household to \$1,000. When, for example, a family is faced with \$300 towards the rent tends to wipe out their savings, leaving them vulnerable to the same predicament when the next month's rent is due. The larger limit helps a family stabilize giving them time to make necessary changes.

Dave thanked all of those who contributed to this vital fund.

PROGRAM: 2011-12 EASTSIDE HUMAN SERVICES TRENDS

Alex O'Reilly, City of Bellevue Planner (aoreilly@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2824) reported findings from the 2011-2012 Human Services Needs Update, produced by city staff every two years.

Many people assume that since the Eastside is a very prosperous community that there are no pressing needs. The Needs Study helps the Eastside human services community help ensure that this prosperity is shared by all.

The purpose of the Needs Study is to:

- Guide the recommendations for allocation of 2013-2014 Human Services Fund and 2013 CDBG funds by the Human Services Commission to the City Council
- Direct work of Human Services Division staff
- Provide information for other City departments, community groups, faith communities, service clubs, agencies and regional planning efforts
- Provide information to other groups in the State and the County to demonstrate the human services needs in East King County/Bellevue

Sources of Data

- Surveys: residents, consumers, providers, faith communities
- Community Conversations: (older adults, multi-cultural, low-income, homeless young adults, parents, unemployed people, city employees)
- Key Informant Interviews
- Other Data: review of numerous reports, 2010 Census, American Community Survey data, studies and web sites

Environmental Scan

- Recession/Economic Downturn/Slow Recovery
- High unemployment rate
- Funding cuts:
 - King County: Completely cut all general fund dollars for human services in 2011, except for some DV and Sexual Assault Services. Vets and Human Services Levy brought some relief.
 - State: Cuts to health care, childcare subsidies, services for older adults and people with disabilities, mental health, Disability Lifeline, Basic Health, many others were already made; new budget soon to be voted on.
 - Foundations: Giving went down between 2008-2009

Key Issues Identified by the Human Services Commission

- Many Bellevue children and youth are being adversely affected by the poor economy, with parents losing their jobs and their homes.
- Many "safety net" services such as emergency financial services, food, health care, and dental care for Bellevue residents are at risk due to cuts to state and county funds.
- Prevention services for children such as childcare and parenting support are needed to avoid future problems.
- More vets, including women, are beginning to return to our community and are dealing with issues such as PTSD and physical disabilities.
- The increase in diverse populations requires that we adapt and plan for how to provide appropriate services.

Findings: Overall Key Indicators of Need

Unemployment and Underemployment

- Unemployment rate in Bellevue 8.3% in 2011, up from 3.3% in 2007
- Many jobs in the post-recession economy pay less, do not offer health benefits and do not pay for the cost of the basics
- Unemployment was rated by 55% in phone/online survey as top community problem
- Healthcare
- More uninsured adults seeking care from local low-income clinics
- 55% of phone/online survey participants rated lack of healthcare a major or moderate community problem

Housing

- Bellevue School District: Students in the Homeless Program increased over 70% between 2006-2012 (55-145)
- Lack of affordable housing rated by over 60% of phone/online survey respondents as the top community problem
- One Night Count and Eastside Winter Shelter: Data shows a growing homeless population of adults.

Food

- Bellevue School District: Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program increased from 2,993 (17%) (2009) to 3,971 (22.3%) students (2012)
- Food Bank Usage: 20% increase between 1/09 and 1/10, and another 12% between 1/10 and 1/11 at Hopelink in Bellevue
- Basic Food Plan: Food Stamps usage in Bellevue increased from 4,152 in 2007 to 7,860 in 2010

Other Needs Identified

- Increase in reports of domestic violence; providers believe more victims are staying in unsafe situations due to the economy
- Low-cost childcare options are decreasing due to change of eligibility rules for State Working Connections Program
- Agencies who work with victims of sexual assault are receiving more requests for basic needs and legal assistance as well as counseling.
- About 23% of vets who reside in KC reside in East KC. Some are in need of more support from local agencies than the VA or King County can provide, such as DV services, counseling and basic needs.

Specific Populations

- Refugees and Immigrants
- More culturally and linguistically appropriate services, ESL and citizenship, assistance for parents, and opportunities for sharing their strengths and cultures needed
- People with Disabilities
- Need for early intervention services, childcare for children with special needs, employment, affordable housing, and support for aging caregivers
- School Aged Children and Youth

- Increased need for mental health services, support for homeless older youth, substance abuse treatment, and support for families, especially those new to this culture. Bullying, gangs and internet safety issues were mentioned as a concern.
- Older Adults
- Transportation, in-home care, adult day health care, support for family caregivers

Demographic Trends

- Increasing population of older adults: 2010 Census found 13.9%
- Ethnic diversity continues to increase:
- Nearly 33% of residents are foreign-born (Asian, Hispanics the fastest growing) up from 25% in 2000
- Nearly 37% of residents speak a language other than English at home (2008-2010 ACS)
- In the Bellevue School District, non-white students are over 50% (51.2%) of the total enrollment in 2011-2012
- Poverty level slowly increased:
- Individuals: 1990-5.6%; 2008-2010-5.*%
- Families: 1990-3.4% ; 2009-2010-3.7%
- Subgroups like older adults and single female with children are higher

Timeline for City of Bellevue Funding

- Human Services Commission discussed funding strategies in January and February 2012
- Focus Areas: Program addresses recession related Needs and/or Program has lost funding from federal, state, local and/or private sources
- Call for proposals from the community – March 15, 2012; 17 cities in North, East and South King County have joint online proposal
- Proposals are due April 26, 2012. Timeframe for review: May-August 2012
- Recommendations presented to Council for 2013-2014 funding in fall 2012

After reviewing the findings of the Needs Study, Alex asked EISCC members to reflect on:

- What, if any, signs of human services needs are you seeing in Bellevue/East King County? Any changes in the types of consumers or their needs?
- Do you know where to direct people for help when they need it?
- What seems to be the biggest gaps??

