

Activate!





Oregon Action, Medford

Activate!



Sharon Gary-Smith,
Executive Director

Dear friends,

The work ahead for social justice brings to mind a single word: **Activate!**

Movement happens when we activate ourselves, our communities, and our allies to build a world that works for all of us.

Whether you're on the frontlines organizing in your community, advocating for better policies, or you're digging deep into your pockets to contribute to MRG to make this social justice work possible — you are an **active** part of the movement for social change in Oregon.

I have been honored to spend my first year as MRG's Executive Director expanding relationships with organizers, communities, and supporters while witnessing the power of Oregon's progressive movement. Our grantees and supporters are activating their communities every single day, and continue to push forward because they know we all have to take an active role in shaping our communities' future.

I invite you to join us as a donor because you know that our community leaders deserve the financial support of a foundation that is committed to social justice. And with your help, MRG continues to activate:

Cover:
Beyond Toxics, Eugene
photo: Wayne Lottinville



▶ **MRG is bringing 36 years of knowledge and experience to expand social justice grantmaking in our region:** As part of our 3-year strategic plan, MRG is committed to growing and sustaining powerful leaders for social change, and helping local foundations to see the value of funding grassroots organizing.

▶ **The past year brought the power of community-led action for change into the spotlight,** and MRG stood in solidarity with national and local Occupy protesters who called for economic justice. MRG organized a community gathering to facilitate deeper discussions on Race, Class, and Occupy.

▶ **And because of you, our grantees will continue to make social change headlines** by fighting for immigrant rights, protecting homeowners from unjust foreclosures, and promoting a healthier environment where folks of all backgrounds can live and work without exposure to harmful chemicals. You helped us give over \$460,000 in grants so that this work in Oregon can grow.

*Thank you for stepping up and stepping out for justice—we couldn't do this without you. I believe that for social change to happen, you and I have important work to do: it's time to **activate** our resources and our communities to sustain the movement and create a just and joyful world.*

As long as we're actively working together to build grassroots power, we know that justice is within reach—and it gets closer everyday because of you.

In the spirit of social justice and change,

Sharon Gary-Smith
Executive Director



Activate your resources

Thanks to hundreds of people dedicated to social justice, MRG gives out nearly a half a million dollars a year in activist grantmaker-advised grants and another \$200,000 in donor-advised grants.

Want to get more information?

Contact our staff at 503-289-1517

to discuss how you can activate your resources for social justice!

What makes MRG different? Almost our entire annual budget is funded by donations from individuals like you who make gifts, large and small.

ANNUAL DONATIONS

Folks like you **activate your resources**, year after year when you donate to MRG. We receive annual gifts ranging from \$5 to \$75,000 and they all add up to make a difference. MRG donors gave \$420,000 this fiscal year—thank you! Here are some ways you can make a gift today:

- ▶ **Make an annual or monthly gift online** at mrgfoundation.org
- ▶ **Send a check to MRG Foundation** at 1235 SE Morrison, Suite A, Portland OR 97214
- ▶ **Donate appreciated stock**—call us at 503-289-1517 to find out how.

DONATIONS OVER TIME

Visit mrgfoundation.org for audited financial statements.

As the only Oregon-based foundation dedicated solely to social justice, we play an important role for those wanting to make significant gifts today that will be activated in the future. MRG is honored to be a trusted steward of millions of dollars so that people like you can invest in social change over the long-term. Here's how you can help build a strong movement over time:

- ▶ **Leave a legacy:** You can name MRG Foundation in your will, as a beneficiary of an IRA or insurance policy, or even donate property.
- ▶ **Set up a donor advised fund:** You can make a large gift today and make grant recommendations over time.
- ▶ **Give to MRG's permanent endowment:** You can make a gift in your lifetime or through your estate to leave a lasting legacy—gifts like these ensure that MRG has a stable source of funding for years to come.
- ▶ **Set up a dedicated fund:** You can set up a fund that supports your areas of deepest concern and provide support to MRG grantees.

