



Volume 1, Number 1

March 2012

Welcome to our first monthly newsletter! We hope you find it helpful in understanding Occupy Eugene. We came together in October of last year and have been growing in numbers and organizational prowess since then. Our focus is on a broad set of important causes. We hope this newsletter provides the Eugene/Springfield community with an awareness of our efforts and our vision. We need more allies in the struggle. We hope you will join hands and hearts with us.

Occupy Medical provides free medical care

By Sue Sierralupe

Occupy Medical started as a humble first aid tent at the OE campsite on Oct. 15, 2011. A handful of medically trained volunteers began to serve the movement with their specialized skills. We had a pop-up canopy, a few blankets, and donated medical supplies from the local emergency clinic. Mostly, we had enthusiasm.

The medical committee operated a little differently than other committees. While other committees hesitated to involve outside sources, Medical just called 911. If an emergency was beyond our capacity to help, we were legally bound to get backup. This attitude branded Occupy

street kids to elders. As people learned that Medical was there to treat patients and not to judge, the number of clients increased.

The complexity of the medical conditions that we treated increased as well. We tracked patients with hepatitis, MRSA, HIV, and pneumonia. Our medical staff saved lives by sending occupiers to the hospital for conditions that they were unaware of. Our volunteers used CPR to restart the hearts of three patients during our brief occupation.

On Christmas Eve, the Eugene City Council shut the camp down. As Medical took down the tent and packed away the bandages, we wondered what would become of our patients.

We tried offering clinics at OEV but it was obvious that we had to go back to the streets to directly help those in need. On Sunday, Feb. 5, Occupy Medical set up a tent on the steps of the Federal Building. The weekly free clinics are currently open for business.

Patients check in at the intake card table, give us a name, and we record their complaint and general health information. Then we send them to our makeshift waiting room to have their vitals taken by the nurse. While waiting, they can get a drink of water or a plate of free organic food from our ally Food Not Bombs.

The doctor sees them in the privacy of the tent. After their check up, patients received direct treatment or a prescription for their condition.

Medical also provides follow up. We give prescriptions to the volunteer pharmacist, who is part of a program that of-



Sue Sierralupe, a nurse, volunteers at the Occupy Eugene Medical Tent.

Photo by Greg Walker



Photo by Greg Walker

Medical as independent and served to bind us together.

The Occupy Eugene camp included a wide variety of people, ranging from

ing room to have their vitals taken by the nurse. While waiting, they can get a drink of water or a plate of free organic food from our ally Food Not Bombs.

fers \$75 off meds for low-income individuals. If the patient needs information on community services, the intake volunteer walks the patient through their options.

Occupy Medical is growing. Every Sunday, we have more patients. Every Sunday, we have more volunteers. People want to help their neighbors. People want to connect and make a difference. Occupy Medical opened a door and all it took was a tent and a little enthusiasm.

For more information Contact Sue Sierralupe at sierralupe@comcast.net.

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.” — Gandhi

Update on the city's task force on homelessness

When the Eugene Police Department closed down the Occupy camp at Washington/Jefferson, the City made three promises to help the homeless who were displaced.

One promise was to provide up to \$100,000 to fund an Egan-type warming center through the winter to serve the homeless suffering from mental illness and addiction. Little progress has been made toward opening such a shelter.

A second promise was to double the number of RVs allowed by the RV camping program and to include tents as well as RVs. Three months into the project, about half of the funded new sites have been found and filled.

The third promise was to start a task force to address the needs of the homeless. The task force, now dubbed "Opportunity Eugene," includes more than fifty members of the community, including homeless people, staff from several service agencies, city councilors, and eight members of Occupy Eugene. At its second meeting, the task force divided into committees that met separately and made their first reports back to the group on Feb. 7.

Task force members are excited about the idea of helping to create a better quality of life for those who are homeless. Self-sufficiency and dignity are two of their major goals. Consequently, in addition to short-term shelter, the committees are exploring

ways to generate wealth, create self-sufficient new communities and to set up a day center that would provide lockers, showers, and other amenities.