EISCC members interested in providing additional feedback should contact Alex O'Reilly at aoreilly@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2824.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SOPHIA WAY MOTHER-DAUGHTER LUNCHEON: Saturday, May 12th at 1:00 pm

Karina O'Malley, Sophia Way Board Member, will be the featured guest speaker at a Mother-Daughter Luncheon hosted by Unity of Bellevue. Karina will be speaking about homelessness on the Eastside and The Sophia Way's journey with homeless women on their path to housing and independence.

Invite your mothers, daughters, granddaughters, sisters, aunts, nieces and friends to this event! Make sure to also WEAR YOUR FAVORITE HAT!

Ticket price for the catered luncheon is \$25 for adults and \$6 for children under 12 yrs. \$14 of your ticket price is tax-deductible and proceeds will go towards Unity of Bellevue and The Sophia Way.

To purchase tickets or to find out more about this event, please contact Suzanne Marlatt-Stewart at 425-747-5950 or email suzannes@unityofbellevue.org.

Additional Information is also available on Unity of Bellevue's Events Page: <http://www.unityofbellevue.org/calendar/v/4/12/2012?eid=1661>

BELLEVUE CROP WALK: Sunday, May 6, 2012

Register now for the 11th annual Bellevue CROP Walk. Sponsored by Church World Service, the Bellevue CROP walk raises money to combat hunger both locally and globally.

This year's walk will be held Sunday, May 6, 2012 beginning at First Congregational Church (752 108th Ave NE in downtown Bellevue). Registration begins at 12:30 and the walk begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be a community barbecue following the walk.

The goal for 2012: 250+ walkers raising \$25,000.

The CROP Walk is a great way for your congregation to make a visible commitment to combating hunger as marchers take to the streets of downtown Bellevue raising money for Church World Service's global missions and for both Hopelink and Emergency Feeding Program here at home. For more information, visit www.bellevuecropwalk.org.

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 Saturday, May 19, 2012. If your congregation is interested in participating, please contact Sandy Lewis at 425-562-1228.

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For more information visit <http://www.ipjc.org/events/1god3faiths.html>, call the IPJC at (206) 223-1138 or email them at ipjc@ipjc.org.

BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES will hold a Sunday Evening Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends on **Sunday, April 29th, 4-6pm, at Highland Covenant Church**, (15022 Bel-Red Rd., Bellevue, 98007). 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 for more information.

Bridge will hold another Sunday Evening Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends on **Sunday, May 20th, 4-6pm, at First Baptist Church**, (701 1st St, Kirkland, 98033). Again, 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 for more information.

THE OTHER SIDE OF IMMIGRATION: The film The Other Side of Immigration will be shown Friday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (308 4th Ave South in Kirkland). Based on over 700 interviews with men and women living in the Mexican countryside, the film asks why so many Mexicans leave home to work in the United States and what happens to the families and communities they leave behind.

Through an approach that is both subtle and thought-provoking, the film challenges audiences to imagine more creative and effective immigration policies.

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For more information visit <http://www.northlakeuu.org/>

FILMS OF PEACE AND CONSEQUENCE: A series of films hosted by Eastside Friends Meeting (Quakers), the first three in May with two more to follow in September.

These films are presented in support of Truce 2012, a global ceasefire planned for The International Day of Peace, September 21, 2012. Humanitarian projects are planned for this day that cannot take place under fire.

Saturday, May 5, 7 PM – *Peace One Day, Part 3*

Third in a series of documentaries by Peace Day activist Jeremy Gilley, this is a stand-alone film. 45 min.

Saturday, May 12, 7 PM – *A Force More Powerful (Pt 1)*

This series explores six successful nonviolent movements in the 20th century. 85 min.

Saturday, May 19, 7 PM – *A Force More Powerful (Pt 2)*

The films will be shown at **Eastside Friends Meeting, 4160 158th Ave. SE in Bellevue.**

For more information visit <https://sites.google.com/site/eastsidewebsite/Home/films2012>

There will also be movies and peace activities for children during the films. Please RSVP to EFMemail@gmail.com if you are bringing children.

See attached flyer for additional information.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN ASKS FOR ZONE CHANGE TO ALLOW FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Lee Wimberly of Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Bellevue announced the church has entered the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Amendment Process for a zone change. They are proposing to build 40-50 affordable housing units, while extending their current community-oriented emphasis on the environment.

Lee explained that a neighborhood group has formed to oppose the zone change. He asked that the Bellevue residents submit personalized letters to the Bellevue Planning Commission stating their support of affordable housing to meet this recognized social need of affordable housing.

He emphasized that Holy Cross wishes that letters be expressions of faith, and not of a political nature. He summarized this expression as Compassion, Care, Community, and Commitment.

He provided brochures summarizing The Message, The Need, The Proposal, the Why, Where, and the Who, and the "Ask". The "Ask" is the personalized letter.

See the attached PDF file for details.

Letter of support should be addressed to "The Bellevue Planning Commission." Send the letters to: jlewine@bellevuewa.gov or mail to:

Planning & Community Dev.
450 110th Ave. NE
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA. 98009

See the back panel of the attached brochure for a sample letter.

SALVATION ARMY EASTSIDE INAUGURAL BREAKFAST: The Eastside Salvation Army feeds 14,000 people a year, five nights a week and through their after school programs over 65 students receive tutoring and daycare in a safe and fun environment. During Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, last year, 2,400 people received food and gifts.

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EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL MINUTES

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

July 10, 2012

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on July 10, 2012, beginning at 12:00 noon.

WELCOME: The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC President Dave Emery.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 25 members and guests.