What our donors say

SIRIUS BONNER PORTLAND



"After jumping in to working with MRG's Development Committee (affectionately known as DevComm)

and deepening my understanding of what MRG means to Oregon, I knew I had to bring more to the table than just my talent and time. **I decided that this was the time to start giving to MRG and that I could have a bigger impact by making a monthly contribution.** So, each month, I know that my donation moves social justice forward in our state. I cannot imagine a better place to give!"

ALLEN HANCOCK EUGENE



"I give generously to MRG because I know that I'm planting the seeds of activism.

As an activist, I've witnessed ordinary folks become involved with a single issue that they care about and over time emerge into passionate leaders of social change and environmental protection. As a donor, I know that providing financial support to organizations offers the fertile ground needed for ordinary folks to do this extraordinary work."

Board

Gil Avery*
Ibrahim Hamide
Elisa Harrigan*
Shizuko Hashimoto
Christopher Kahle
Arbrella Luvert
Andrea Miller
Guadalupe Quinn*
Rich Rohde*
Cassandra Villanueva
Carole Zoom*

* term ended July 2012

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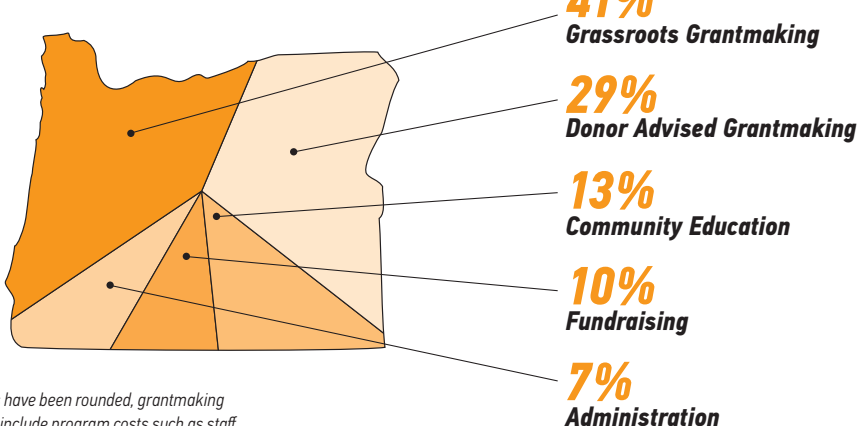
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2011-12 Expenses

\$1.6 million*



*Figures have been rounded, grantmaking figures include program costs such as staff

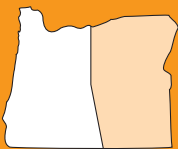
Activating our communities

MRG is based on the belief that when we lead and organize our communities against injustice, we can build a better world.

We fund groups who are activating their communities to build leadership and win campaigns for social justice. Our grantees often have small budgets and large visions for a better future for Oregon.

These groups are led by the people who are directly affected by the issue, who know what needs to happen in their communities and beyond. They're building relationships, grassroots networks, and better policy. They're engaging with families, farmers, legislators, and students all over the state. With each campaign, each phonecall, each protest, and each community training, our grantees are building a socially just Oregon for all of us.

MRG granted over \$460,000 through our General Fund, Travel Grants, and Critical Response Grants.



This year, 47% of our grants support groups based in and led by communities of color.





HUMAN RIGHTS \$167,000

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon *Portland*

Common Cause Oregon *Portland*

Red Earth Descendants *Ashland*

Komemmma Cultural Protection Association *Yoncalla*

Red Lodge Transition Services *Portland*

Latino Club *Salem*

MindFreedom *Eugene*

Oregon Cultural Access-Disability Art and Culture Project
Portland

Community Alliance of Tenants *Portland*

Right 2 Survive *Portland*

Street Roots *Portland*

International Center for Traditional Childbearing *Portland*

Eugene-Springfield NAACP *Eugene*

Oregon Student Foundation *Portland*

Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality *Salem*

Ad Hoc Committee to Support Occupy Movement Rally
Portland

Multicultural Association of Southern Oregon *Medford*

Women's Civic Improvement League *Bend*



photo: Joe Caputo / NW Indian Storytellers Association

ESTHER STUTZMAN **KOMEMMA CULTURAL** **PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

