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other over a meal at the cafe. Its goal is to end homelessness and poverty by nurturing isolated people in a nonviolent, gentle atmosphere.

For more information contact Sisters of the Road Café at 503-222-5694, marykay@sistersoftheroadcafe.org or www.sistersoftheroadcafe.org or William Seaman of the Portland Peaceful Response Coalition at 503-888-7455.

WESTERLING RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Ford Foundation has named Marcy Westerling, founder and executive director of the Rural Organizing Project in Scappoose, as a 2003 winner of the Leadership for a Changing World Award.

She is one of 17 honorees, selected from a pool of more than 1,300 nominations, representing individuals and leadership teams that are tackling some of the nation's most entrenched social problems. Each will receive \$100,000 to advance this work and an additional \$15,000 for supporting activities during the next two years. The program also includes a major, multi-year collaborative research initiative that works with awardees to explore how leadership is created and sustained.

"These awards recognize the achievement of remarkable people, such as Marcy Westerling, working to bring positive social change to their communities and beyond," foundation president Susan V. Berresford said. "In celebrating their accomplishments we also seek to illuminate the particular characteristics of



Marcy Westerling (left) receives a 2003 Leadership for a Changing World Award from Ford Foundation president Susan V. Berresford

effective social justice leadership, which the Leadership for a Changing World program's collaborative research with awardees is beginning to identify."

For more than two decades, Westerling has been a leader in advancing democracy and progressive values in rural communities. A driving force behind ROP, she has helped organize human dignity groups in more than 52 rural communities and small towns throughout Oregon. In the tradition of a small-town church or town hall, these

human dignity groups provide a forum for people to engage in face-to-face progressive political discussion. This network is ROP's key leadership tool.

Westerling's organization also has built strong bridges to Oregon's farmworkers union, the state's immigrant rights coalition and other groups. Although many courageous rural activists have been willing to speak out for years, ROP has woven an organizational structure, available to all Oregonians, that gives powerful voice to progressive rural citizens.

Launched in September 2000, Leadership for a Changing World is a program of the Ford Foundation in partnership with the Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C., and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University. By next year the award program will have recognized nearly 100 outstanding leaders and leadership teams not broadly known beyond their immediate community or field.

Leadership for a Changing World provides financial and other support for their programs and engages them as partners in ongoing research. "We hope to stimulate a nationwide discussion about the rich array of leadership styles in the United States and increase public understanding and appreciation of the extraordinary accomplishments of these largely unrecognized leaders," said Kathleen D. Sheekey, Advocacy Institute president and CEO. **J**

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—Kathleen D. Sheekey

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