

WELCOME TO EASTSIDE INTERFAITH

Welcome, visitors and members, to Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council (EISCC). The Council provides exchange of information among Eastside congregations, in order to improve the quality of life for all on the Eastside. We trust that EISCC was called into being and is guided by the moving of God's spirit in our community. EISCC encourages interfaith dialogue.

Membership is voluntary, open to all Eastside congregations of all faiths and creeds. There are currently 42 member churches and social agencies. Member congregations contribute \$25.00 annually to EISCC and select two voting delegates (clergy and/or lay).

Associate members are social and health service programs whose purposes and activities are consistent with the purposes of EISCC. Each pays a fee of \$10.00 annually, and has voice but does not vote.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (except August), 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. (bring your sack lunch; beverages are available), at the Rock Room of the First Presbyterian Church, 1717 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue. At each meeting, community representatives present information about resources and programs; and congregations, agencies, and task forces share information and ideas.

Priority issues are: housing/homelessness; employment; HIV/AIDS; strengthening the family; hunger; cultural diversity; and health care/mental health. The Council publishes annually an Emergency Services Directory, which is distributed to congregations and agencies.

For information on membership, call Betty Spohn, Membership Chair (451-3651).

HIV/AIDS TASK FORCE

Chair: Diana Roger (277-6528).

The Task Force is working with the Multifaith AIDS Project (MAPS) of Seattle, to avoid duplication of effort. MAPS provides housing and pastoral care for persons with AIDS, and education for the community.

STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY

Contact person: Babs Pingree (454-5508)

The Task Force is developing a booklet, whose cover has been designed by a commercial artist, with information about activities and programs to assist families. They plan to make the booklet available in June, for their program at the regular Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council meeting.

EISCC 1995-1996 OFFICERS

Geoff Ethelston, Co-Chairperson
(486-5665)

Nadine Shannon, Co-Chairperson
(746-6019)

Joy Pocasangre, Vice Chairperson
(747-0877)

Jim Palmer, Treasurer (747-2977)

Sally Wing, Co-Secretary (747-5924)

Betty Spohn, Co-Secretary (451-3651)

SUMMER AND FALL MEETING CALENDAR

June 11. Strengthening the Family.

July 9. Housing. Christmas in April. American Red Cross Hope program.

August. No meeting.

September 10. Youth Eastside Services: dating violence, kids' problems, gangs, etc.

October 8. Annual meeting. Election of officers. Food supplied by Executive Committee. Marketplace of agencies to meet Christmas/winter needs.

CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS

Information: Nadine Shannon (746-6019)

Regular meeting: 3rd Tuesday, 12 noon - 1:30 p.m., Temple DeHirsch Sinai, 556 - 124th Avenue NE, Bellevue.

The purpose of Congregations for the Homeless is to provide stability in homeless men's lives and to return them to being members of the community. Shelter and nutritious meals are offered, in a collaborative atmosphere of volunteers with professional counselors and site managers.

The Task Force is in its third year of providing shelter, three meals per day, and social services for homeless men at congregational facilities. Host congregations, who provide facilities for a month, are assisted by support congregations and other volunteers with financial and volunteer support. Catholic Community Services provides social services.

When making contributions to United Way for this program, please write in EISCC Congregations for the Homeless. You may also send support directly to Congregations for the Homeless, P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662.

Homeless men may be referred to these Eastside agencies for screening:

Catholic Community Services (643-1937)
Eastside Mental Health (828-1449)
Jewish Family Services (451-8512)
Salvation Army (454-4568)
Multi-Service Centers of North & East King County
Bellevue (747-4826)
Bothell (382-9704)
Carnation (333-4163)
Kirkland (889-7880)
Redmond (869-6000)

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL

Christmas in April is a nationwide program, currently available in Seattle, in which volunteers give one day to repair and refurbish the home of a low-income family.

On Tuesday, July 9, 12:00 noon, at the regular meeting of Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council, Christmas in April will present its program. Slides will be presented of parishioners of St. Thomas Episcopal Church at work on their assigned house in the Central Area of Seattle. Staff members of the Seattle office will provide information for Eastside congregations to organize a chapter to assist homeowners who have limited funds for house maintenance.

For information, call Beverly Goucher (232-1030).