One committee is charged with finding ways to help the community understand that the homeless are frequently not to blame for their situation but are victims of a relentless tide of greed by those who profit from financial institutions and other industries.

Finding innovative ways for the homeless to live productive, satisfying lives is becoming increasingly critical. The homeless population in Oregon has grown from 76,000 in 2010 to 98,000, an increase of twenty-nine percent. As the homeless population continues to grow, the tax base that supports human services is decreasing. Opportunity Eugene is the city's hope to address this problem.

Occupy Eugene

We are a nonviolent, non-partisan, social-political movement for accountability and responsibility in government. We stand in solidarity with Occupy Movements around the globe and all people who will no longer sit back and watch corporate and special interests run their government, and spoil the living Earth.

For we, the people, are the government. It is time to turn away from a culture of war and domination, and create a living economy which operates in harmony with our living planet.

We must begin by opening our hearts to those the present system would discard and push into the shadows, because we believe that, in our United States, it's we the people who are sovereign-not global corporations.

We have come together to create a community that expresses our common needs, to organize, network, and participate in solutions and to remind one another that, as a society, we have unfinished business in our pursuit of social and economic justice.

Note: This excerpt has been approved by the OE General Assembly. For the complete Occupy Eugene Vision Statement click on "INFO" on our website.

Occupy Eugene V (OEV)
Main Site: 1274 W. 7th. (7th and Polk streets)
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 744, Eugene, OR 97440
General Inquiry: 541-525-0130
Website: www.occupyeugenedia.org

Ongoing OE Events

Occupying the Heart and Mind Silent Interfaith Meditation/Prayer: Friday and Saturday. See calendar on website for times.

General Assemblies: 7 p.m. Tuesdays and 4 p.m. Saturdays at OEV

Free Classes on the U.S.. Constitution: Noon to 3 p.m. Sundays at Growers Market, 454 Willamette

Free Medical Services: Noon to 4 p.m. Sundays at 7th and Pearl (Also at OEV Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m.) To volunteer contact Sue Sierralupe at sierralupe@comcast.net

Kesey Square Revival: Noon Fridays

Neighborhood Action Committee: Noon Sundays at Growers Market

Homeless Solutions: 10:15 a.m. to Noon Mondays at CALC, 458 Blair

Education Alliance: 4 to 6 p.m. Mondays at Ben Linder Room EMU

Media Group: Noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays at CTV studio

Upcoming Events for OE and Its Allies

March 8 Women Amplified: International Women's Day March: 4 – 11 p.m. Wayne Morse Plaza

March 10 Indubious Concert: 8 p.m. at WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th

March 11 Facilitation Training: Noon – 3:00 p.m. Growers Market

March 18 OE Poetry: 4 – 6 p.m. at Tsunami Books 2585 Willamette St..

March 23 Occupy Eugene: A Dialogue at OLLI UO Osher Lifelong Learning Inst. 1:30 p.m.

March 24 OE Open House Volunteer Fair: 2 – 4 p.m. OEV

March 25 Occupy Interfaith at 1:00 p.m. UUCE, 477 E. 40th Ave.

April 22 Occupy the Trees

The importance of health care for all

Occupy Eugene has proven to be a wonderful advocate for Health Care for All. On Jan. 31 the OE General Assembly reached consensus on the declaration "Health care is a human right," and we now offer free medical care. In 2008 the Vermont Workers Center launched a campaign based on health care as a human right. The human rights framework put people at the center of policy and practice. It shifted the discourse from costs to needs and from facts and figures to human values.

On May 25, 2011 Vermont Gov. Peter

Shumlin signed a law that will provide everyone in Vermont with a European-style single payer system called Green Mountain Care. By using the same tactics that succeeded in Vermont, there is a chance that Oregon may be able to achieve the same thing.