MINUTES of the June 12, 2012 meeting were approved as distributed.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR Betty Spohn thanked Trish Rogers, Anne St. Germain, Dave Bolan, and Sandy Lewis for providing today's refreshments.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS: CFH Shelter Director David Johns Bowling reported that the shelter recently expanded from 30 to 35 men. They are working to secure space for the 2012-13 Winter Shelter and to create the first Eastside homeless men's daytime drop-in center.

The 3rd Annual CFH Fundraising Luncheon will be held Thursday, September 20th from 11:30 to 1:00 at First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue (1717 Bellevue Way NE). There will be a catered box lunch, speakers, and an opportunity to make a real difference in the life of a man on the Eastside. Mark your calendar today!

THE SOPHIA WAY: Sophia Way Client Services Director Leslie R. Miller reported the exciting news that work began on the new shelter – Sophia's Place at St. Luke's Lutheran Church – earlier today. They are working toward a blue-ribbon cutting event in October.

Fundraising for Sophia's Shoppe, the Sophia Way's job readiness and placement program, continues. To date they have raised \$31,000 of the estimated \$41,000 that will be needed.

The Eastside Women's Winter Shelter is looking for congregations to host women and children for the months of February and March. If you think your congregation may be interested in providing this vital service, please contact Sophia Way executive director Helen Leuzzi at 425-463-6285 or director@sophiaway.org.

The Sophia Way will hold a **fundraising luncheon on Thursday, September 27th** at the Red Lion Hotel in Bellevue. The theme will be "Game Changers: Women who created a lovely and powerful but unpredictable river of change." The keynote speaker will be Anu Jain, CEO of Bellevue-based Intelius Corp. Performing will be Seattle-based songstress Choklate. For more information contact the Sophia Way at 425-463-6285 or info@sophiaway.org.

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS: CFK Chair Nancy Jacobs reported that the program is getting active in a big way now. Twenty-seven congregations (down from last year's 30) are doing drives in the coming days. They are collecting backpacks and supplies to serve 1,600 students in the Bellevue School District.

Sorting supplies and packing the backpacks will take place August 13th through 21st at Stevenson Elementary School. Looking to help? Contact Nancy at info@congregations4kids.org.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: Trish Rogers reported that in June Newport Presbyterian Church held an offering of letters using the Faith Action Network's list of 2012 legislative accomplishments and sending thank you letters to the legislators who supported those measures. The list of 2012 legislative successes is available at <http://fanwa.org/advocacy/legislative-successes/>.

In July, they plan to encourage their legislators to support the repeal of the death penalty in Washington state. In August, they move on to food and farming issues and in September to environmental issues.

PROGRAM: BELLEVUE NOURISHING NETWORKS – WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

Jan Starr, EISCC Co-secretary, member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and volunteer with the Bellevue Nourishing Networks reported that in some schools in Bellevue nearly half of the student qualify for free or reduced cost school lunches. Many of these children get the majority of their nutrition during the school year from these lunches leaving school to homes that sometimes do not have enough food.

Last year, a small group of volunteers working with representatives from the Bellevue School District decided to do what they could to address this problem.

They worked to design a weekend backpack program – similar to other successful program run in other areas of the country – that would provide students with balanced nutrition on the weekends when school is not in session. In order to reduce stigma, the food was sent home in ordinary backpacks – just like those carried by every other child.

This group was able to provide 15 such backpacks to serve students at Highland Middle School and 15 for students at Sammamish High School.

Between March and July of 2012, 180 backpacks were delivered at a cost of \$1330.15.

The program was such a success that the School District is asking Nourishing Networks to expand to 60 backpacks each week in the coming year.

Providing 60 backpacks a week for the school year will cost an estimated \$23,000.

Unfortunately, the small group responsible for the success of last year's program lacks the resources in both money and volunteers to expand the program as needed. To do that, they need additional resources. To do that, they need your help.

Congregations are urged to consider making financial contributions to sustain the program or to commit to providing a specific number of backpacks each week to the effort.

Working together, there is no doubt that we can serve the nutritional needs of these kids. But it is important that individuals and congregations wishing to help not take away from their commitments to other existing efforts.

If you or your congregation would like more information about this important new program, please contact Jan Starr at jdstarrs@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES will hold a Summer Picnic Celebration for people living with disabilities and friends on Sunday, July 29th, 4-6pm, at Game Farm Park, 3030 R St, Auburn, 98002. A barbecue picnic will be provided. Our host will be Sunshine Ministries of Auburn. There is no charge, everyone is welcome and volunteers are very much appreciated. Call (425)885-1006 ext#118 or email lindam@bridgemin.org for more information.

Bridge Disability Ministries' Sunday Celebration for August will be Wacky Wheelays, a fun field day for people living with disabilities and friends on Sunday, August 12th, 1-4pm, at Bothell High School Track and Field, 9130 NE 180th St, Bothell, 98011. A barbecue picnic will be provided. Our host will be Northshore Baptist Church of Bothell. There is no charge, everyone is welcome and volunteers are very much appreciated. Call (425)885-1006 ext#118 or email lindam@bridgemin.org for more information.

lindam@bridgemin.org for more information.

KOCH BROTHERS EXPOSED: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (308 4th Ave South in Kirkland) will host a screening of the documentary film "Koch Brothers Exposed" on Friday, July 27th at 7:00 p.m. According to the filmmakers, "Charles and David Koch – two of the world's richest and most powerful men – pollute our air, block our votes, and undermine our democracy. This film uncovers the Koch's corruption – and shows how Americans can reclaim their democracy." A discussion will follow the film.

TOGETHER WE BUILD is an Interfaith Coalition of Christians, Jews, and Muslims seeking to find common ground and learning from one another as we work together to build houses for low-income families in East King County, Washington.

The 11th Annual TWB project for Habitat for Humanity will take place at [Habitat's LaFortuna Build Site](#) in Renton, Washington, on September 6, 7, 8 and September 13, 14, 15, 2012.

