



**OREGON
EMPLOYEES
CHARITABLE
FUND DRIVE**

**Get involved
in Oregon**

- *United Way of Mid-Willamette Valley — HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley* — Want to volunteer but don't know how to start? Check out the [Flex Project Calendar!](#) If you want to maintain a garden, feed the homeless, help with seniors, or something else, there's a Flex Project right for you!
- *EarthShare Oregon — Oregon Natural Desert Association* — May 19–22, 2011 — Want to go with a group to Hart Mountain, a beautiful E. Oregon wilderness? [Register for a volunteer weekend trip!](#)
- *Work for Art — Portland Art Museum* — This celebration of arts patronage presents more than 100 works of art from Portland's private collections. Includes works by Durer, Lautrec, Picasso, Warhol. Closes May 22nd.
- *Black United Fund — Community Energy Project* offering free [Lead Poisoning Prevention Training](#) May 17, 6–7:30 pm in NE Portland. If you live in a pre-1978 home and are thinking about renovating, you should know about lead. [Register for this class...](#)
- *Habitat for Humanity* — Volunteering with Habitat is more than building! The Newberg Area Habitat has [volunteer needs](#) including: planning events, working with Habitat families on volunteer hours and budgeting, public relations and more! [Learn more...](#)

Your Gifts at Work in Oregon is produced by the participating nonprofits of the Charitable Fund Drive. It does not necessarily reflect policy or views of the State of Oregon. **If you have story ideas or want to respond to articles in this newsletter, please send an e-mail to cmoteam@earthlink.net.**

Your Gifts at Work in Oregon

May
2011

State worker donations are building communities today!

Below are just a few stories of how Fund Drive gifts are helping people, and improving our state right now:

From [United Way of the Columbia-Willamette](#):

Constructing Green Futures works with women and minorities to provide a free seven-week, intensive pre-apprenticeship program in the construction, mechanical, technical and utility trades. The training program provides hands-on learning, helps with job placement and retention, and offers informal mentoring and advocacy through civic engagement.

One graduate, Eleea Norris, began the program as an unemployed single mother on public assistance trying her best to find work to provide for her newborn son. A self-professed “girly-girl,” she would not have expected to find herself working in construction but “now I get dirty each day at work and I love it!” said Eleea.

According to Eleea, prior to her apprenticeship, “I knew nothing about construction; I didn’t even know how to read a tape measure, but I learned a tremendous amount. Now I’m a safety representative on a project site. I’m independent, off welfare and providing for my son.”

Constructing Green Futures is a partnership of [Constructing Hope](#); [Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.](#); Metropolitan Contractor Improvement Partnership; and the National Association of Minority Contractors. It is funded by United Way of the Columbia-Willamette.



From [Equity Foundation](#):

Lowe’s Companies, Inc., a national home improvement retailer, plans to add the terms “gender identity or expression” to their Equal Employment Opportunity policy due in large part to Equity Foundation’s leadership in shareholder activism. Equity Foundation was a leader in the effort to file a proxy with Lowe’s encouraging them to change their policies.

Peter Cunningham, Equity Foundation Executive Director said, “Equity Foundation is elated about Lowe’s including gender identity and expression in their discrimination policies. We realize that our work is not finished, but can celebrate that our transgender brothers and sisters will be protected in the hiring practices of Lowe’s. I am excited that Equity Foundation exists not just as a grant-making organization, but to also help change the corporate world—it means that our donors’ dollars help change society in more than one way.”

From the [United Way of Umatilla & Morrow Counties](#):

The Salvation Army Noon Meal Program helped a local resident, Jim. Here is his story, in Jim’s own words:

“I just got out of jail for possession of drugs and had nowhere to go. My family didn’t want nothing to do with me. I was homeless, hungry and pretty much hopeless. Somebody on the street said I could get a free lunch at The Salvation Army Center so I went over there. They say there’s no such thing as a free lunch, right? Well, I got a lot more than just a free lunch. I got a support system that helped me get my life back. I’m clean and sober, have a job, friends, self respect, and have made amends to my family. The best part is that I now have a relationship with a son who used to hate my guts and belief in a God that I always thought had no use for me.”