The Affordable Health Care for All Oregon Act, HB 3510 & SB 888, recently failed. Now advocates are regrouping and concentrating on health care as a human right. Several other care groups are also crafting an initiative they hope will be on the ballot in November.

Health Care for All Oregon meets at the EWEB Community Room the first Wednesday of every month, from 7 to 8:30 p. m. For more information call Ruth Duemler at 541-484-6145 or see <http://hcao-eugene.org>.

For more information about single payer health care, contact Dr. Mark Brauner (541-915-9993) from Physicians for a National Health Program (www.pnhporegon.org).

To read an interview with Dr. Brauner, go to <http://bit.ly/zS796I>

Links to OE Opinion Pieces

Occupy Eugene isn't just a protest, it's a new community By Jamil Jonna and John Monroe <http://bit.ly/wFmsQq>

Let's take democracy back from corporations By Fergus Mclean <http://bit.ly/x6vAjB>

Excluding some from downtown excludes us all By Alley Valkyrie and John Monroe <http://bit.ly/y5TJrT>

For other articles go to www.occupyeugenemedia.org and click on media then on links.

Our Committees and Working Groups

We work on consensus within a General Assembly, a set of committees and working groups. Please join one or more of our committees or working groups. See our website (click on INFO) for contact information, meeting times and places, and purposes of each: Actions, Caretaker, Collective Visioning, Communications, Facilitation, Fundraising, Food, Homeless Solutions, Library, Medical, Morale, Neighborhood Actions, Outreach, Research and Legal, and Web

Our working groups include: Media, Non-Violence Resource, Newsletter, People of Color and Allies.

Committee Spotlight Communications

The OE Communications Committee, known as Comm Comm, deals with all forms of communication, both internal and external.

One of our primary responsibilities is to let people know when, where, and why actions and events are happening, including everything from regular committee meetings to big, one-time events, such as the Occupy Oregon State Assembly held last month. We also strive to set the record straight when local media misrepresent Occupy Eugene's actions and intentions or miss important aspects of any situation we are interested in.

No one on Comm Comm does everything. We have specialists who take photographs, make posters, produce videos, and manage the website, forums and listservs. Other members make web posts, create Facebook pages, hold press conferences and write press releases. Although the newsletter and the Occupy Eugene TV show are run by sub-committees, they are also under Comm Comm's purview.

We are seeking new members who can help us with a variety of tasks. Right now we need people who can:

- Write web posts and put them on our website.
- Make calendar posts and keep the calendar up to date.
- Write and edit press releases and send them out to local media.

We will hold training sessions to help new members learn the ropes, including the software they need to use to perform any of the tasks listed above. We are happy to provide support, including editing and any other technical assistance.

If you want to put your talents into getting the word out on OE's various activities and missions, get in touch. Come to one of Communications' two weekly meetings, Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at OEV, 1274 W. 7th (W. 7th and Polk) and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. at Growers Market, 454 Willamette. Or write to us at oe_communications@lists.riseup.net.

"Be kind, everyone you meet is carrying a heavy burden."

– Ian MacLaren

People United: more than a march

On Saturday, Feb. 25, Occupy Eugene hosted the 2nd Occupy Oregon State Assembly, an event that drew occupiers from all over the state to network, strategize, and socialize as we work towards economic and social justice for the 99%.

The day began with a rally and march through downtown Eugene where an estimated 400 people braved the wild mood swings of the weather that brought snow, rain, sleet, high winds, and calm blue skies and sunshine—all within a two-hour period! We stood shoulder to shoulder with our fellow citizens as we marched to confirm and proclaim that personhood is for people only and not for corporations!

Energized by the rally and march, occupiers made their way to OEV for the three-hour State Assembly that began at 3 p.m. In spite of the poor weather an estimated 175-200 people attended, representing over 17 Oregon cities. With 44 cities in Oregon now

home to an occupy organization, it is important for us to gather together so we can learn from each other and share our goals and strategies for moving the Occupy Movement forward in the coming year.

