

United Way Mobilizes Thousands

King Holiday service projects mobilize thousands

During the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, more than 3,000 local residents are expected to mobilize throughout the metro-area to cook, paint,

build, clean, teach, garden and serve together as part of the United Way's 5th annual weekend of service.

This year, the annual event is expected to generate \$218,700 in value from 10,800 hours of volunteer service through 93 projects in the four-county Portland and Vancouver area.

The events include the nation's largest gathering of college and university

students.

"I am thrilled that United Way, with its partners, can help convene so many people who are willing and eager to spend their time to strengthen our community," said Jay Bloom, interim president and chief executive officer of United Way of the Columbia-Willamette. "I'm also amazed that every year, more and more people sign up to help."

Nine schools from northwest Oregon will send up to 1,200 students to Roosevelt High School on the Monday, Jan. 16 holiday to perform service projects, which support the resurgence of one of the area's most ethnically diverse schools.

Organizers encourage would-be volunteers to check the United Way website for available events at unitedway-pdx.org/mlk.

Longtime Advocate for Hunger Relief to Retire

Food bank executive started as volunteer

After 29 years serving as a leader in anti-hunger policy and the development of a nationally recognized hunger-relief network in Oregon and southwest Washington, Rachel Bristol announced last week that she will retire as chief executive officer of the Oregon Food Bank on June 30.

Arnie Gardner, board chair for Oregon Food Bank, said Bristol has played a critical role in helping hundreds of thousands of hungry children and adults each year.

"She is a tireless advocate who spearheaded development of Oregon Food Bank and has shown tremendous vision, leadership and commitment to our mission. We are grateful for her many years of service. She has created a legacy," Gardner said.

Bristol joined Oregon Food Share as a VISTA volunteer in 1983 and rose to acting executive director. In 1988, she helped form Oregon Food Bank through the merger of the Interagency Food Bank serving the Portland Metro and the statewide Oregon Food Share. Bristol was



Rachel Bristol

named Oregon Food Bank's executive director in 1990 and designated CEO in 1995.

She has received many local and national awards for her work, including an honorary doctorate of public service from the University of Portland. In 2010, she received the Paul G. Allen Foundation's Founders Award. In 2009, she received the Dick Goebel Public Service Award from Feeding America. That year, she also was named "Most Admired Nonprofit CEO" by the Portland Business Journal and was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award from University of Oregon.

Bristol led two successful capital campaigns, which allowed Oregon

Food Bank to grow from a single facility of 10,000 square feet to four facilities encompassing more than 155,000 square feet. The network distributed more than 81 million pounds of food throughout the OFB network in fiscal year 2011, nearly three times the amount it distributed 10 years ago.

"I have been honored to 'grow up' with Oregon Food Bank and its Network, facing the challenges of a growing number of people in need and changing resources while never losing sight of our mission to end hunger in both the short- and long-term," Bristol said.

"The time is right for me to make this change. OFB is a healthy,

strong organization with a great staff, board, thousands of dedicated volunteers and a seasoned Leadership Team. We have already exceeded most of our 2008-12 strategic goals and objectives with another year to go," she said. "I am confident that OFB will continue to be one of the best food banks in the nation."

The Oregon Food Bank Board of Directors has formed a task force to conduct a national search for a new CEO. It will host a celebration honoring Bristol's lifetime achievements this spring.

Oregon Food Bank is a nonprofit, charitable organization that works to help low-income families allevi-

ate hunger and its root causes. OFB helps nearly one in five households fend off hunger by distributing food from a variety of sources through a statewide network that includes its four branches (in Beaverton, Ontario, Portland and Tillamook), 16 independent regional food banks and 923 partner agencies. Oregon Food Bank also addresses the root causes of hunger through advocacy, education programs for low-income youth and adults and by bringing communities together to strengthen local and regional food systems.

Oregon Food Bank's mission is to eliminate hunger and its root causes because no one should be hungry.

Because every child needs a safe place to run and play.

Let's make safe places to play a priority in our neighborhoods.

Go > multco-itstartshere.org

here

We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.

One who condones evils is just as guilty as the one who perpetrates it.



-- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.