This is Thursday through Saturday in two consecutive weeks surrounding the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, which were the initial motivations behind TWB.

They are looking for additional congregations that would like to become involved.

For more information please visit <http://www.togetherwebuild.org>.

MAYORS DAY OF CONCERN FOR THE HUNGRY - Ever consider how much difference one day can make?

For the past 20 years, the single day Mayors' Day of Concern for the Hungry food drive has literally made the difference between local food programs' ability to serve local families and asking them to go hungry.

Consider forming a team at your school, place of business, or place of worship, in your neighborhood or even just your family to spend this one day collecting food for your hungry neighbors.

It's easy.

On Saturday, September 22, 2012, Mayors' Day teams agree to staff a neighborhood grocery store throughout King County. These volunteers hand out fliers to incoming shoppers requesting donations of "most-needed" food items. Shoppers respond generously, dropping their donations into waiting barrels as they exit the store. Local food programs including the Emergency Feeding Program, Hopelink and the Renewal Food Bank will provide the barrels, the fliers and other materials needed, as well as donation pickup throughout the day. You provide the heart and hands that ensure success.

Called "Mayors' Day of Concern for the Hungry" because it is sponsored by the mayors and city councils from municipalities all over King County, this day commitment can reap hope from hopelessness. Your single day's service will help ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

For more information on how you can participate, please call Brian at 206-329-0300 or send him an email at info@emergencyfeeding.org.

Summer goes so fast. Please call right away!

CLOSING REFLECTION: The meeting ended with a closing reflection from Pastor Tom Steffen of St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Bellevue.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO MEETING IN AUGUST.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 11, 2012, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

PROGRAM: CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS – ENDING HOMELESSNESS ONE MAN AT A TIME.

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
September 11, 2012

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on July 10, 2012, beginning at 12:00 noon.

WELCOME: The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC President Dave Emery.

OPENING REFLECTION: An opening reflection was shared by Jerry Hatfield of the Bellevue South Ward of the LDS Church.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 26 members and guests.

MINUTES of the July 10, 2012 meeting were approved as distributed.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR: Thanks to Nadine Bentsen, JoAnne Way, Steve Roberts, and Warren Marquardson for providing today's refreshments.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: EISCC Past President JoAnne Way read the following slate of candidates for the EISCC Board of Directors for 2012-13:

President	Warren Marquardson
President-Elect	Diane Richards
Past President	Dave Emery
Secretary	Brian Anderson
Treasurer	Kimberly Kibby
Directors	Jan Starr
	Tom Steffen
	Trish Rogers
	Anne St. Germain

Many thanks to JoAnne, Marilyn Rands and Betty Spohn for their work on the nominating committee.

The election will take place at the next EISCC meeting – October 9, 2012.

THE SOPHIA WAY: Sophia Way Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or director@sophiaway.org) reported that this year the Eastside Winter Shelter for Women and Children will be splitting its time between First Congregational Church of Bellevue and Redmond United Methodist Church.

The Sophia Way's annual Journey benefit luncheon will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 27th at the Red Lion Hotel in Bellevue. The theme will be "Game Changers: Women who created a lovely and powerful but unpredictable river of change." The keynote speaker will be LeAnne Moss, a visionary, creative leader who has more than twenty years of experience in non-profit executive leadership, enabling organizations to take risks that improve organizational impact, expand effectiveness and benefit the community. She led the Women's Funding Alliance (WFA), a regional foundation that invests in and advocates for women and girls, for nearly 15 years. She is now the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Leading from the Heart, a new leadership development effort that integrates inner personal transformational practices with sound organizational tools for social change agents. LeAnne is the recipient of several awards, most recently the 2006 Puget Sound Business Journal's Women of Influence Award.

The emcee will be Shannon Bell, Senior Vice President, Key4Women, Key Bank. Key4Women helps women in business achieve their goals by providing access to capital, customized service, networking events, and educational opportunities. Shannon is a Key Bank veteran who is dedicated to helping women on their journey to building personal financial wealth.

Performing will be Seattle-based songstress Choklate. For more information contact the Sophia Way at 425-463-6285 or info@sophiaway.org.

The Sophia Way is creating a community business council. This group of business people will be coming together regularly brining their collective wisdom to bear in addressing asset building for the Sophia Way. Their will provide much-needed support for the journey that the women of the Sophia Way are taking as they move from the street to homes of their own.

The Sophia Way will be sponsoring a **Community Business Council Benefit Breakfast on Friday, October 19, 2012 from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. at the Bellevue Red Lion Inn.** The keynote speaker will be Thach Nguyen, a Vietnamese refugee who once lived in a homeless shelter, he is now an entrepreneur, philanthropist, author, professional speaker, and founder of Thach Nguyen' Real Estate Group. For more information or to RSVP please contact Srijan Chakraborty at 425-463-6285, ext. 111 or register online at <http://tinyurl.com/SophiaWay-CBCBreakfast>.

Sophia's Place at St. Lukes: The ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of Sophia's Place will take place Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church (3030 Bellevue Way in Bellevue) from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Srijan Chakraborty at 425-463-6285, ext. 111 or register online at <http://tinyurl.com/SophiasPlace>.

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS: CFK Chair Nancy Jacobs reported that, with your help, CFK provided 1,447 students from low income families in the Bellevue School District with new backpacks and school supplies. An additional 105 backpacks were packed for students who will need them later in the year, for a grand total of 1,552 students who will be helped this year.

This year donations came from 31 congregations, 2 corporations, 1 business, 1 service organization, 1 foundation, and a university program.

Congregations for Kids has now filled over 16,784 requests from the Bellevue School District for backpacks and supplies since the program began in 1996.