The State Assembly featured break-out sessions where participants were able to focus on the specific issues that are most important to them and to exchange contact information so that collaborative efforts can continue outside of the State Assemblies. The energy level was high throughout the meeting and the room was abuzz with positive vibes, ideas, and hope for a better future.

Following the meeting our Chef Extraordinaire Big John and his crew served a delicious meal for us all, and as live music played in the background we broke bread together and continued to network with our Occupy allies from across the state. What an amazing day!

Photos by Rob Sydor and Gregory Walker



OE gets auction of Schickling home postponed

By Reid Kimball

Lauren Schickling has been fighting the foreclosure of her home for three years. A victim of “dual-tracking,” a deceptive tactic by which a bank starts a loan-modification process while at the same time moving ahead with foreclosure, Schickling turned to OE for help. On March 5 a group of about 15 Occupiers gathered to support the Schicklings at Federal Court.

Our morning started at the Federal Courthouse. Lauren Schickling, her daughter Lisa Carrigan, and friends arrived at the courthouse around 8 a.m. They began looking for a judge to grant the request for a “Temporary Restraining Order” aka an injunction on the auction sale that was to occur two hours later.

I arrived at about 8:30 a.m. I was the first one from Occupy to arrive and the security personnel as well as U.S. Marshals were jumpy seeing me in my Occupy bandana. Luckily, I was dressed nicely and acted calmly. They let Finn Po and me through security to join the others.

Lauren and Lisa waited while a judge reviewed the paperwork they had submitted. Things got tense around 9 a.m. as we realized we might have to turn to Plan B, a mic-check announcement that we were paying off the mortgage. If the auctioneers had continued with the sale after that announcement, they could have been held liable for criminal charges.

Finn Po and I left around 9:30 a.m. to get set up for the auction and press conference at Lane County Courthouse.



Reid Kimball addresses the media after the foreclosure on Lauren Schickling’s home was stopped.

Photo by Michael Barnes

For Jessica, Wherever You Are

Her little voice cracked
as her shaken whispers escaped
with battered breath.
She was forecasting our future
evoking our nightmares
cleansing our suffering with her tears.
The unexpected lecture that afternoon
confessed all we needed to know:
She couldn’t sleep at night before
the little Village was assembled.
And now, she dreams of safety, her son,
and sunshine in fall.

~Jennefer Harper 12/26/12

At 9:47 a.m., 13 minutes before the auction was due to start, Lisa called me and said the injunction had been signed and was good for two weeks.

Taking a tactic from the bank, we decided to dual-track too. We used another method to get the auction sale postponed until April 5th.

When we told the auctioneer about the injunction, he called his boss. It appeared our success with the Schickling home

triggered some alarm. Every property sale in the auction was postponed until a later date, except for one, which was reverted or “sold” back to the Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems or MERS. MERS is not a creditor, lender, or bank that can possess, buy, sell, or foreclose on property!

It was an interesting day with lots of lessons learned. The banks tried to dual-track Lauren Schickling, and we dual-tracked them back, stopping the auction sale in a couple of different ways. We were successful with each avenue we took.

Reader Feedback and Comments: Please e-mail your comments and suggestions for future newsletter to newsletter@occupyeugenemedia.org

Big John, Big Heart

By Larry Leverone

I first spotted John McCahill at the Jefferson Street Occupy Eugene site one cold November day last autumn. He was hurrying around coordinating food services for hundreds of folks for whom the site had become home, workplace, or both. As I got more involved in OE I ran into Big John (John McCahill) everywhere I went: in community gatherings, on street marches, at city council meetings and of course, every time I visited the camp.