EISCC NEWSLETTER

Editor: Sally Wing, (747-5924)

Publication is three or four times yearly. Please give us information about coming events in your congregation, task force, or organization that are open to others in the community. Letters to the editor are also welcome. Send your items to the address above or to the Editor, Sally Wing, P.O. Box 5556, Bellevue, WA 98006-0056. 747-5924. Fax: 746-0462.

HEALING SERVICE FOR
PERSONS AFFECTED BY AIDS

Sacred Heart Catholic Church AIDS Outreach invites persons affected by AIDS to a healing service at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at the church, 9640 NE 14th Street, Bellevue. For information, call 454-9536.

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

Chair: Joy Pocasangre, 747-0877

Purpose of the Task Force is education and advocacy for faith communities on federal, state, and local issues.

Activities include annual participation in Church Advocacy Day in Olympia and liaison with Washington Association of Churches and other advocacy groups.

FAITH AND VALUES TASK FORCE

Chair: Gene Barrett, 644-9891

This Task Force has accomplished its goal of obtaining Faith and Values programming on Viacom Cable Channel 15, Monday through Friday, 4:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

You can help accomplish additional goals of the Task Force, inclusion of the Faith and Values Channel schedule in newspaper television listings, and extension of hours of programming, by continuing to write to the Journal-American and to Viacom Cablevision.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

Chair: Betty Smith (643-2221)

A videotape of the spring workshop, "Day of Dialogue on Race," including a speech by Bill Grace, Center for Ethical Leadership, is available. Other information is also available for congregational use from Betty Smith or from Bill DeTally, Church Council of Greater Seattle Racial Justice Coordinating Committee (525-1213).

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

To: Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council
P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662

Name

Address

Telephone Number

Congregation/Agency

Congregation member: \$25 ____

Agency member: \$10 ____

Newsletter only: \$5 ____

I would like to volunteer for

.....

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Please send information about _____

HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

Representative: Pam Toelle, 746-8659

Congregations for Kids Committee: Rev. Ann Lukens and Sherri Mill, Co-chairpersons.

Quarterly meetings are held on the first Wednesday in the Bellevue Public Schools Board Room. The Task Force encourages partnership among the religious community, City of Bellevue, Bellevue Public Schools, and human service providers, working together to provide services to Bellevue schoolchildren and their families.

"A good start back to school" will be a workshop on Wednesday, July 10, at First Methodist Church, 1934 - 108th Ave. NE, Bellevue. The workshop will focus on how-to ideas to prepare low-income children for school with new school supplies and clothing. The Bellevue Public Schools and the Bellevue Multi-Service Center will administer the program, with assistance from congregational volunteers. Other communities can work with local school districts and the Multi-Service Center. Information: Nadine Bentsen (747-1543) or Sherrie Mill (747-0934).

Congregational workshop Tuesday, September 24, will discuss additional opportunities for collaboration between the school community and volunteer programs to serve schoolchildren.

EMPLOYMENT TASK FORCE

Chair: Tony and Marian Copeland (643-5212)

Regular meeting: Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Latter Day Saints church, 14536 Main Street (just west of 148th Avenue SE), Bellevue.

Persons looking for a job or for employment upgrade are welcome at the weekly employment program, where job listings are available. They will receive assistance in interviewing and resume' writing. Networking has resulted in regular filling of available positions.

Congregational representatives are encouraged to sponsor local candidates and to provide information to their congregations.

FINANCE TASK FORCE: STEWARD OF FUNDS

Chair: Jim Palmer, Treasurer
(747-2977)

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council budget includes both a general fund and a separate fund for each task force, which the treasurer reports at each month's general meeting.

The general fund includes operating expenses: printing and postage for minutes, newsletter, Human Services Directory, and brochures; incorporation filing fee; mailing permit; Post Office box rental; and office supplies.

Each task force has funds specifically donated to accomplish its purposes. Both grants and donations are essential to maintain Congregations for the Homeless, which has the largest budget, based on high expenses.

Current activities of the Finance Task Force include fund-raising and grant writing for Congregations for the Homeless.

Volunteers are needed to assist the treasurer in preparing the budget and seeking additional sources of funds. Development experience is not necessary; the Task Force will provide training.