Many thanks to everyone involved in this year's project. For a time lapse photo record of the project, please visit www.congregations4kids.org then click on "2012 daily photos." And to see the segment that FOX 13 News featured on CFK just click on http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDYGQI4I5A4&list=FL0at8f90qPrWRFN7yqLvrpQ&index=1&feature=plpp_video

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: The Committee to End Homelessness along with the Housing Development Consortium and other community partners is co-sponsoring People and Places' 2012 State Legislative Candidate Forums. These forums will explore the question of how we invest in people + places to build thriving communities. Come hear from the candidates running to represent you as candidates discuss their priorities and opinions on affordable housing, homelessness, and other important issues. Community members are encouraged to attend forums for the areas where they live AND work.

South King County
 Legislative Districts: 30th, 31st, 33rd, and 47th
 Kent Lutheran Church
 Wednesday, September 19, 2012, 6-8 pm

North King County
 Legislative Districts: 4th, 8th, 20th, and 28th

North Seattle Legislative Districts: 1st, 32nd, 36th, and 46th
Haller Lake United Methodist Church
Thursday, September 27, 2012, 6-8 pm

Central & South Seattle
Legislative Districts: 11th, 34th, 37th, and 43rd
Southside Commons (Seattle)
Thursday, October 4, 2012, 6-8 pm

East King County
Legislative Districts: 5th, 41st, 45th, and 48th
Jubilee REACH (Bellevue)
Wednesday, October 24, 2012, 6-8 pm

For more information or to RSVP, please visit <http://www.housingconsortium.org/programs-events/2012-legislative-candidate-forums-2/>

PROGRAM: CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS – ENDING HOMELESSNESS ONE MAN AT A TIME

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

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

CFH job placement services, ably assisted by Hopelink's job's program, helps men find jobs or move to a better job. They have also helped men reconnect to a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives. CFH has 3 case managers, and 12 active life coaches. In 2006, CFH added subsidized housing to the programs they offer. Since then, CFH has moved over 400 men into stable housing.

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

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

The Eastside Winter Shelter is run jointly by CFH and the Sophia Way. For the first couple of years it was a criteria-based shelter, open only when the temperature reached a certain predetermined level. But operators found that a better way to serve is to have the shelter open continuously, so that vulnerable people can know with certainty that they will have a safe place to sleep during the winter months. The Eastside Winter Shelter for Men will operate this year at St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Bellevue.

Last year Congregations for the Homeless served 249 unduplicated men in the Winter Shelter and 125 unduplicated men in the transitional shelter.

Next on the horizon, CFH plans to open a day center, a place where homeless men on the Eastside will be able to take a shower, do their laundry, and have access to dedicated internet for job searches, etc.

Reaching the chronically homeless is difficult. The longer a person is homeless, the less they trust programs whose services they need. Being homeless is hope-killing. The availability of the day center will give Eastside homeless men hope that they can escape.

Volunteer Opportunities: There are many volunteer opportunities with Congregations for the Homeless.

CFH volunteers pave the way for homeless men on the Eastside to break the cycle of homelessness and lead a stable and productive life. Through direct and indirect service, volunteers are the cornerstone upon which CFH lives its mission.

Volunteers also receive from their experience by:

- Gaining a sense of giving back to the community.
- Meeting new people.
- Expressing values in a meaningful way.
- Increasing knowledge and learning new skills.
- Making a huge difference by changing lives on a regular basis

Part of our mission is to enable members of the Eastside community to be part of ending homelessness. By volunteering just an hour or two a week, you can make a real difference!

Direct Service Volunteers

Emergency Shelter Volunteers

- liaison
- meal service
- clothing donations
- shelter sundries
- bus passes
- haircuts

Case Management Volunteers

- attorney/legal assistance
- court/probation specialist
- nurse/healthcare specialist
- physician
- psychiatrist

Life Coaching Volunteers

- life coach
- computer technicians
- trainers

Housing/Jobs Volunteers

- financial advisor
- housing program assistant
- job developer

Indirect Service Volunteers

- communications volunteer
- grant writer
- graphic designer

Currently, we are looking for volunteers with the following interests and talents. If you're interested in one of these positions or have another in mind, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Stacy Witte at 425-765-1782 or staceyw@cfhomeless.org.

More information about Congregations for the Homeless is available on their website www.cfhomeless.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES Sunday Evening Celebration for October will be held on Sunday, October 28th, 4-6pm, at Newport Presbyterian Church, 4010 120th Ave 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 for more information.

BELLEVUE WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM: The reality is that in the Bellevue School District there are 185 known homeless students and 3,828 students on free or reduced cost lunch. The Bellevue Weekend Backpack Program is recruiting committed volunteers to provide 60 students each week with a backpack of groceries that will provide them with the nutrition they need to get through the weekend when school lunch is not available. For only \$12 you can provide a backpack containing easy meals that students can prepare over the weekend. To donate or to volunteer, please contact Janet Starr at 425-221-8544 or jdstarrs@gmail.com.

CLOSING REFLECTION: The meeting ended with a closing reflection from Steve Roberts of Congregations for the Homeless.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

PROGRAM: EASTSIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - Providing free or low-cost civil legal services to low-income residents of East and Northeast King County, WA.

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
October 9, 2012

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on October 9, 2012, beginning at 12:00 noon.

WELCOME: The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC President Dave Emery.

OPENING REFLECTION: An opening reflection was shared by Dave Emery.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 23 members and guests.

MINUTES of the September 11, 2012 meeting were approved as distributed.

ELECTION OF 2012-13 OFFICERS: The following slate of candidates was unanimously elected to serve in the coming year:

President	Warren Marquardson
President-Elect	Diane Richards
Past President	Dave Emery
Secretary	Brian Anderson
Treasurer	Kimberly Kibby
Directors	Jan Starr
	Tom Steffen
	Trish Rogers
	Anne St. Germain

THE SOPHIA WAY: Sophia Way Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or director@sophiaway.org) reported that on this year's Eastside Winter Shelter.

