

Labor agency suspends 'Helping Hands' program

Labor's Community Service Agency has temporarily suspended its emergency assistance program due to lack of cash.

Since January the agency, under its newly created "Helping Hands" program, has distributed more than \$20,000 in temporary hardship assistance to people in need. For years, that program operated under a dedicated Emergency Assistance Fund. Those monies were earmarked on a one-time basis to help workers facing temporary hardships such as a layoff, strike, illness or other reasons. The fund assisted with payments on rent, utilities, buying groceries, and for other needs. The program has been in operation since 1974. Last year it distributed \$60,000.

"Requests for assistance exceeded the Helping Hands budget for the first quarter of 2008, and that level of requests continued throughout the month of April," said Vickie Burns, office manager of LCSA. "The agency needs time to regroup and recover while gearing up for what we anticipate will be a prolonged period of economic distress for many working families."

Labor's Community Service Agency is hoping for a large turnout at the 11th annual Labor Appreciation and Recognition Night Saturday, May 31, sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council. Proceeds from that event go to the Helping Hands fund. LCSA is a nonprofit agency funded by United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, in partnership with the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

"Hopefully, on June 1, we will be in a position to restart the program," Burns said.

In the meantime, union members in the Portland metropolitan area experiencing a temporary hardship are asked to call 2-1-1. Similar to 9-1-1 for emergency services and 4-1-1 for directory assistance, 2-1-1 is the three digit number to dial for health and human service information and referrals for such basic resources as food, shelter, employment, or health care.

Appreciate someone from labor on special night May 31

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council hosts the 11th annual Labor Appreciation and Recognition Night Saturday, May 31, at Westmoreland Union Manor.

The dinner and awards ceremony serves as a fundraiser for Labor's Community Service Agency, which helps union members who have been laid off, are on strike, or experiencing some type of financial difficulty.

Dinner tickets are \$10 per person. Raffle tickets also are sold for \$1 each or seven for \$5.

Laborers Local 320 endorses Kroger, Metsger in primary

Laborers Local 320 of Portland has endorsed John Kroger for attorney general and Rick Metsger for secretary of state in the May 20 Oregon primary election.

The union, which represents workers in heavy and highway construction, at industrial plants and in the public sector, also backed Sam Adams for mayor of Portland and Nick Fish for an open seat on the Portland City Council.

In congressional races, the union supports Democrats Kurt Schrader in District 5; Earl Blumenthal in District 3, and David Wu in District 1.

For more information or to order tickets, call 503-235-9444.

Don't Forget to Vote by May 20



PLEASE VOTE

MIKE FAHEY

**PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL
POSITION #1**

To all my friends in the Labor Movement—

First and foremost, I want to thank you for your years of friendship and support. Together we have worked to protect and defend the rights of workers in the City of Portland and the State of Oregon. In the past 45 years as a union member, I have seen a broad range of attacks aimed at undermining the economic security of working families. Together we have turned back attacks on the prevailing wage, minimum wage increases, our public school teachers and government employees, and working conditions. While a State Representative in Salem (and co-chair of the Labor Committee), I fought legislation that would have limited registered nurses' decision-making on the best care to provide their patients. I aggressively fought every anti-worker bill that was assigned to the Labor Committee. I actively and openly defended PERS (Public Employees Retirement System). This year marked 25 years since we started the Carpenters Food Bank. Together, with all your support, we have kept the doors open feeding 450 to 500 families a month and helped our Brothers and Sisters who have been laid off or on strike and our union retirees on fixed incomes.

For more biographical information and my stands on current issues please visit one of the following web sites: <http://www.friendsformikefahey.com> or <http://blog.friendsformikefahey.com>

(Authorized by Friends for Mike Fahey, 6809 N. Armour St. Portland, Or 97203. 503-289-5626)

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