After watching the effect of Occupy Wall Street ripple around the country, John did some Googling about the movement and then decided to pass out fliers at Saturday Market. At first he volunteered to do security duties but was swept into kitchen duties when someone asked him to move some tables. He quickly moved on to quickly passing out a mountain of food and then to preparing the food. He ran the kitchen at various OE locations with the help of a group of volunteers. Big John worked hard to start up a Non Violence Resource Working Group within Occupy Eugene and he participates on the Finance

and Library committees. Most recently he's put his energy into the Mayor's Task

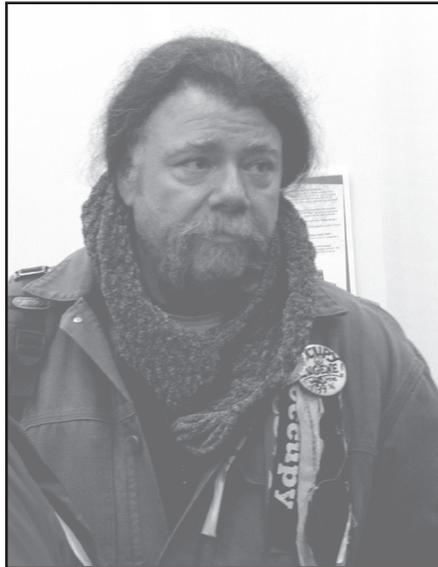


Photo by Greg Walker
Force on the Homeless now known as Opportunity Eugene.

In response to a question about what he sees as the major accomplishments of Occupy Eugene he quickly listed: the

street medics, the empowering of people, the creation of Opportunity Eugene, and the overall re-energizing of volunteers and activists.

John also thinks OE should get credit for a number of other important actions, such as the success of Bank Transfer Day and people's growing opposition to the downtown exclusion zone. John remains amazed at the volunteer efforts and donations coming from a wide variety of people in both Eugene and the surrounding areas. I asked John where he gets his news these days; he replied, "The best source of news these days is being in the streets, talking to people, listening to everyone." He encourages OE to put greater effort into outreach, especially to the students at UO and LCC. He would like to see a FarmAID-like event in the future to help with the needs of our community. We thank Big John for sharing his ideas with us and for his good works on behalf of all of us, but more importantly we thank him for his big heart.

How the General Assembly operates

By Jennefer Harper

At the heart of the Occupy Movement is the General Assembly. It's in the GA, where we come together, have discussions, share information, and cooperatively make decisions. Through the consensus process, we practice active listening, respect for differing opinions, compassionate communication, and make agreements by seeking the consent of the group.

By using the consensus process, we try to ensure that everyone present has an equal voice. We strive to shape proposals and reach agreements that are best for the whole movement. Sometimes we must set aside our personal preferences in light of the best choices for the whole.

Using a Quaker-based model of consensus, Occupy Eugene's GA has embraced a modified form of the process. We seek to reach 100% unity in decision-making; however, if after calling for consensus on a proposal at three GAs, consensus cannot be

reached, we vote of 90% majority.

While we may not agree completely, concerns are always heard, and the group attempts to modify proposals until we can form one that everyone can consent to. In Eugene, we meet twice a week for our General Assemblies: Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 4 p.m. at Occupy V (1274 West 7th Avenue). The facilitation team coordinates drafting agendas and structuring the meeting in order to create an efficient space for collaboration. The GA is the place to go for anyone who wishes to learn more about the current activity of Occupy. Committee reports and general announcements are standing items that provide even the newest attendee a wealth of information about events, current projects, and ways to plug in and volunteer. If you want to learn more about Occupy Eugene, come to a General Assembly!

Donations Welcome

Occupy Eugene asks for your financial support so that we can continue to build coalitions, pressure our elected leaders, and work together to end the inequality and injustices in our community and in our country. We welcome any level of support and hope that you will give an amount meaningful to you. Donations to Occupy Eugene can be made on our website, at Oregon Community Credit Union, or mailed to PO. Box 744 Eugene, OR 97440

For more information on how to donate click on "Support Us" on our website or complete the volunteer form.