Eastside Winter Shelters

Women and Children: The Sophia Way will open their winter shelter on Thursday, November 1st at the Redmond United Methodist Church. It will be open every night from 8:30 pm to 7:30 am. The shelter will continue to operate until March 15th, 2013. The shelter will be located at Redmond United Methodist Church (16540 NE 80th St. in Redmond) during November and February and at Bellevue First Congregational Church (752 108th Ave NE in Bellevue) during December and January, and then back to Redmond United Methodist Church from February 1st through March 15th.

Men: Congregations for the Homeless will open their winter shelter for men on Thursday, November 15th at Bellevue's St Peters United Methodist Church (17222 NE 8th St. - Behind Crossroads Mall) every night from 8pm till 8am for up to 80 men. The shelter will stay open until March 15th, 2013. Services include mats, blankets, bus tickets, site supervision coffee, snacks and donated meals. For additional information or find out how you can help contact Steve Roberts at steve@cfhomeless.org.

If you are interested in providing meal for either shelter please contact Andrea Ligget at andrea@hfkparish.org.

In addition to the these Winter shelters, there is an Eastside youth shelter:

Youth: Friends of Youth operates The Landing, an emergency young adult shelter for people between the ages of 18 and 24. The Landing is open 7 days a week. It is the only emergency young adult shelter on the Eastside. In addition to being a safe place in times of crisis, it provides young people with resources and referrals needed to exit homelessness.

The Landing is located at Together Center: 16225 NE 87th Street, Suite A-1, Redmond WA 98052 (Bus Routes: Route 542; Route 545; King Co. Metro to Redmond Transit Center – 8178 161st Avenue NE, Redmond, WA.)

Line-up for the Landing is at 8:30 PM and intake begins at 8:45 PM. Guests are provided with dinner, showers, laundry service, clothing and breakfast in the morning. Residents may stay at the Landing up to 30 nights within a three-month period, with the possibility of extension. The Landing closes at 8:00 AM each morning. Contact: 425-449-3868 or landing@friendsof youth.org.

Sophia's Place at St. Lukes: The Grand opening of Sophia's Place will take place Thursday, November 1st, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with ribbon cutting ceremonies at 3:30 p.m. Sophia's Place is located at St Luke's Lutheran Church (3030 Bellevue Way in Bellevue). To RSVP, please call Srijan Chakraborty at: 425.463.6285 ext. 111 or visit <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?lrb=b6h6bzadab&oeidk=a07e6b1p8m940dd8bc6>

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS - CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or steve@cfhomeless.org) reported that the Homeless Men's Day Center will be opening in early December at the First Congregational Church (752 108th Ave NE in Bellevue). Times may change, but they are hoping to be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch items are needed. Check out the calendar at <http://www.takethemameal.com/meals.php?P=PDPA7786&welcome=1> to see what is needed.

CFH is also in the process of leasing another house – their sixth shared house each providing a home for six men in each. Shared housing can be a great step on the road to independence.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: EISCC Legislative Coordinator Nancy Bent reminded those present that there was four weeks before the election and that in person voter's registration remained possible until October 26th.

PROGRAM: EASTSIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – ACCESS, EMPOWERMENT, HOPE.

Judith Shoshana, ELAP Program Director, was on hand to provide information about her program designed to provide all people on the Eastside and survivors of domestic violence countywide with access to justice in the civil legal system.

ELAP helps people solve real problems:

- Addressing financial hardships
- Helping survivors of domestic violence
- Providing legal services is just the tool.

Volunteers

- ELAP is a volunteer lawyer program (VLP)
- Over 240 volunteer Attorneys
- 34 recruited in 2011
- 22 so far in 2012

History: ELAP was founded in 1989 with the help of the East King County Bar Association. In 2002 ELAP created the Domestic Violence Legal Project.

ELAP see to bridge the Justice Gap. According to the WA State Office of Civil Legal Aid a justice gap exists that is more pronounced than ever. The number of people in need of legal aid continues to far exceed capacity. Today the vast majority of low-income residents with compelling legal problems – problems that directly affect personal and family safety and security – cannot get the legal help they need.

Examples of Need

- 87% of Washington's low-income residents experience at least one serious civil legal problem each year – approximately one million legal issues annually.
- Only 12% receive some kind of legal assistance.

Domestic Violence

- During the recent economic downturn, some experts theorize that women who are abused are staying in dangerous situations longer.
- The number of reported domestic violence offenses statewide increased by almost 16% between 2008 and 2010, from 42,496 to 49,270.
- The primary cause of homelessness in East King County is domestic violence – 24%.
- The Neighborhood Crimes Initiative has also reported an increase in homeless women in King County. "Their homelessness odyssey would usually begin with domestic violence."

Who is Eligible for Help through ELAP?

- Residents of East or Northeast King County residing within certain zip codes.
- Entire County for domestic violence survivors.
- Below 200 of poverty level.

How Do I Find Out?

- Call ELAP at (425)747-7274.

How Are Services Provided?

- ELAP sponsors 11 Legal Advice Clinics (Clients can return repeatedly)
- Client Plus – the volunteer attorney agrees to do additional pro bono work for the person they met at the clinic.
- Direct Representation – Limited unbundled legal services may also be provided.
- Domestic Violence Legal Project
- Wills Project
- Community Education – lectures, etc.
- Referrals

Clients Served:

- In 2011 1,930 people benefited from ELAP's services.
- 840 appointments with volunteer attorneys and DV Staff Attorneys.

Volunteers are needed to serve as:

- Phone Intake Volunteers
- Legal Advice Clinic Intake Volunteers
- General Office Volunteers
- Accounting Volunteer
- Communications Volunteer
- Media Volunteer
- Breakfast for Justice Volunteer
- Video Volunteer
- Legal Interns
- Paralegals

Value of Services

- Last year attorneys provided 1,648 hours of legal services valued at almost \$500,000
- Other volunteers donated 3,200 hours

Effectiveness

For 2011, over 95% of ELAP clients completing our evaluation said the legal aid received was useful and helpful.