“Because of MRG’s funding, the Komemmma Cultural Protection Association has built stronger support of Native culture through public cultural events and information programs. **The greatest impact has been with our youth—they are being supported and encouraged to realize their true potential.** Here in Douglas County, it’s been difficult for local communities to realize the contributions of American Indian people, but now our leadership program is seen as the most successful youth program in the area and we continue to get positive comments about our youth every day.”

IMMIGRATION & INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

\$101,000

CAPACES Leadership Institute *Woodburn*
Center for Intercultural Organizing *Portland*
Iraqi Society of Oregon *Portland*
Unete NOWIA *Medford*
Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas *Woodburn*
Amigos Multicultural Services Center *Eugene*
Voz Hispana Causa Chavista *Woodburn*
Momentum Alliance *Portland*
Somali Youth of Oregon *Portland*
American Iranian Friendship Council *Portland*
Portland Central America Solidarity Committee *Portland*

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

\$46,850

Beyond Toxics *Eugene*
Cascadia Wildlands *Eugene*
Crag Law Center *Portland*
Umpqua Watersheds *Roseburg*



Umpqua Watersheds, Roseburg



KAYSE JAMA

CENTER FOR INTER-
CULTURAL ORGANIZING

*"We consider MRG to be our founding funder. When Center for Intercultural Organizing first applied for a grant back in 2003, we were just a handful of Muslim community members who wanted to speak out against the drumbeat to war in Iraq and the anti-Muslim hate we were experiencing in Oregon. We started with no organization and no infrastructure, but **MRG invested in us and we used the grants to create a strong, immigrant and refugee-led organization that builds power and advocates for our rights.** Today, CIO is a nationally recognized model for cross-cultural organizing — this would not have been possible without MRG."*



Right 2 Survive, Portland

ECONOMIC JUSTICE \$110,000

- Central Oregon Jobs with Justice* **Bend**
- Northwest Workers' Justice Project* **Portland**
- Oregon Fair Trade Campaign* **Portland**
- Portland Jobs with Justice* **Portland**
- Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice* **Ashland**
- VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project* **Portland**
- Project REconomy* **Central Point**
- Oregon Rural Action* **La Grande**
- Oregon Action* **Portland**

LGBTQ \$38,000

- Human Dignity Coalition* **Bend**
- Lotus Rising Project* **Medford**
- PFLAG - Portland Black Chapter* **Portland**
- Umatilla Morrow Alternatives* **Hermiston**

MRG GRANTMAKERS

- Raquel Wells • Kayse Jama • David Rogers • Andrea Miller • Connie Saldaña • Amanda Aguilar Shank • Frank Roa • Alison Guzman • Patricia Cortez • Alejandro Qeral • Francis Eatherington • Penny Lind • Terrie Quinteros • Ari Rapkin • Esther Stutzman*



NELLA PARKS **OREGON RURAL ACTION**

*"MRG has been our most steadfast and responsive supporter over Oregon Rural Action's 12-year history. **MRG Foundation is committed to justice everywhere, including rural communities**, which is important to me as someone who lives and organizes in the Eastern Oregon town where I grew up. MRG not only helps further our mission—it connects us to the larger movement for social justice in our state."*



1235 SE Morrison, Suite A
Portland, OR 97214
503-289-1517
www.mrgfoundation.org

MRG wants YOU to activate!

mrgfoundation.org/donate

When you activate your support for MRG by making a gift, you're a part of the movement for long-term, sustainable progress for social justice. It means you're investing in a foundation that builds grassroots leadership — grant by grant, activating communities throughout our state.

*Your gift makes it possible for community-led organizations and grassroots groups to lead the way for a better Oregon and a better future. **Please join us!***