Financial Resources

ELAP is funded by

- The Legal Foundation of Washington
- King County
- Eastside Cities
- Grants from corporations and foundations
- Individual donations

Save the Date

ELAP's 3rd Annual Breakfast for Justice fundraiser will be held Thursday, May 16, 2013 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center.

For more information about the Eastside Legal Assistance Program please visit <http://www.elap.org> or call them at (425) 747-7274.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

HOPELINK GIFT ROOM – the Bellevue Hopelink has a gift room set up like a toy store, filled with toys donated from the local community. Parents (and grandparents) come in and select gifts for their children for the holidays.

Gift Room Dates- Dec 17th and 18th, at the Bellevue Hopelink Center (14812 Main St. in Bellevue)

<http://web.mail.comcast.net/zimbra/public/blank.html>

12/17/2012

Registration begins November 5th. If you know anyone in need with children please let them know.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating, as a congregation, or volunteering as an individual, please give us a call at 425.943.7555.

They are accepting donation of toys and new, unused clothes starting November 5th.

BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES Sunday Evening Celebration for October will be held on Sunday, October 28th, 4-6pm, at Newport Presbyterian Church, 4010 120th Ave 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 for more information.

BELLEVUE WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM: The reality is that in the Bellevue School District there are 185 known homeless students and 3,828 students on free or reduced cost lunch. The Bellevue Weekend Backpack Program is recruiting committed volunteers to provide 60 students each week with a backpack of groceries that will provide them with the nutrition they need to get through the weekend when school lunch is not available. For only \$12 you can provide a backpack containing easy meals that students can prepare over the weekend. To donate or to volunteer, please contact Janet Starr at 425-221-8544 or jdstarrs@gmail.com.

MAKE CHANGE! A DEBT EDUCATION WORKSHOP is a free two hour class that will help you to address debt related issues, figure out when you need an attorney, what you can do on your own, and provide information on finding help.

Where: Bellevue Hopelink – 1412 Main St in Bellevue

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

When: Tuesday, November 13, 2012

RSVP: Please call Seri at (425) 250-3003 for a spot.

CLOSING REFLECTION: The meeting ended with a closing reflection from EISCC President Dave Emery.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

PROGRAM: NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT - Michael Ramos from the Church Council of Greater Seattle and Diakonda Gurning of the New Sanctuary Movement will join us to lead a discussion about advocating for hospitality for immigrants.

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 13, 2012

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on November 13, 2012, beginning at 12:00 noon.

WELCOME: The meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC President-Elect Diane Richards.

OPENING REFLECTION: An opening reflection was shared by Sandy Lewis of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 23 members and guests.

MINUTES of the October 9, 2012 meeting were approved as distributed.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR: We would like to thank the following individuals for providing today's refreshments: Anne St. Germaine, Judith Shoshana, Jean Harris, Tom Steffen, and Sandy Lewis.

THE SOPHIA WAY: Sophia Way Director Helen Leuzzi (425-463-6285 or director@sophiaway.org) reported that the new shelter, Sophia's Place at St. Luke's is now open. Among those on handing for the ribbon cutting was Q13 news. You can view their coverage at <http://q13fox.com/2012/11/01/the-sophia-way-helps-homeless-women-get-back-on-their-feet/#axzz2EdrsDf6M>.

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS – CFK's Nancy Jacobs (info@congregations4kids.org) reported that formal thank you letters had been mailed to participating congregations and corporate donors. Thank you collages created from the kids' thank you letters will be uploaded to their website after Thanksgiving. View them at <http://www.congregations4kids.org/testimonials.html>.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS - CFH Executive Director Steve Roberts (206-295-7803 or steve@cfhomeless.org) reported that new homeless men's drop in center will be opening soon.

The Day Center will be open from 8am to 3pm Monday through Friday at First Congregational Church at 752 NE 8th st. Bellevue WA 98004.

Services Provided – The Day Center will provide a place to relax and access lunch and drinks. In addition, showers, laundry, hygiene items, bus tickets, computer access, resume and job search help, one-on-one case management, nurse support, and clothing donations will be offered to those in need of these services.

Meals – Lunch items will be needed for up to 50 people each day the center is open. Please visit the meal calendar at <http://www.takethemameal.com/meals.php?tcPDA7786&welcome=1> for details of what is needed and to schedule a meal donation. They would like makings for 50 sandwiches a day (bread, meat, cheese, mayo, mustard,

peanut butter and jam, etc.). Also, individual bagged chips, bars, fruit, cookies, and vegetables as well would be appreciated for 50 plus men, or whatever portion you could give.

Volunteers

CFH is looking for volunteers who have a heart for the homeless of our community. They provide on-going training and support for all volunteer and have opportunities to help serve lunch, give I.T. support, provide computer instruction on-site, job coaching support, and building relationship with the men who use the Day Center. If you are interested, please email David Johns Bowling at davidj@cfhomeless.org or call him at (425) 749-8369.

EASTSIDE WINTER SHELTERS

Eastside Men's Shelter

Hours: 8:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.

Place: St. Peter's United Methodist Church (17222 NE 8th St., Bellevue)

Bus Route: 226

Open from 11/15/2012 to 3/15/2013

Call: 425-614-8544

Eastside Women and Children's Shelter

Hours: 8:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.

From 11/1/12 to 11/30/12: Redmond United Methodist Church (16540 NE 80th St., Redmond). Bus Stop: Redmond Transit Center

From 12-1-12 to 1-31-12: Bellevue First Congregational Church (752 108th Ave NE, Bellevue). Bus Stop: Bellevue Transit Center.

From 2/1/13 to 3/15/13: Redmond United Methodist Church (16540 NE 80th St., Redmond). Bus Stop: Redmond Transit Center.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: EISCC Legislative Coordinator Nancy Bent urges those interested to sign up to receive the legislative action alerts available from the Faith Action Network at <https://fanwa.org/powerbase.net/civicism/profile/create?gid=22&reset=1>.

PROGRAM: WASHINGTON NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT

Suzanne Grogan of Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church introduced our speakers: Michael Ramos, Executive Director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle (mramos@thechurchcouncil.org) and Rev. Diakonda Gurning of the Indonesian Lutheran Fellowship (diakonda@gmail.com).

Definitions:

- Refugee – a person who has fled their home country because of persecution.
- Asylum Seeker – a person who flees their home country because their lives are at risk, but they have not been granted refugee status.
- Immigrant – a foreign born individual admitted to live in the country lawfully.
- Non-Immigrant – a person permitted to enter the country for a limited period of time.
- Un-documented Immigrant – a person who is present in the country without the permission of the government who entered legally or illegally.

There are basically two ways to approach the question of undocumented immigrants:

- Enforcement Only – workplace raids, detention, deportation, families split apart.
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Comprehensive Immigration Reform (Four Principles)

- Protecting and uniting families
- Protecting human rights and workers rights
- Due process
- Pathway to permanence.

The Washington New Sanctuary Movement

Early February of 2007, numerous faith based organizations in Seattle came together to express solidarity with immigrants who were subjected to workplace raids in Auburn and elsewhere, some of whom were separated from their young children. The practice of raids, lengthy detentions without due process and deportations has continued unabated since then, despite community calls for a change in policy.

On May 9, 2007 at St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle, they joined voices to form the New Sanctuary Movement as our pledge to open our hearts and doors to immigrant workers and their families on the brink of deportation.

Since then they have been advocating on Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR), supporting families of detainees by monthly vigil at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, mobilizing and educating extensively with community and faith based organizations across Western Washington.

The Washington New Sanctuary Movement is an interfaith group committed to publicly protecting the rights of all immigrants, especially those at risk of deportation and whose families face unjust separation. We lift up opportunities for immigrants to share their personal experiences of injustice, and for faith communities to unite in response with material, legal, and moral support. They advocate for public policy changes that welcome immigrants as part of our communities, reflecting the human and religious values held by our diverse faith traditions.

There are several ways to become involved:

- Education
- Advocacy
- Legal Triage
- Hospitality
- Material Support
- Worker Justice

Vigils: The 4th largest detention center in the U.S. is in Tacoma. It is a privately-run, for-profit operation.

On the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, the Washington New Sanctuary movement sponsors a group of faith-motivated persons and community organizers who stand vigil at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma.

Their presence is a witness to the detention center workers that the existence of the center does not go un-noticed and most importantly as a testimony to family and friends visiting their incarcerated loved ones - an act of hospitality and accompaniment. Though they can offer little but a listening ear and tepid coffee or a few snacks, the visitors know that their sorrow and distress are shared by these strangers who act from faith.

To find out how you can get involved with the Washington New Sanctuary Movement, please visit <http://washingtongsanctuary.webs.com> or contact them at washingtongsanctuary@gmail.com.

And for information on Eastside faith communities and their involvement in the Northwest Detention Center vigils held on the fourth Saturday of each month, please contact Suzanne Grogan at suzannegrogan99@yahoo.com or 425-803-9570.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

HOPELINK GIFT ROOM – the Bellevue Hopelink has a gift room set up like a toy store, filled with toys donated from the local community. Parents (and grandparents) come in and select gifts for their children for the holidays.

Gift Room Dates- Dec 17th and 18th, at the Bellevue Hopelink Center (14812 Main St. in Bellevue)

Registration begins November 5th. If you know anyone in need with children please let them know.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating, as a congregation, or volunteering as an individual, please give us a call at 425.943.7555.

They are accepting donation of toys and new, unused clothes starting November 5th.

BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES Bridge Disability Ministries' Christmas Celebration for December will be held on Saturday, December 8th, 12-2:30pm, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 12600 84th 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 for more information.

BELLEVUE WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM: The reality is that in the Bellevue School District there are 185 known homeless students and 3,828 students on free or reduced cost lunch. The Bellevue Weekend Backpack Program is recruiting committed volunteers to provide 60 students each week with a backpack of groceries that will provide them with the nutrition they need to get through the weekend when school lunch is not available. For only \$12 you can provide a backpack containing easy meals that students can prepare over the weekend. To donate or to volunteer, please contact Janet Starr at 425-221-8544 or jdstarrs@gmail.com.

MEANINGFUL TRAVEL TO EL SALVADOR WITH RICARDO POCOSANGRE: Longtime EISCC member Joy Pocasangre informs us that her organization NESES (Ninos Estudiando El Salvador, www.neses.org) is inviting interested individuals to join her and her husband Ricardo on their first-ever participant adventure to amazingly beautiful, untraveled, untouched El Salvador. As personal guests of the founders, you will have the privilege to interact with NESES orphans as they share their visions for education and youth development with you. Visit historic sites, boat rides on Lake Suchitlan, ancient ruins, coffee plantations, and more.

December 6-7, 2013 includes 2 days travel to and from country. Program price: \$2730/dd, includes all meals, accommodations, transportation, guides/translators, activities and a donation to NESES. They will be partnering with another NGO, crookedtrails.org. They are only accepting 12 participants to join them on this unique journey. Contact: Joy Pocasangre at 425-747-0877 or jvpoca@neses.org.

CLOSING REFLECTION: The meeting ended with a closing reflection from Pastor Tom Steffen of St. Peter's United Methodist Church.

NOTE: NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

PROGRAM: LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW WITH THE FAITH ACTION NETWORK. Representatives of the Faith Action Network will be on hand to discuss upcoming legislative issue of interest to social justice advocates.

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

Brian Anderson, EISCC Secretary